

Momentum Builds for Nuclear as Americans Push for Clean Energy Solutions

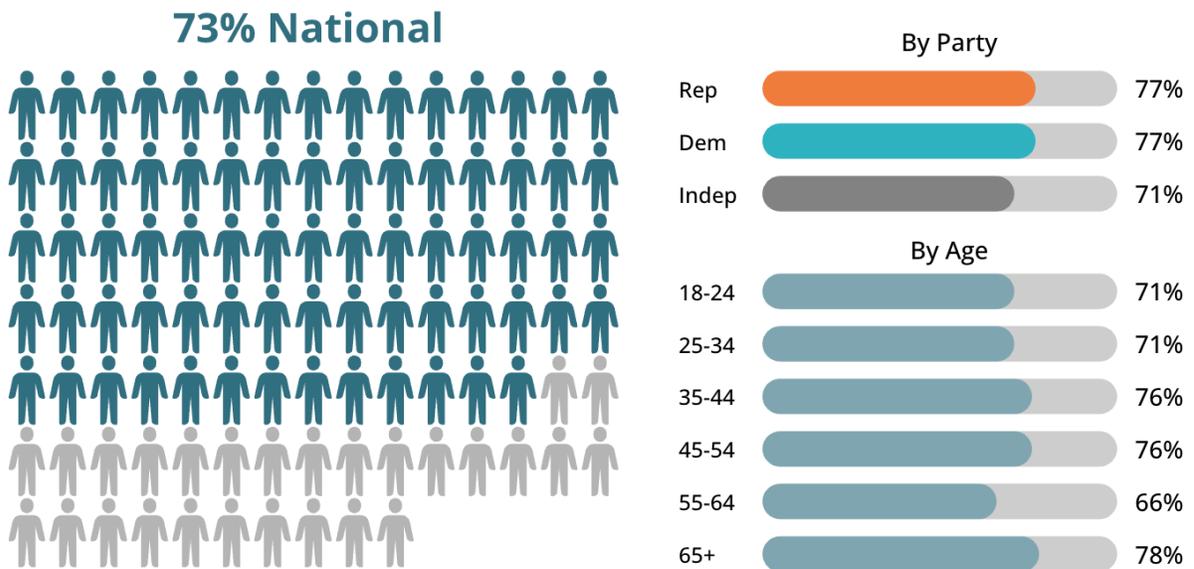
Support for nuclear energy is climbing in the United States. Majorities favor coal-to-nuclear conversions and cite nuclear’s ability to generate electricity reliably, help the economy, and reduce pollution as reasons for their support. The latest survey from ecoAmerica shows backing across party lines and generations, with broad support for increased research and development in wind, solar, and nuclear energy. While concerns about health, safety, and waste remain in the majority, they have wane compared to previous years. Together, these findings point to growing momentum for moving away from fossil fuel power generation and expanding clean energy nationwide.

Majorities Support Converting Coal Plants to Nuclear Power

New data reveals that 73% of Americans support converting retired coal-fired power plants into nuclear power plants if they could provide cleaner and more reliable energy.¹ Support spans party lines, with 77% of Republicans, 77% of Democrats, and 71% of Independents in favor. Generational consensus is also clear, with 78% of adults aged 65+ supporting the idea, and 71% of young adults (aged 18–24) close behind.

Americans across parties and ages support converting coal plants into nuclear power plants.

Q: How much would you support or oppose converting retired coal-fired power plants into nuclear power plants, if it could help provide cleaner and more reliable energy? Showing total for “Strongly support” and “Somewhat support”. 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



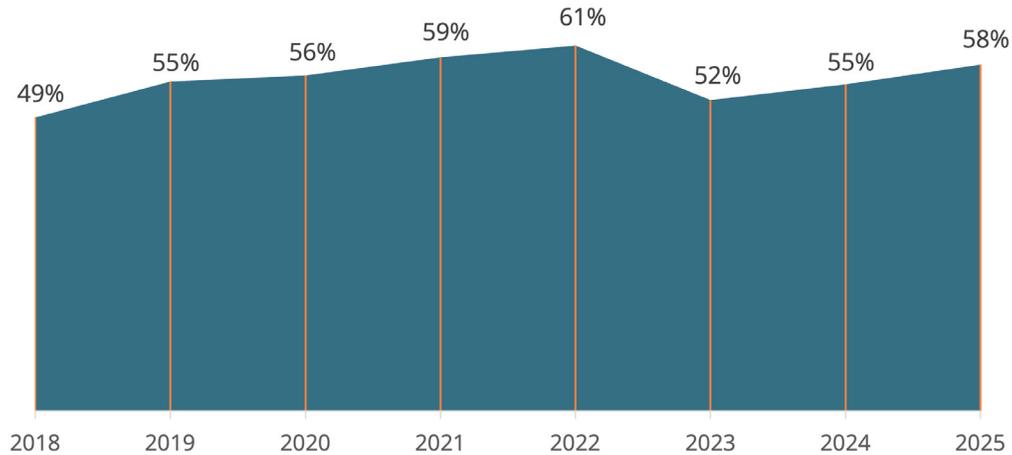
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¹ University of Michigan researchers rank the feasibility of [converting 245 coal power plants in the U.S. into advanced nuclear reactors](#), providing insights for policymakers and utilities to meet decarbonization goals.

Nuclear Power Wins Majority Support, Especially Among Republicans, Males, and Americans Over 65

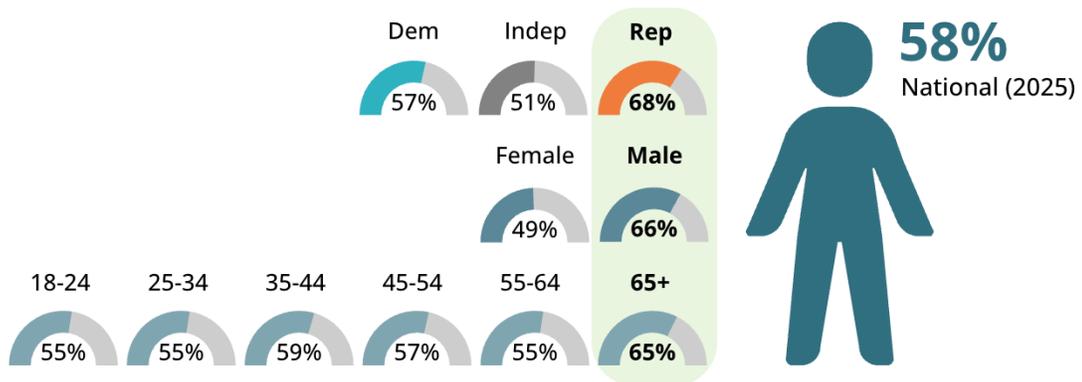
Despite polarizing shifts in the political landscape, polling has shown steady majority support for nuclear power over the past eight years. In 2025, nearly three in five Americans (58%) strongly or somewhat support nuclear power, up 3 points from 2024 and 9 points since 2018. Across demographics, Republicans (68%), males (66%), and Americans over 65 (65%) are the top supporters.

More Americans voice support for nuclear power in 2025. *Q: America's traditional nuclear power plants produce around 20% of our electricity. Which is closest to your opinion?* Showing total for "Strongly support nuclear power" and "Somewhat support nuclear power". 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



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Republicans, males, and Americans over 65 show strongest support for nuclear power. *Q: America's traditional nuclear power plants produce around 20% of our electricity. Which is closest to your opinion?* Showing total for "Strongly support nuclear power" and "Somewhat support nuclear power". 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.

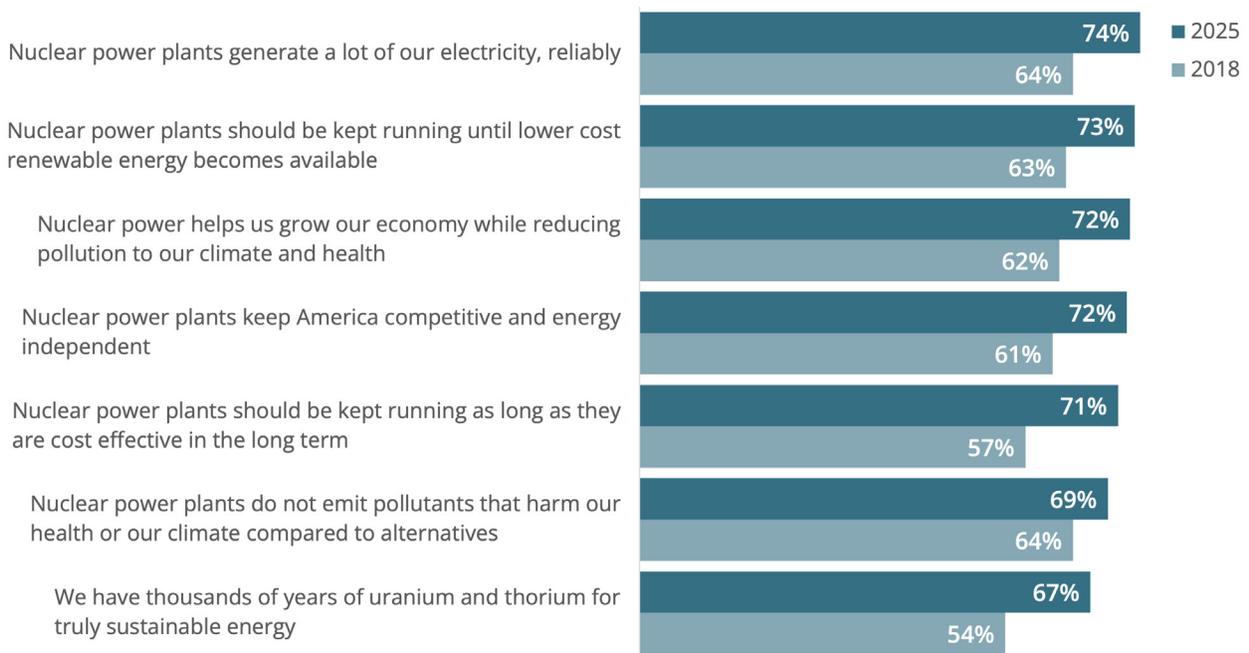


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Americans Support Nuclear for Reasons of Reliability, Economy, Pollution Reduction and Energy Independence

Support for nuclear power has grown for several key reasons. 74% of Americans, including 81% of Republicans, 71% of Democrats, and 72% of Independents, say nuclear plants generate electricity reliably, up 10 points since 2018. 72% recognize that nuclear power helps grow our economy while reducing pollution, and another 72% say it keeps America competitive and energy independent. Additionally, most Americans support keeping nuclear plants running until lower-cost renewables are available (73%) or as long as they remain cost-effective (71%). 69% back nuclear power because it does not emit pollutants that harm our health or climate. Across the board, strong consensus spans party lines.²

More Americans are supporting nuclear for reliability, economic growth, pollution reduction, and energy independence. Q: What are the most important reasons for supporting nuclear energy? Showing total for “Very important” and “Somewhat important”. 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



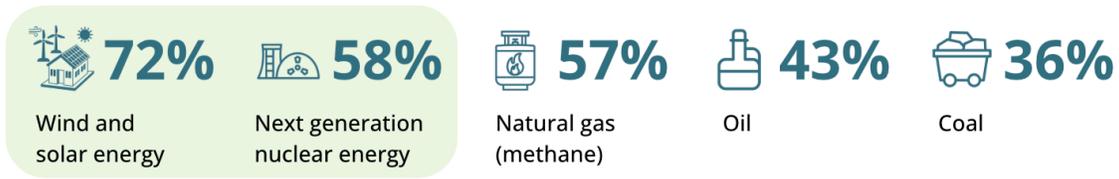
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Americans Favor Wind, Solar, and Nuclear Over Oil and Coal

Nearly three-quarters of Americans (72%) say wind and solar should receive more research and development (R&D) funding from the United States, and close to three in five (58%) support more R&D funding for next-generation nuclear energy. 57% support R&D spending on natural gas (made up mainly of methane), while fewer back spending on oil (43%) or coal (36%). These results suggest growing public support for moving away from fossil fuels.

² See [full topline](#)s for data across demographics.

Americans favor R&D for clean energy sources. *Q: In the next few years, should the United States be spending more or less on research and development of each of the following energy sources?* Showing total for “A lot more” and “More”. 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



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The data also show that Republicans and Democrats are least divided on support for nuclear R&D. 62% of Republicans and 58% of Democrats say the United States should invest more in next-generation nuclear R&D, which is only a 4-point gap. In comparison, party differences are larger for other polluting energy sources: 19 points for oil, 17 points for coal, and 12 points for gas.

Republicans and Democrats are least divided on nuclear R&D. *Q: In the next few years, should the United States be spending more or less on research and development of each of the following energy sources?* Showing total for “A lot more” and “More”. 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.

	National	Rep	Dem	Rep-Dem
Wind and solar energy	72%	65%	79%	13 points
Next generation nuclear energy	58%	62%	58%	4 points
Natural gas	57%	66%	54%	12 points
Oil	43%	54%	34%	19 points
Coal	36%	47%	31%	17 points

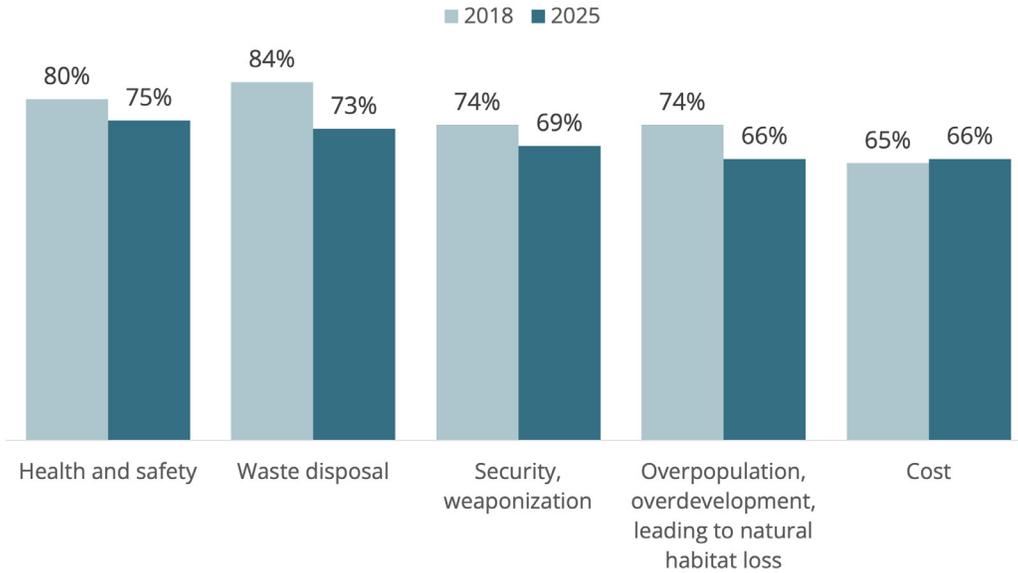
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Nuclear Energy Concerns Wane But Remain in the Majority

While overall concern about nuclear power remains high, fewer Americans report concerns about health and safety, waste disposal, security and weaponization, and overpopulation in 2025 versus 2018. Concern about the cost of nuclear energy remains, though lower than other issues, at 66% in 2025, compared with 65% in 2018.³

³ The [new IEA report](#) shows how technological innovation can lower nuclear costs and unlock new financing opportunities.

American concern about nuclear power over time. Q: People have concerns about upgrading nuclear energy. Which of the following makes you concerned? Showing total for “A lot” and “Some”. 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.

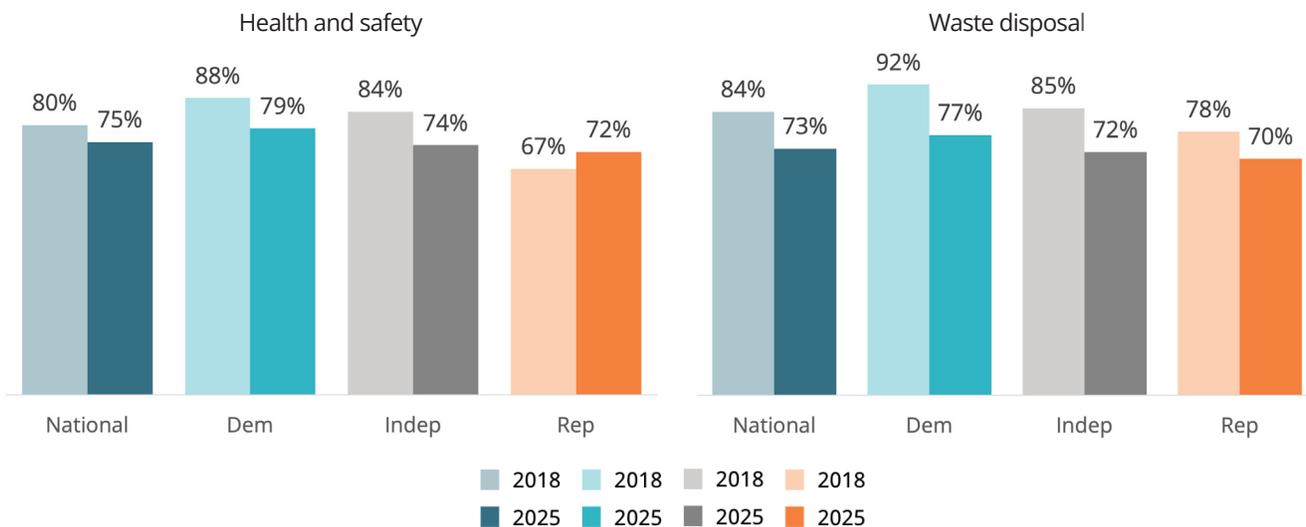


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Health and safety and waste disposal remain Americans’ top nuclear concerns in 2025, at 75% and 73%, respectively. Over time, Democrats and Independents have shown declines in health and safety concerns, dropping 9 points and 10 points, respectively. Republican concern, while lower overall, has risen from 67% in 2018 to 72% in 2025.

Concern about waste disposal has decreased across all parties since 2018. The largest drop is among Democrats, down 15 points from 92% to 77%, followed by Independents (down 13 points) and Republicans (down 8 points).

Health, safety, and waste remain top nuclear concerns. Q: People have concerns about upgrading nuclear energy. Which of the following makes you concerned? Showing total for “A lot” and “Some”. 1,003 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



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Full data is available in the accompanying [toplines](#).

Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online from August 3–11, 2025, using SurveyMonkey. The survey yielded a total of 1,003 complete adult responses and used the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey to weigh the national general population and reflect the demographic composition of the US. The sample was drawn from an online panel, and the respondents were screened to ensure that they were over the age of 18. The margin of error for the sample is +/-3%. In interpreting the survey results, it is important to note that all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling errors. Thus, the results of a survey may differ from the results that would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of the responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of the respondents in a sample of 1,003 respondents answered “Yes” to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage would fall within 3 points or range from 47% to 53%.

Suggested Citation

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ecoAmerica does not hold a formal position on nuclear energy.

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