

ENERGY AND THE 2012 ELECTION: NO VOTER CONSTITUENCY FOUND FOR WASHINGTON'S FOCUS ON FOSSIL FUELS & NUCLEAR POWER

Civil Society Institute

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ORC*International*

Methodology

This report presents the findings of a telephone survey conducted among a sample of 1,049 adults living in the Continental US. Of the total number of interviews, 250 were conducted on a cell phone and 799 were conducted on a landline phone. Interviewing for this survey was completed during the period October 21-24, 2011.

Completed interviews are weighted by five variables: age, sex, geographic region, race, and education to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total population, 18 years of age and older.

**Please note that percentages throughout this report may not add up to 100%. This is due to both multiple response options and rounding. Percentages throughout this report have been rounded. Differences reported throughout this report reflect statistically significant differences at a 95% confidence level. Base sizes in charts or graphs show the unweighted, total number of interviews conducted.*

Executive Summary

Promotion of oil, coal and natural gas as energy sources. Loan guarantees and other subsidies for nuclear power and fossil fuels. Slashing federal support for wind and solar power. Attacking clean energy as bad for the economy. Climate science denial. Touting a “clean energy standard” that includes coal and nuclear.

Are those in Congress and the White House who are (to varying degrees) embracing the agendas of coal, oil, gas, and nuclear industries in sync ... or out of touch ... with the mainstream of America? A new survey of 1,049 Americans conducted October 21-24, 2011 by ORC International for the nonprofit and nonpartisan Civil Society Institute (CSI) finds that most Americans – including an often large share of Tea Party supporters – are not on the same page as many in Congress and at the White House when it comes to energy issues:

- ***Few Americans want Washington to adopt a laissez faire approach to energy issues.*** Only about one in four Americans (27 percent) – including 47 percent of Republicans, 27 percent of Independents, 11 percent of Democrats and a surprisingly small 57 percent of Tea Party supporters -- say “Congress and the President should stay out of the energy markets and let private enterprise have a free hand in picking energy sources and setting prices.”

Executive Summary

- ***If Washington had to choose between fossil fuel/nuclear subsidies and wind/solar subsidies, “clean energy” aid would get support from three times more Americans than fossil fuel/nuclear energy subsidies.*** Just over one in 10 American adults (13 percent) – including 20 percent of Republicans, 9 percent of Independents, 10 percent of Democrats, and only 24 percent of Tea Party supporters – are in favor of concentrating federal energy subsidies on the coal, nuclear power and natural gas industries. When it comes to focusing federal subsidies on wind and solar, 38 percent of all Americans are supportive -- about three times the support level for fossil fuel/nuclear subsidies. Only about one in 10 Americans (13 percent) – including just 26 percent of Tea Party supporters -- believes that “no energy source should receive federal subsidies.”
- ***Fossil fuel subsidies are opposed by Americans on a bipartisan basis.*** Six in 10 Americans – including 59 percent of Republicans, 65 percent of Independents, 59 percent of Democrats, and 59 percent of Tea Party members -- oppose “federal subsidies for oil and gas, coal, natural gas and other fossil fuel companies.”

Executive Summary

- ***Nuclear reactor loan guarantees are opposed by Americans on a bipartisan basis.*** More than two out of three Americans (67 percent) – including 65 percent of Republicans, 66 percent of Independents, 68 percent of Democrats and 62 percent of Tea Party backers – disagree that “taxpayers and ratepayers should provide taxpayer backed loan guarantees for the construction of new nuclear power reactors in the United States through proposed tens of billions in federal loan guarantees for new reactors.”
- ***Bad news for a “clean energy standard” reliant on nuclear power: Most Americans want the U.S. to shift federal loan guarantee support from nuclear power to wind and solar energy.*** About seven in 10 Americans (71 percent) – including 55 percent of Republicans, 72 percent of Independents, 84 percent of Democrats, and almost half (47 percent) of Tea Party backers -- strongly or somewhat support “a shift of federal loan-guarantee support for energy away from nuclear reactors and towards clean renewable energy such as wind and solar.”

Executive Summary

- ***Americans do not see more clean energy as a roadblock to economic recovery.*** More than two thirds of Americans (69 percent) – including 59 percent of Republicans, 73 percent of Independents, 78 percent of Democrats and a plurality of Tea Party supporters (48 percent) – think it would be a “bad idea” for the U.S. “ to ‘put on hold’ progress towards cleaner energy sources during the current economic difficulty.”
- ***Excessive corporate influence may explain the gap between where some in Washington are on energy policy ... and where mainstream America is.*** More than seven in 10 Americans (72 percent) – including 62 percent of Republicans, 74 percent of Independents, 83 percent of Democrats, and over half of Tea Party supporters (54 percent) -- think that “America’s oil, coal and natural gas companies have a disproportionate influence on Congress and the White House when it comes to making national energy policy.”

Executive Summary

- ***A strong majority of Americans want the U.S. to make the investments needed to be a clean energy leader on a global basis.*** More than three in four Americans (77 percent) – including 65 percent of Republicans, 75 percent of Independents, 88 percent of Democrats, and 56 percent of Tea Party members -- agree with the following statement: “The U.S. needs to be a clean energy technology leader and it should invest in the research and domestic manufacturing of wind, solar and energy efficiency technologies.”
- ***Most Americans want continued movement away from fossil fuels.*** About three in four Americans (76 percent) – including 62 percent of Republicans, 76 percent of Independents, 90 percent of Democrats and half of Tea Party supporters – agree strongly or somewhat with the following statement: “Smarter energy choices are the key to creating a future that is healthy and safe because fossil fuels create toxic wastes that are a threat to our health and safety.”

Executive Summary

- ***Most Americans would favor a moratorium on coal-fired power plants.*** Nearly two thirds of Americans (65 percent) – including 55 percent of Republicans, 68 percent of Independents, 72 percent of Democrats, and about half (49 percent) of Tea Party backers -- would support a phase-out of coal fired power plants in the United States” if “increased energy efficiency and off the shelf renewable technologies such as wind and solar could meet our energy demands.”
- ***Concerns about water are present in America on a strongly bipartisan basis.*** More than three in four Americans (78 percent) – including 68 percent of Republicans, 80 percent of Independents, 85 percent of Democrats and 61 percent of Tea Party backers -- agree with the following statement: “Water shortages and clean drinking water are real concerns. America should put the emphasis on first developing new energy sources that require the least water and cause minimal water pollution.”

Executive Summary

- ***Few Americans dismiss a connection between extreme weather events and climate change.*** Fewer than one in five Americans (17 percent) think that “climate change is not a factor” in “at least 10 weather related disasters caused by so called extreme weather – (that) have occurred so far in 2011 involving \$1 billion or more each in damages – now totaling about \$45 billion.” Fewer than half (45 percent) of Tea Party members fall into the climate change denial camp on this question.

Other key survey findings include the following:

- Nearly three in five (58 percent) of Americans are now aware of “the natural gas drilling process sometimes referred to as ‘fracking.’”
- About four in five Americans (79 percent) – including 66 percent of Republicans, 78 percent of Independents, 91 percent of Democrats, and 55 percent of Tea Party supporters -- say they are very or somewhat concerned “about this issue (fracking) as it relates to water quality.”
- Roughly three out of four Americans (74 percent) – including 68 percent of Republicans, 72 percent of Independents, 81 percent of Democrats, and 58 percent of Tea Party backers – agree with the following statement: “The cost of electricity paid by consumers is only part of the price of energy. We have to look at the whole picture -- including water quality, environmental damages and human health problems -- when we talk about what a particular source of energy costs America.”

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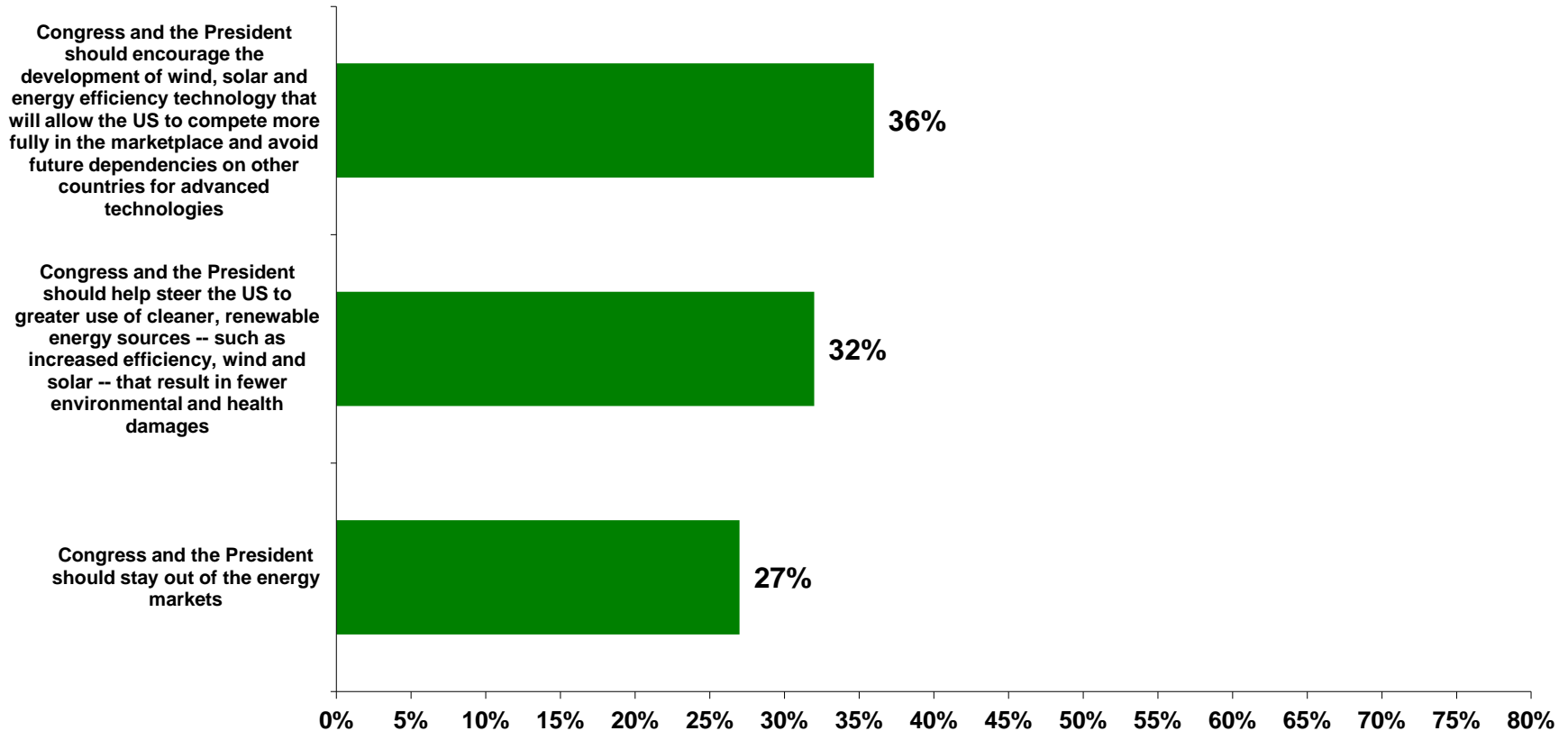
Detailed Findings

Political Leadership and Energy Policy

- Americans want Congress and the President to encourage the development of (36%) or the use of (32%) wind energy, solar energy and technologies for energy efficiency. Only 27% think the government should stay out of the energy market and leave it to private enterprise.
- Those who think the government should get involved tend to be female (75%), live in households with three or more people (73%), have a college degree (75%), identify themselves as Democrats (86%) or Independents (68%), have a neutral position towards (70%) or oppose (89%) the Tea Party and be Millennials (83%), Gen X (74%) or Boomers (62%).

Political Leadership and Energy Policy

- Americans want Congress and the president to encourage the development of or the use of wind energy, solar energy and technologies for energy efficiency.



QN6: And, which of these statements accurately reflects your position on political leadership and energy policy?
Base: Total respondents, 1,049.

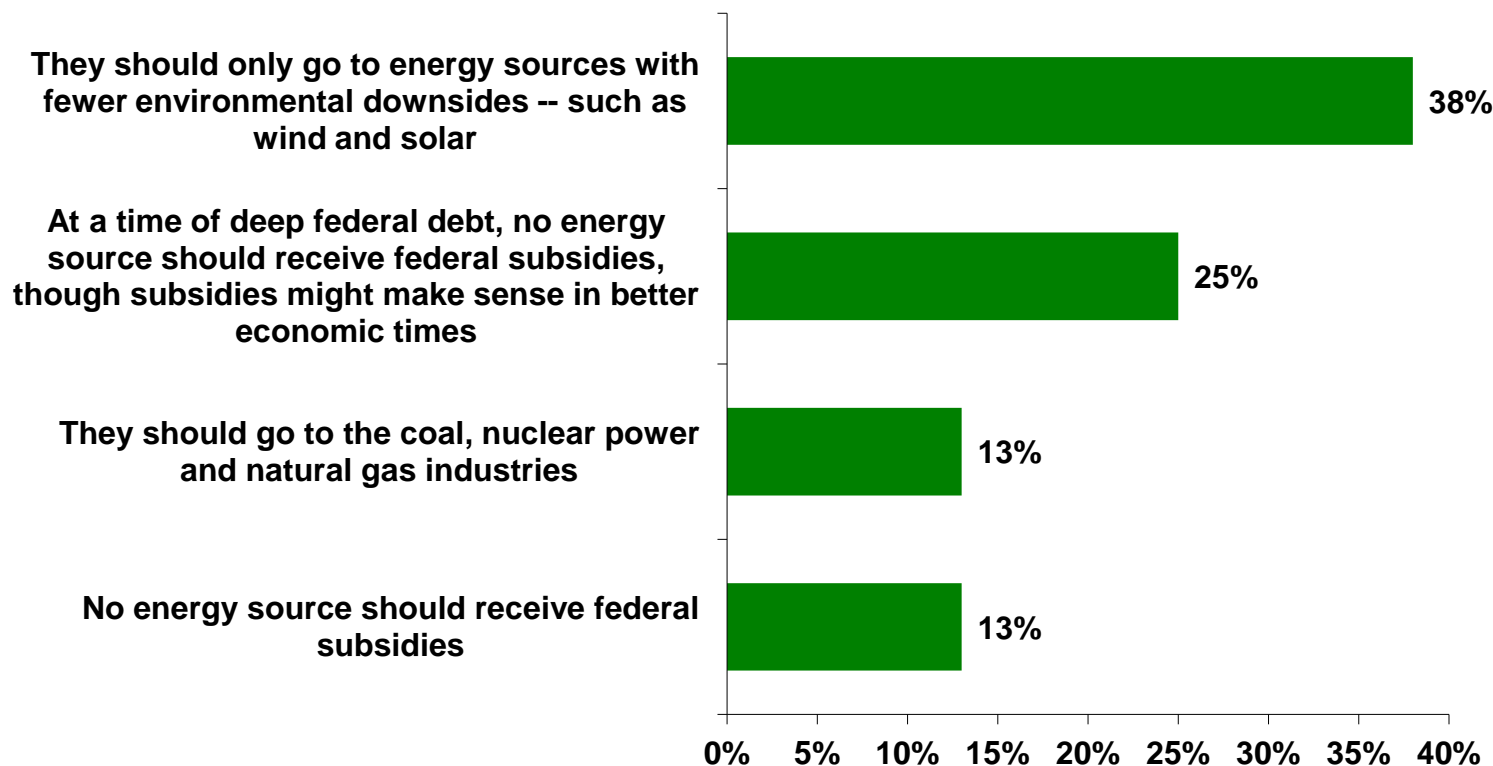
Where Federal Taxpayer Subsidies for Energy Should Go

Americans are divided as to where federal energy subsidies should be applied.

- The largest proportion (38%) say that if federal energy subsidies are to be provided, they should go to energy sources with fewer environmental and health downsides – such as wind and solar. Those who tend to hold these opinions are female (43%), have a high school education or greater (40%), identify as Democrats (55%) or Independents (39%), are neutral towards (37%) or oppose (59%) the Tea Party, and are under the age of 65 – Millennials (52%), Gen X (39%) or Boomers (34%).
- One quarter of respondents think that, in a time of deep federal debt, there should be no energy subsidies from the government. Independents (28%) and Republicans (30%) tend to favor this position as do those who are neutral towards the Tea Party movement (29%).
- Thirteen percent favor no subsidies at all and these respondents tend to be male (18%), Republican (20%) or Independent (14%), active members or supporters of the Tea Party (26%) Baby Boomers (17%) or Seniors (16%).
- Thirteen percent also favor federal subsidies going to coal, nuclear power and natural gas industries. These respondents tend to be male (17%), Republican (20%), active members or supporters of the Tea Party movement (24%) and Gen X members (18%) or Seniors (17%).

Where Federal Taxpayer Subsidies for Energy Should Go

- Respondents are also divided about where government subsidies for energy should go or if they should even exist in times of deep government debt.



QN2: Direct and indirect subsidies to coal, nuclear power, oil and natural gas industries add up to tens of billions of dollars in federal taxpayer support, including tax credits and other income tax breaks. What is your view of these subsidies? Would you say...

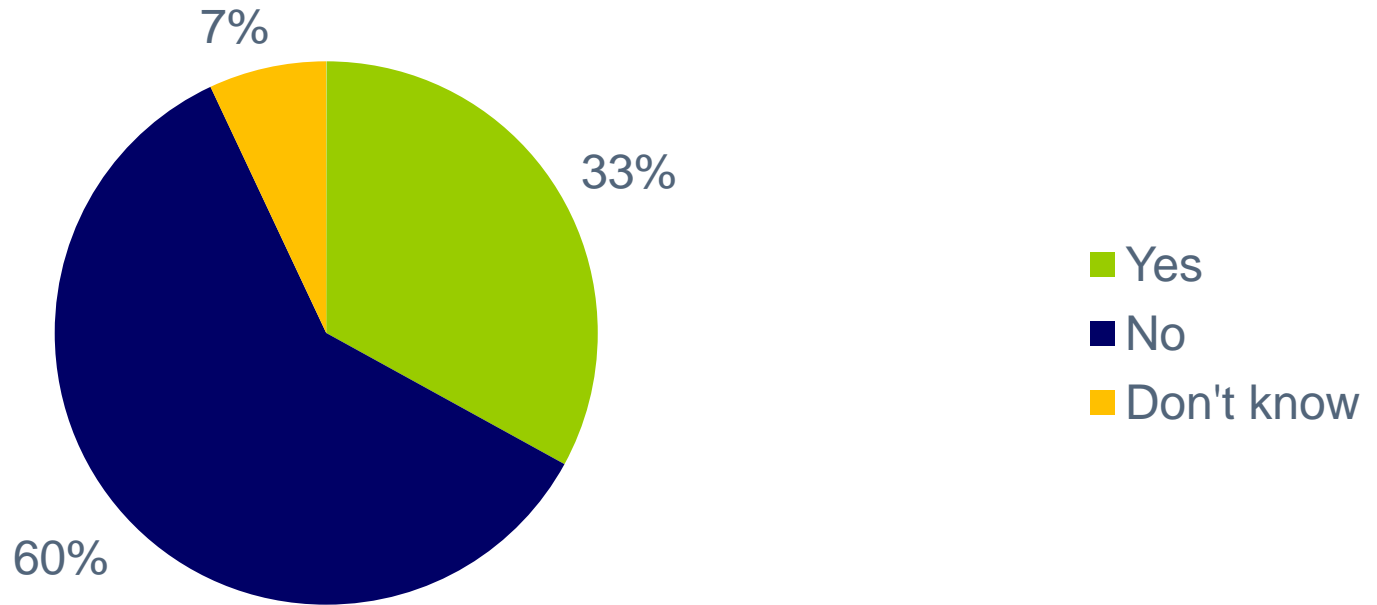
Base: Total respondents, 1,049.

Support for Federal Subsidies for Oil, Gas, Coal and Natural Gas

- Six Americans in 10 don't support federal subsidies for oil, gas, coal, natural gas and other fossil fuel companies. A third (33%) say they do support such subsidies.
- Those who oppose such subsidies are male (65%), live in the West (67%), have household incomes of \$50,000 or more (68%), are college educated (70%), or oppose the Tea Party movement (71%).

Support for Federal Subsidies for Oil, Gas, Coal and Natural Gas

Six out of 10 do not support federal subsidies for fossil fuel companies.



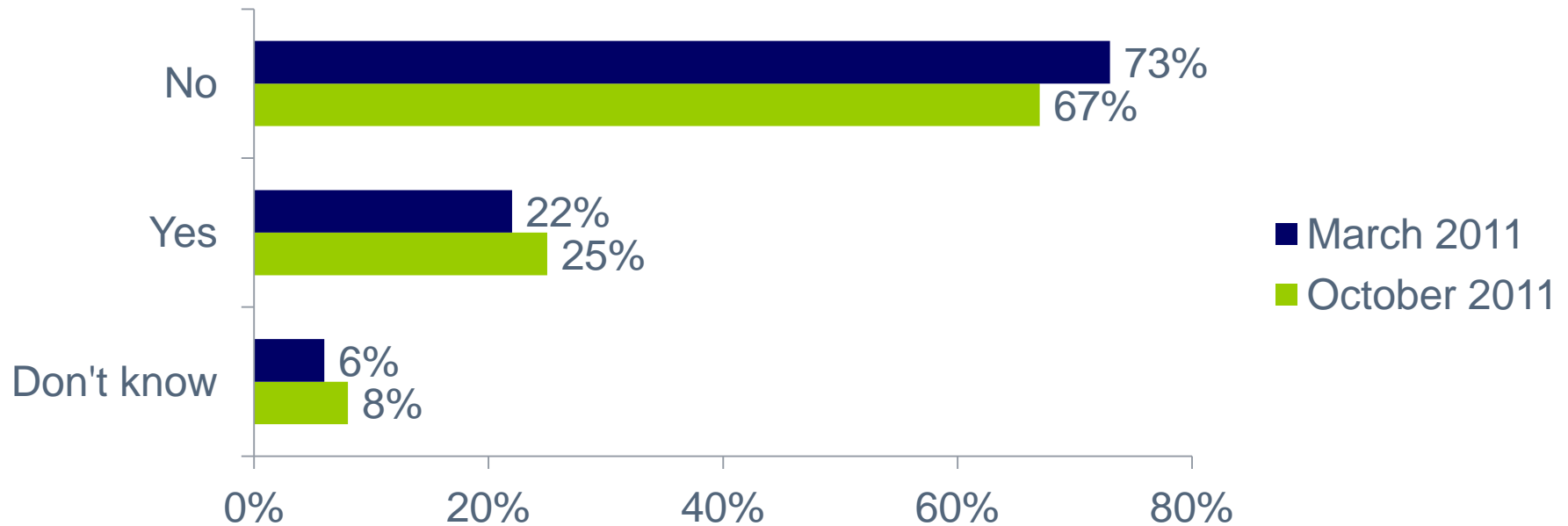
QN8 Do you support federal subsidies for oil and gas, coal, natural gas and other fossil fuel companies?
Base: Total respondents n=1,049

Should Taxpayers Provide Loan Guarantees for New Nuclear Power Reactors?

- A majority of Americans (67%) are opposed to using tax dollars to guarantee loans to build additional nuclear reactors. Only a fourth (25%) approve of using taxpayer money in this way.
- The only real demographic difference for this question is by gender. Women are somewhat more likely than men to not want taxpayer money used this way.
- Interestingly, there is no difference by party identification. Democrats, Independents and Republicans are all equally opposed to using taxpayer money for guaranteeing these loans.

Should Taxpayers Provide Loan Guarantees for New Nuclear Power Reactors?

Respondents do not favor using taxpayer money to guarantee loans to construct nuclear power reactors. This sentiment is unchanged from a March 2011 asking.



QN7: Do you think taxpayers and ratepayers should provide taxpayer backed loan guarantees for the construction of new nuclear power reactors in the United States through proposed tens of billions in federal loan guarantees for new reactors? (October 2011)

QA5: Do you think taxpayers should take on the risk for the construction of new nuclear power reactors in the United States through billions of dollars in new federal loan guarantees for new reactors? (March 2011)

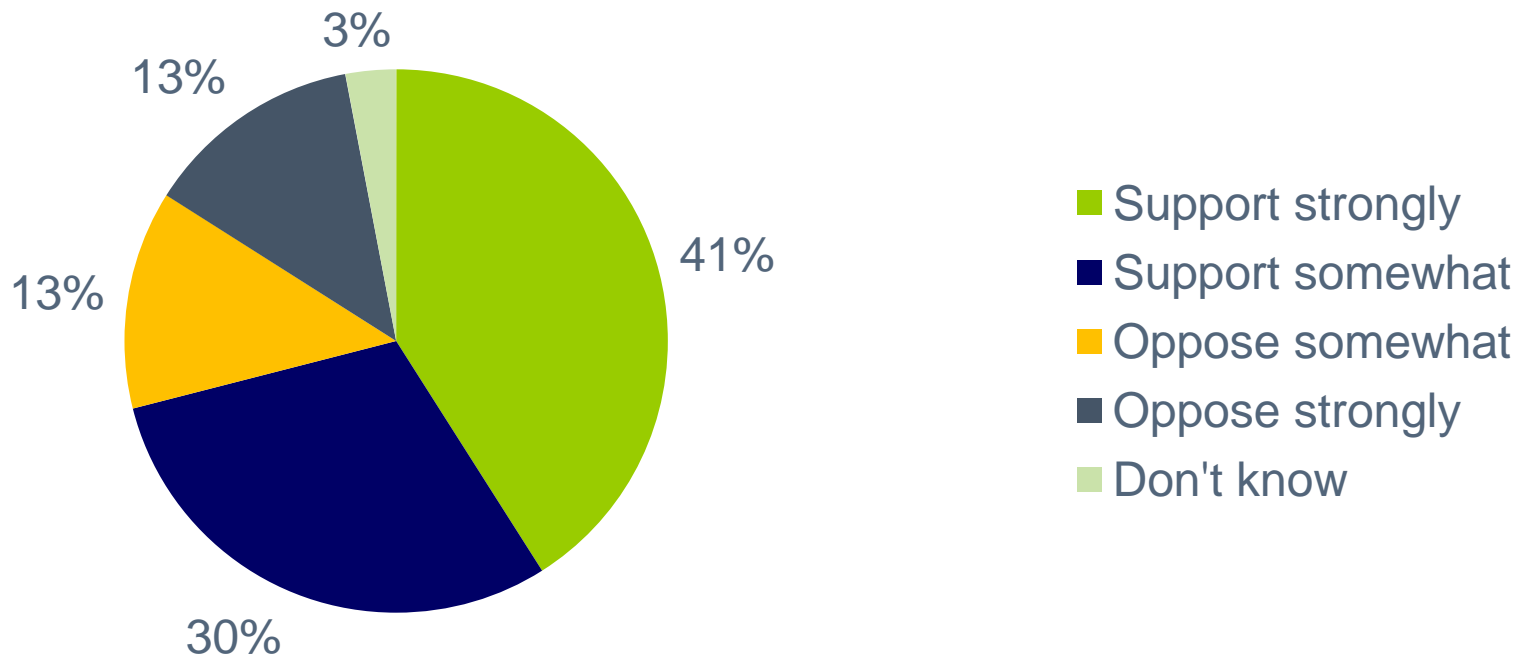
Base: October 2011: 1,049; March 2011: 814.

Support for Shifting Federal Subsidies from Nuclear to Wind and Solar

- A majority of Americans (71%) would support a shift in federal subsidies or support from nuclear energy to wind or solar. One fourth (26%) would oppose such a shift of federal support.
- Those who support a shift in support tend to be female (77%), identify themselves as Democrats (84%) or Independents (72%), are not registered to vote (81%), oppose the Tea Party movement (83%) and are Millennials (84%) or Gen X (75%).

Support for Shifting Federal Subsidies from Nuclear to Wind and Solar

A majority would support shifting federal subsidies from nuclear to wind or solar.



QN10 Here is another question about federal support for energy development... would you support or oppose a shift of federal loan guarantee support for energy away from nuclear reactors and towards clean renewable energy such as wind and solar? Do you...

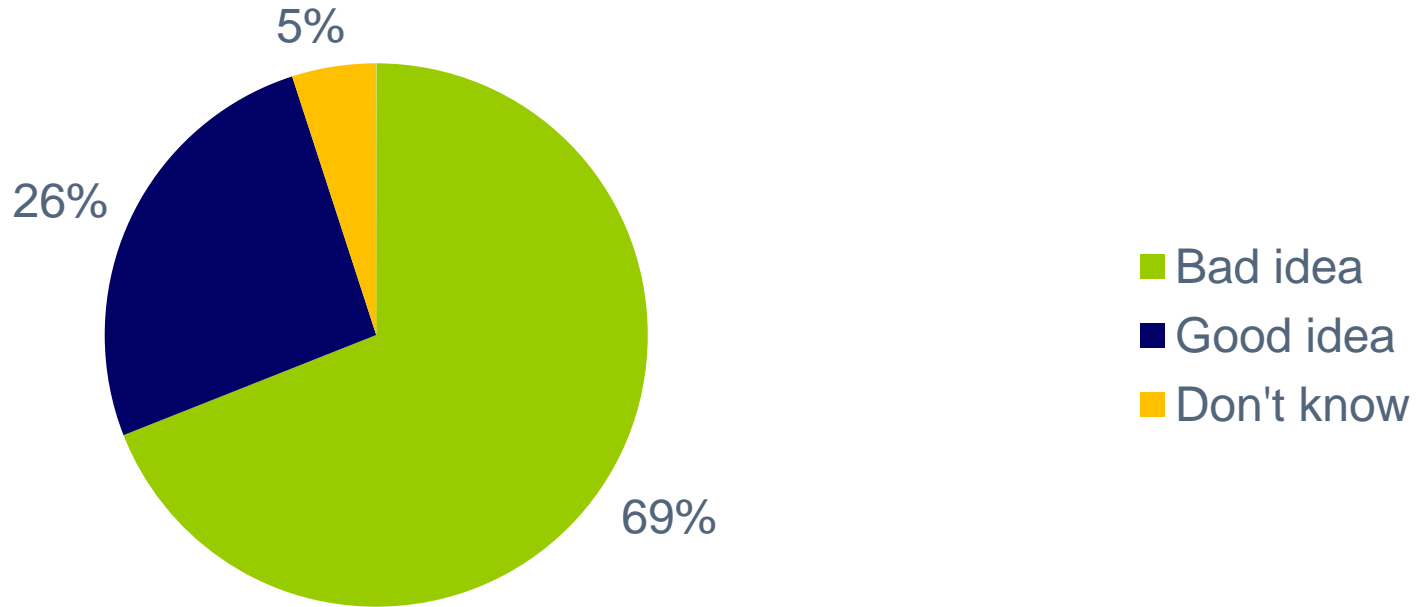
Base: Total respondents n=1,049

Putting Clean Energy on Hold in Bad Economic Times

- Despite the country's current economic problems, 69% of Americans think it is a bad idea to put progress towards developing cleaner energy sources on hold until things get better. Only 26% favor taking the more cautious approach and waiting for better economic times.
- Those who think it is a bad idea to wait despite the economy are female (74%), identify as Democrats 78%, are neutral towards or oppose the Tea Party (both 76%) and are Gen X (77%).

Putting Clean Energy on Hold in Bad Economic Times

Americans feel it is a bad idea to put the search for clean energy solutions on hold until the economy improves.



QN18 America is going through difficult economic times today. Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the nation to put on hold progress towards cleaner energy sources during the current economic difficulty.

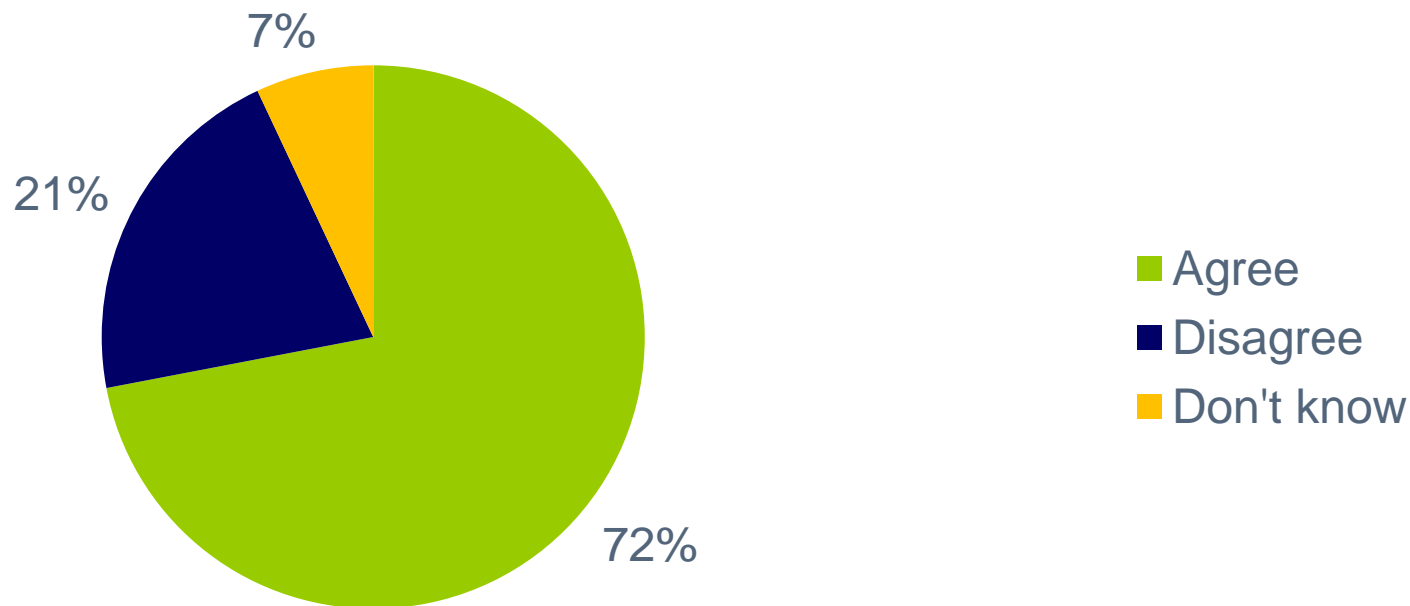
Base: Total respondents n=1,049

The Oil and Gas Companies Influence on Congress and the White House

- Americans strongly believe that oil and gas companies have a disproportionate influence on Congress and the White House when it comes to making national energy policy. Seventy-two percent agree their influence is disproportionate while only 21% do not.
- Those who agree that the oil and gas companies have more influence tend to be Democrats (83%), opposed to the Tea Party (86%), and Gen X (83%).

The Oil and Gas Companies Influence on Congress and the White House

Americans feel that the oil and gas companies have a disproportionate influence on the White House and Congress



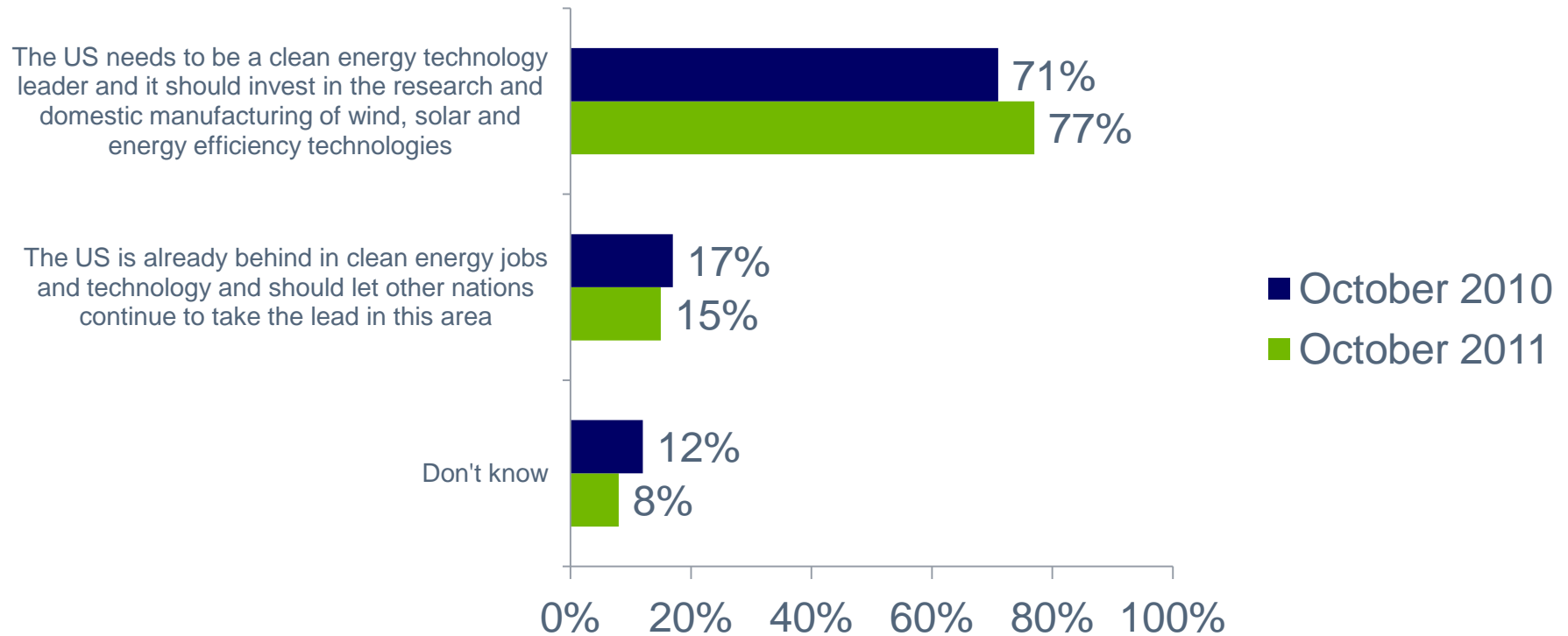
QN17 America's oil, coal and gas companies have a disproportionate influence on Congress and the White House when it comes to making national energy policy . Do you agree or disagree?
Base: Total respondents n=1,049

Taking the Leadership on Developing Clean, Renewable Energy

- A majority of Americans (77%) think this country needs to be a clean energy technology leader and that it should invest in the research and manufacturing of these technologies. Only 15% think that since the country is already behind in this area, we should let other nations continue to take the lead. This finding is unchanged from an October 2010 survey that found that 71% think we should be a leader in this area.
- Those who favor the US investing in clean energy technology and becoming a leader tend to be female (84%), identify themselves as Democrats (88%) or Independents (75%), are neutral towards (82%) or opposed (87%) to the Tea Party and are Millennials (84%).

Taking the Leadership on Developing Clean, Renewable Energy

Americans agree that we should take the lead in the development of clean, renewable energy technology by making the necessary investments.



QN14: Some reports say that the United States is falling behind other countries – such as China and India – in the development, manufacturing and deployment of clean, renewable energy sources. Do you think the United States should take leadership and capture global markets? (October 2011 and October 2010)

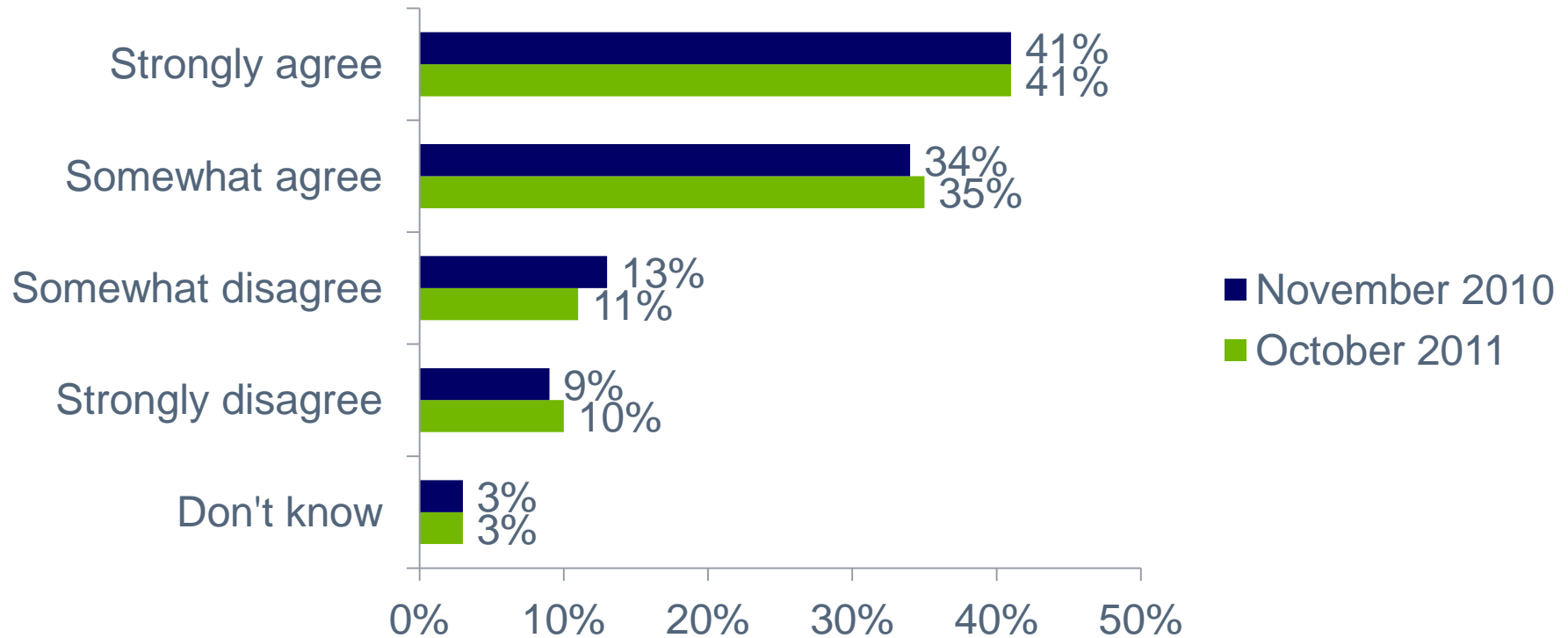
Bases: October 2011 (1,049), October 2010 (1,011).

Smarter Energy Choices are the Key to Healthy, Safe Future

- More than three-fourths (76%) of respondents agree that smarter energy choices are the key creating a future that is healthy and safe. This finding is unchanged from a survey in November 2010 that asked the same question.
- Those who agree with this statement tend to be females (83%), live in households with less than \$50,000 in income (81%), live in households with three or more people (80%), identify as Democrats (90%) or Independents (76%), did not vote in the 2008 election (84%), are neutral towards (82%) or oppose the Tea Party (89%), and are Millennials (88%), Gen X (79%) or Boomers (74%).

Smarter Energy Choices are the Key to Healthy, Safe Future

Americans agree that making smarter energy choices are the key to a healthy and safe future.



QN4: To what degree do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Smarter energy choices are the key to creating a future that is healthy and safe because fossil fuels create toxic wastes that are a threat to our health and safety. Do you... (October 2011)

QD10: To what degree do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Smarter energy choices are the key to creating new jobs and a future that is healthy and safe because fossil fuels create toxic wastes that are a threat to our health and safety. Do you... (November 2010)

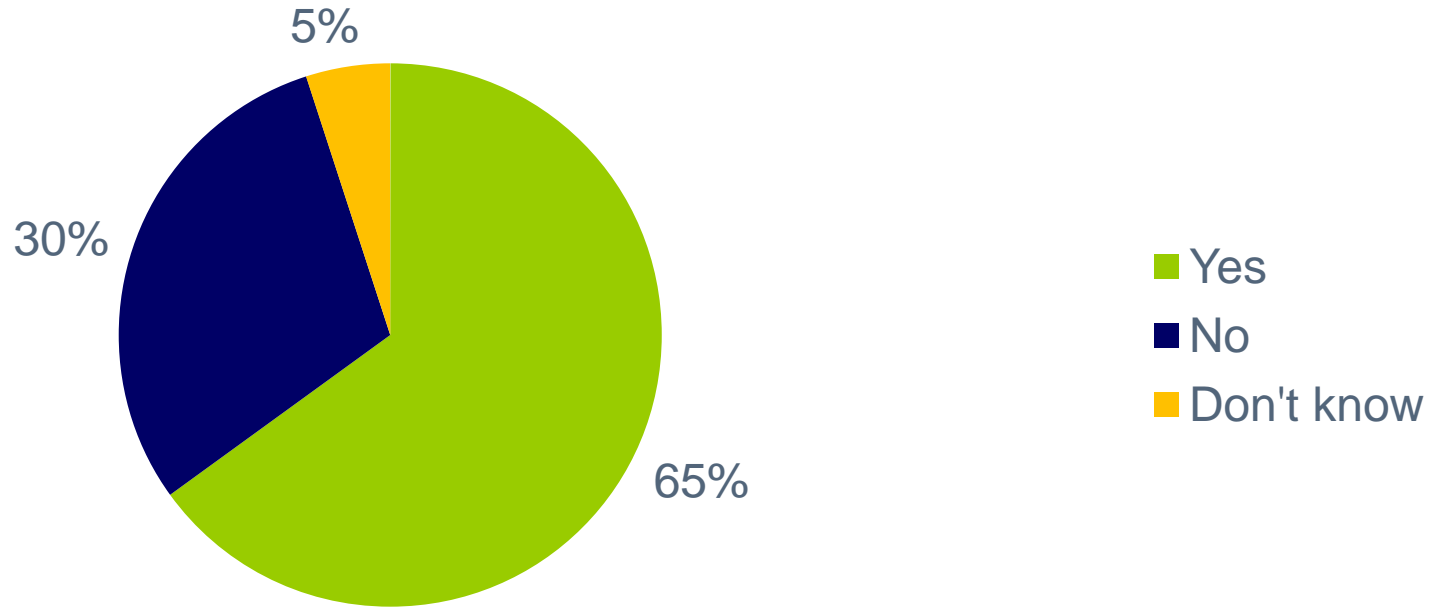
Bases: October 2011 (1,049), November 2010, (1,012).

Support for a Phase Out of Coal Fired Power Plants

- If this country could meet its energy demands through a combination of energy efficiency, wind and solar energy, 65% of respondents say they would be willing to support a phase-out of coal fired power plants in this country. A third (30%) would not support phasing out coal-fired power plants.
- Those who are most likely to support this idea are respondents who identified themselves as Democrats (72%), those who oppose the Tea Party (80%), or Gen X (74%).

Support for a Phase Out of Coal Fired Power Plants

Sixty-five percent would support a phase out of coal fired power plants if a combination of energy efficiency, wind and solar met our energy needs.



QN11A If increased energy efficiency and off the shelf renewable technologies such as wind and solar could meet our energy demands, would you support a phase out of coal fired plants in the United States?

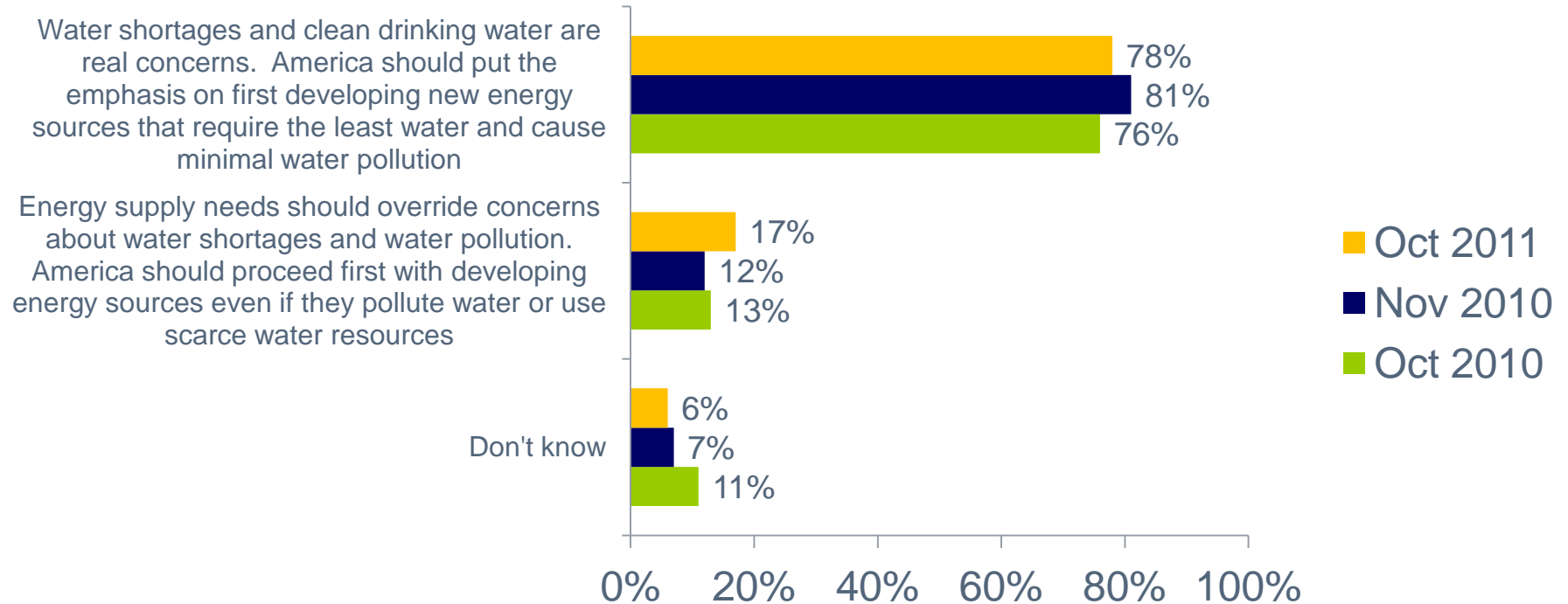
Base: Total respondents n=1,049

Energy Production and Water Usage/Pollution

- A majority of Americans favor focusing on energy sources that require the least water and cause minimal water pollution. In this current survey 78% favor this approach. In two surveys last year in November (81%) and October (76%) similar levels of support for this approach were found. Less than one-fifth favor an approach to energy development that override concerns about water shortages and water pollution.
- Those who favor energy development that takes water supply and pollution into consideration are female (83%), live in the Midwest (85%), identify as Democrats (85%) or Independents (80%), are neutral towards (82%) or oppose the Tea Party (86%) and are more likely to be Millennials (78%), Gen X (85%) or Boomers (78%) than they are to be seniors (70%).

Energy Production and Water Usage/Pollution

Americans favor energy production that takes water usage and pollution into consideration. This opinion is unchanged in the past year.



QN3: Many energy sources, such as natural gas, coal, tar sands, nuclear and biofuels, require large amounts of water and have raised concerns about resulting contamination of drinking water and use of scarce water resources. Which of the following statements BEST expresses your view about where America should focus its energy production in the future? (October 2011)

QD8: Which of the following statements BEST expresses your view about where America should focus its energy production in the future? (November 2010)

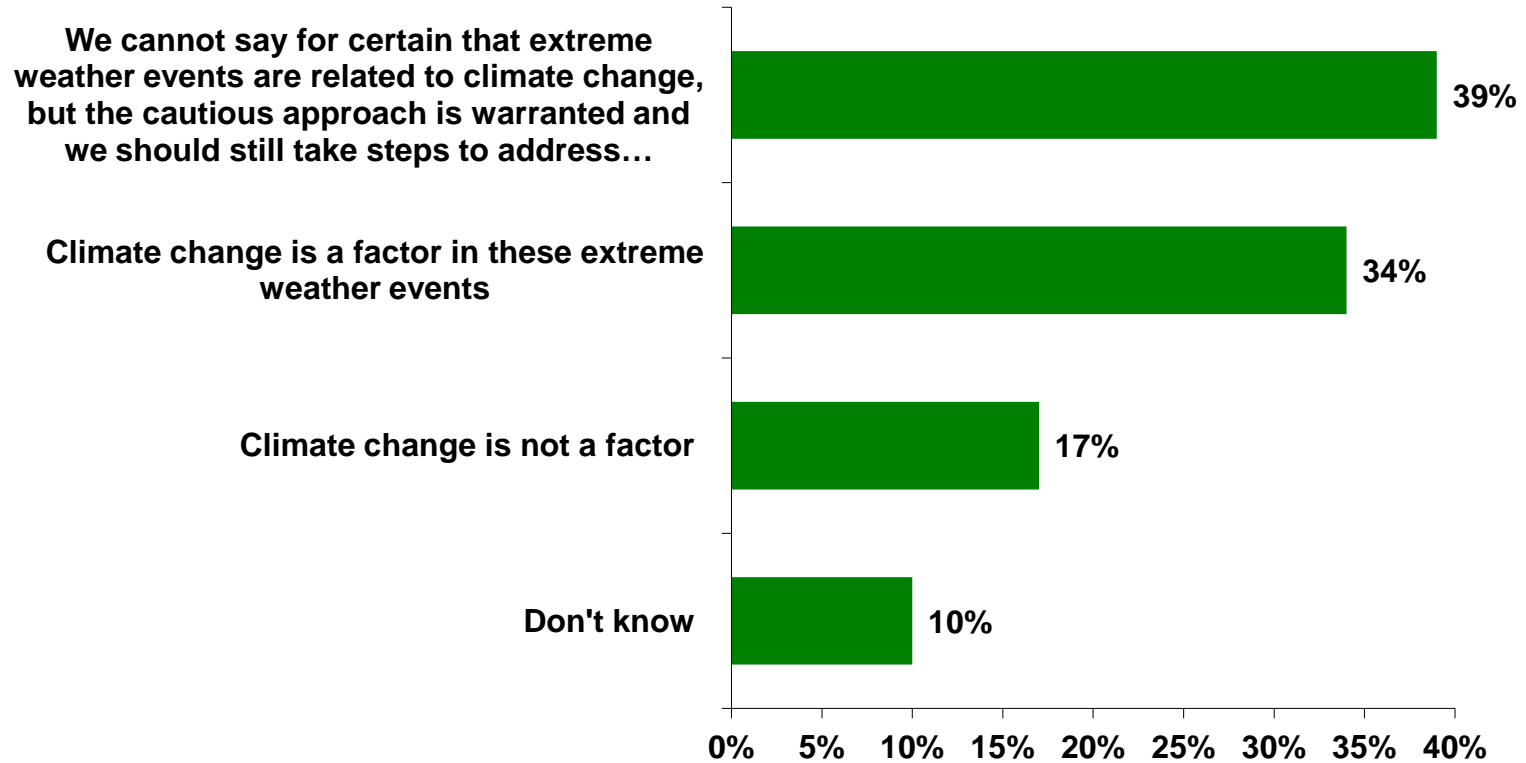
QR8: Some energy sources – such as natural gas, coal, tar sands, nuclear and biofuels – require large amounts of water and have raised concerns about resulting contamination of drinking water sources and other water. Which of the following statements BEST expresses your view about where America should focus its energy production in the future? (October 2010)

Bases: October 2011 (1,049), November 2010, (1,012), October 2010 (1,011.)

Weather Related Disasters and Climate Change

- Few Americans see no link between extreme weather and climate change. One third (34%) say climate change is a factor in extreme weather events, while four in ten (39%) cannot say if climate change is a factor but favor the cautious approach of taking steps to address climate change. Only 17 percent say climate change is not a factor and 10% do not know.
- Those who think climate change is a factor are more likely to be female (38%), in households with incomes of less than \$50,000 (38%), have children in the household (41%), identify themselves as Democrat (43%), oppose the Tea Party movement (45%) and are age 18-31(40%) – a generation often referred to as Millennials.
- Respondents who aren't sure of the link between climate change and extreme weather but still favor taking steps to address climate change, are typically college graduates (43%), identify as Democrats (44%) or Independents (42%), are neutral towards (44%) or oppose the Tea Party movement (42%), and are age 18-31 -- Millennials (45%) or Boomers -- age 45-64 (41%).
- Those who think climate change is not a factor in extreme weather tend to be male (24%), have household incomes of \$100,000 or more (20%), identify as Republicans (31%), are active members or supporters of the Tea Party movement (45%), and are Boomers (21%) or Seniors (18%).

Weather Related Disasters and Climate Change Plan



QN1: At least 10 weather related disasters – caused by so called extreme weather – have occurred so far in 2011 involving \$1 billion or more each in damages – now totaling about \$45 billion. What do you think is causing them? Would you say...

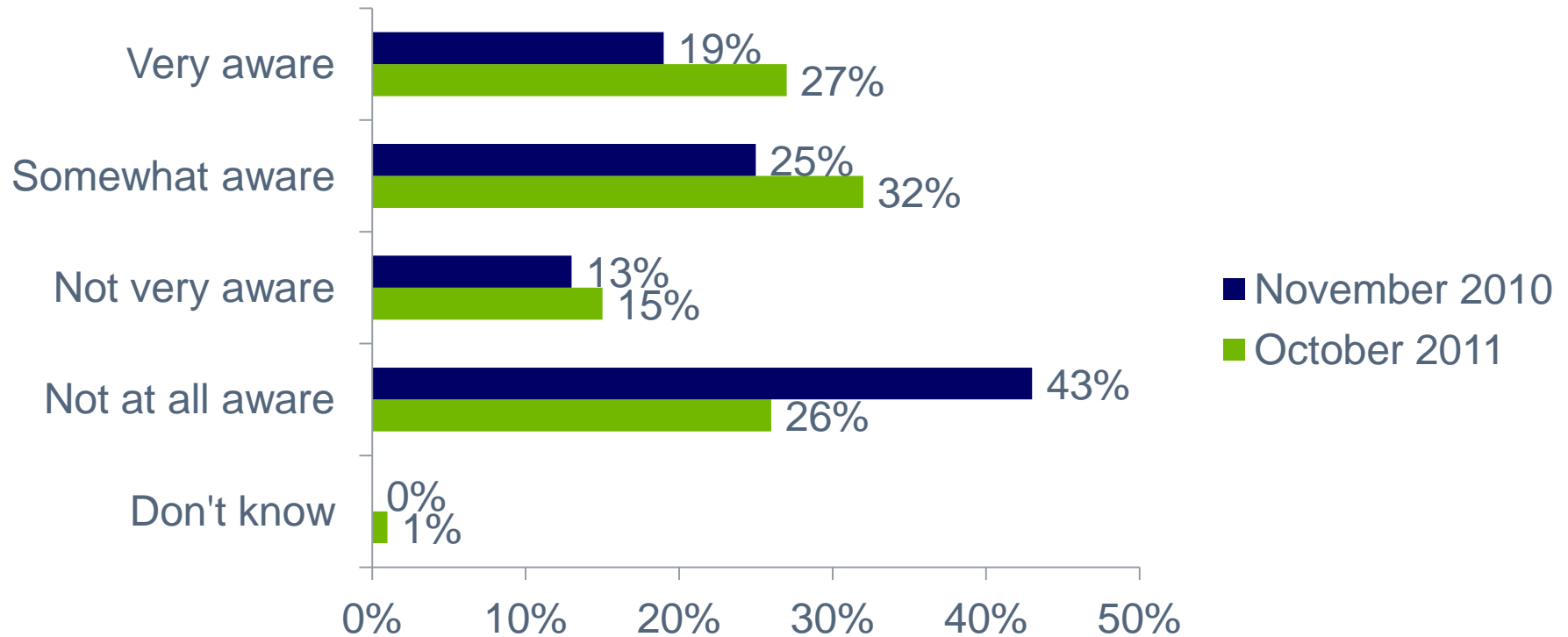
Base: Total respondents, 1,049.

Aware of Fracking

- Just over half of Americans (58%) say they are aware of the process of removing natural gas from rock and sediment known as fracking. Forty-one percent are not aware. In a survey conducted a year ago, 43% were aware of fracking at that time.
- Those who are more likely to be aware are men (66%), live in the Northeast (69%), in households with incomes of \$100,000 or more (72%), college educated (70%), either support (74%) or oppose the Tea Party (67%) and Gen X (69%).

Awareness of Fracking

Awareness of fracking has increased substantially in the past year.



QN12: Prior to this survey, how aware would you say you were about this issue? Would you say... (October 2011 and November 2010).

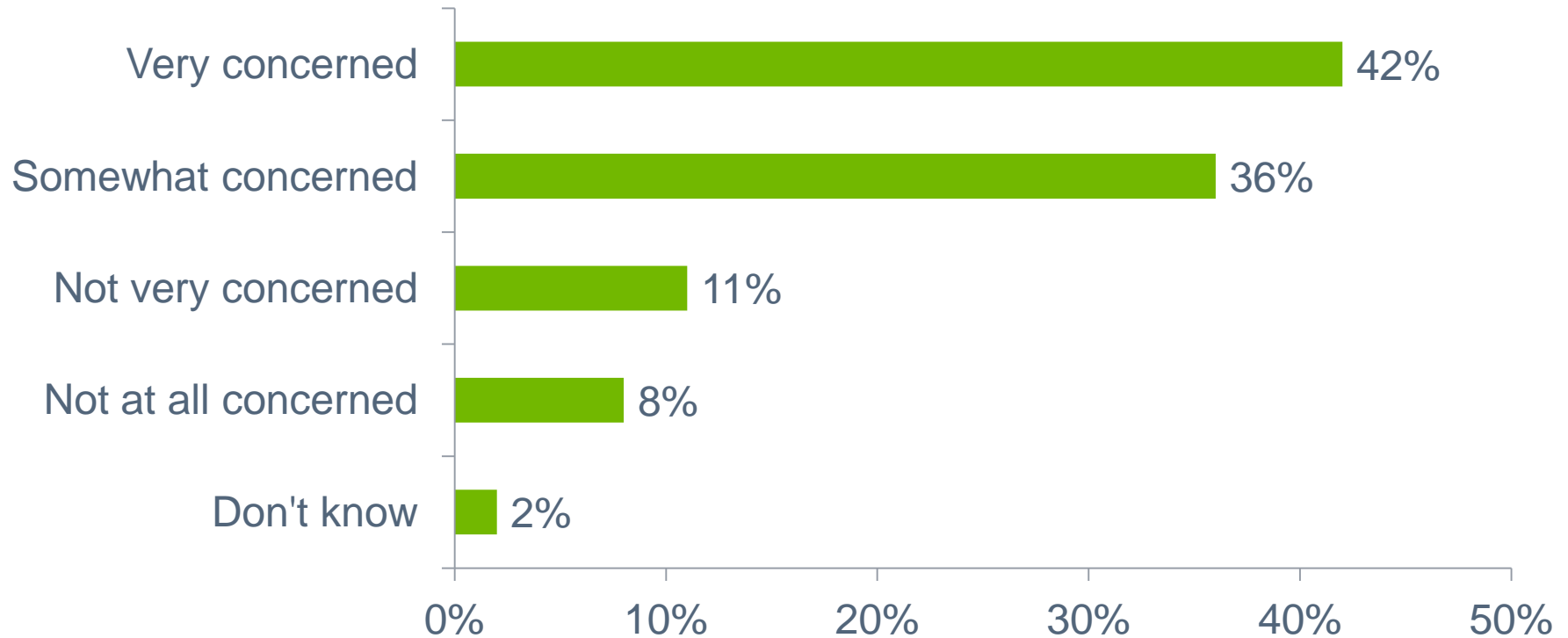
Bases: October 2011 (1,049), November 2010, (1,012).

Concern About the Issue of Fracking

- Eight out of 10 Americans (79%) are very or somewhat concerned over the issue of fracking. Nineteen percent are not concerned about this issue.
- Those who are concerned about fracking tend to be female (86%), identify themselves as Democrats (91%) or Independents (78%), are neutral towards (85%) or opposed to the Tea Party (89%) and a Gen X (86%).

Concern About the Issue of Fracking

Americans are concerned about the issue of fracking.



QN13: Still thinking of the natural gas drilling process sometimes referred to as fracking, how concerned are you about this issue as it relates to water quality? Are you...

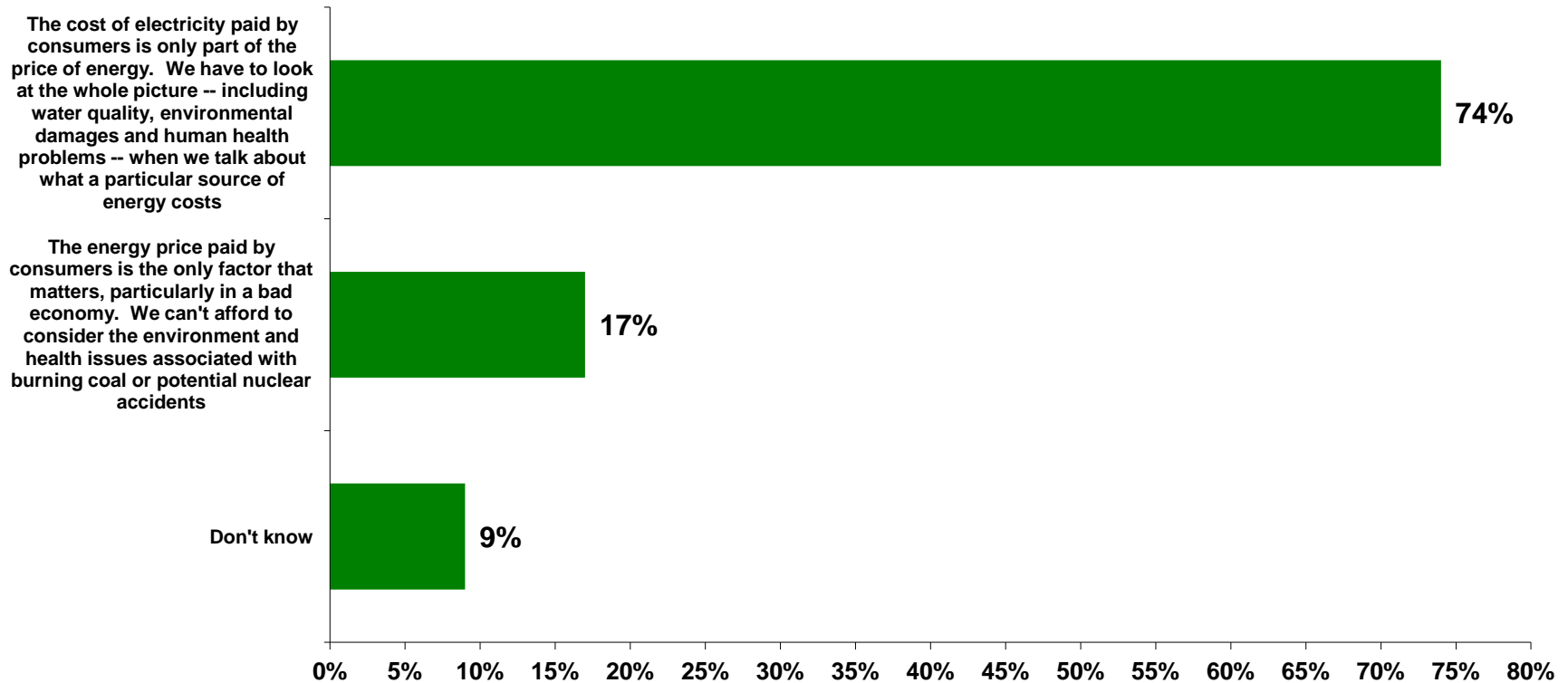
Base: Total respondents, n = 1,049.

Calculating the Real Cost of Coal and Nuclear Energy

- Americans strongly believe that the “cost” of an energy source should include far more than just the fee charged by the utility. Nearly three-fourths (74%) say that the true cost of energy from coal or nuclear power also has to include water quality issues, environmental damage, and dangers to human health. Only 17% do not think these other factors should be part of the true cost of energy from coal or nuclear power.
- Those who agree with this statement are more likely to be female (79%), identify themselves as Democrats (81%), have neutral feelings toward (75%) or oppose (86%) the Tea Party and be Millennials (80%), Gen X (80%), or Boomers (73%).

Calculating the Real Cost of Coal and Nuclear Energy

- Respondents strongly believe that environmental and human health issues should be factored into the real cost of energy derived from coal or nuclear energy.



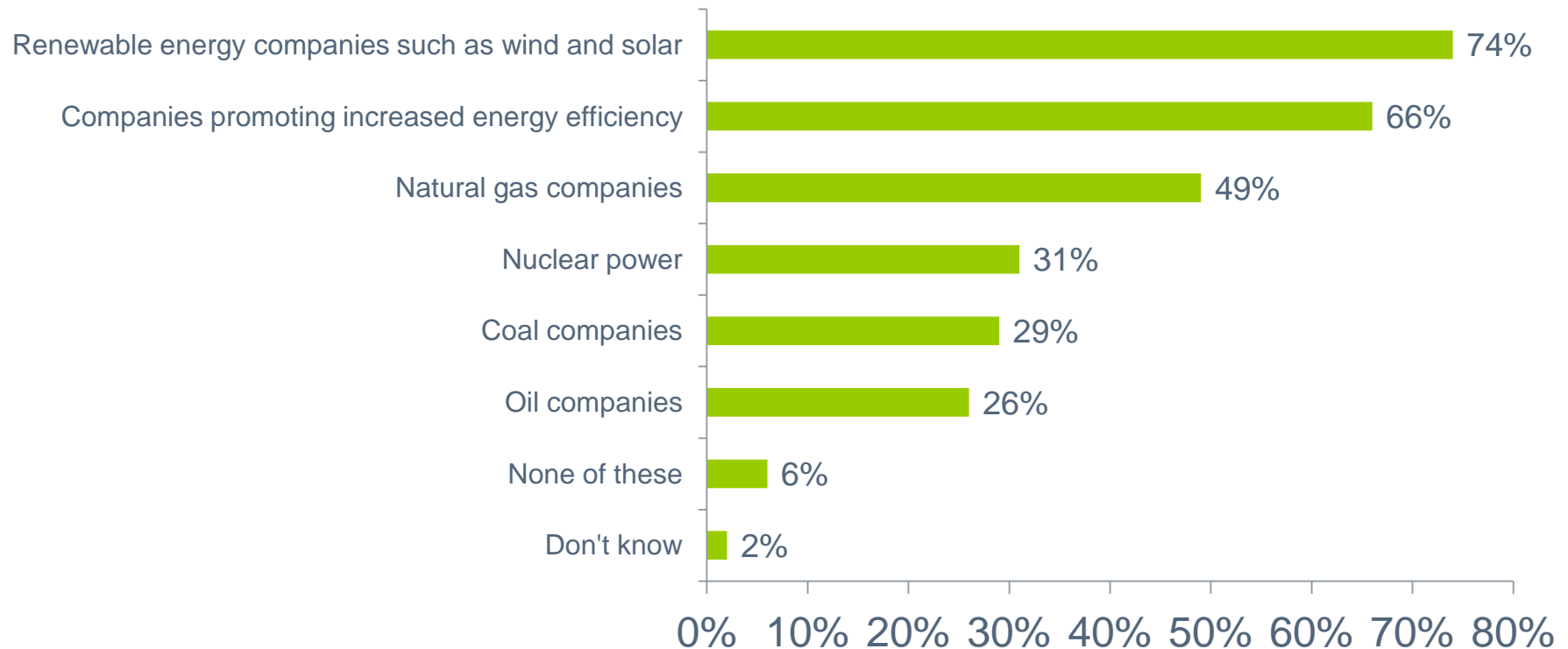
QN5: Which of the following BEST describes how you think America should look at various energy sources such as coal and nuclear?
Base: Total respondents, 1,049.

Types of Energy Companies the Government Should Subsidize

- The overwhelming preference of Americans is for their government to support or subsidize renewable energy companies like wind and solar (74%) followed by those that promote increased energy efficiency (66%). Less than half want the government to support or subsidize more traditional forms of energy such as natural gas (49%), nuclear power (31%), coal (29%) or oil (26%).
- Those who favor subsidies or support from the government for renewable energy tend to be female (77%), identify themselves as Democrats (84%) or Independents (74%), oppose the Tea Party (88%) and are Millennials (90%).

Types of Energy Companies the Government Should Subsidize

A majority support federal guaranties or subsidies for renewable energy companies or for those promoting technologies that increase efficiency.



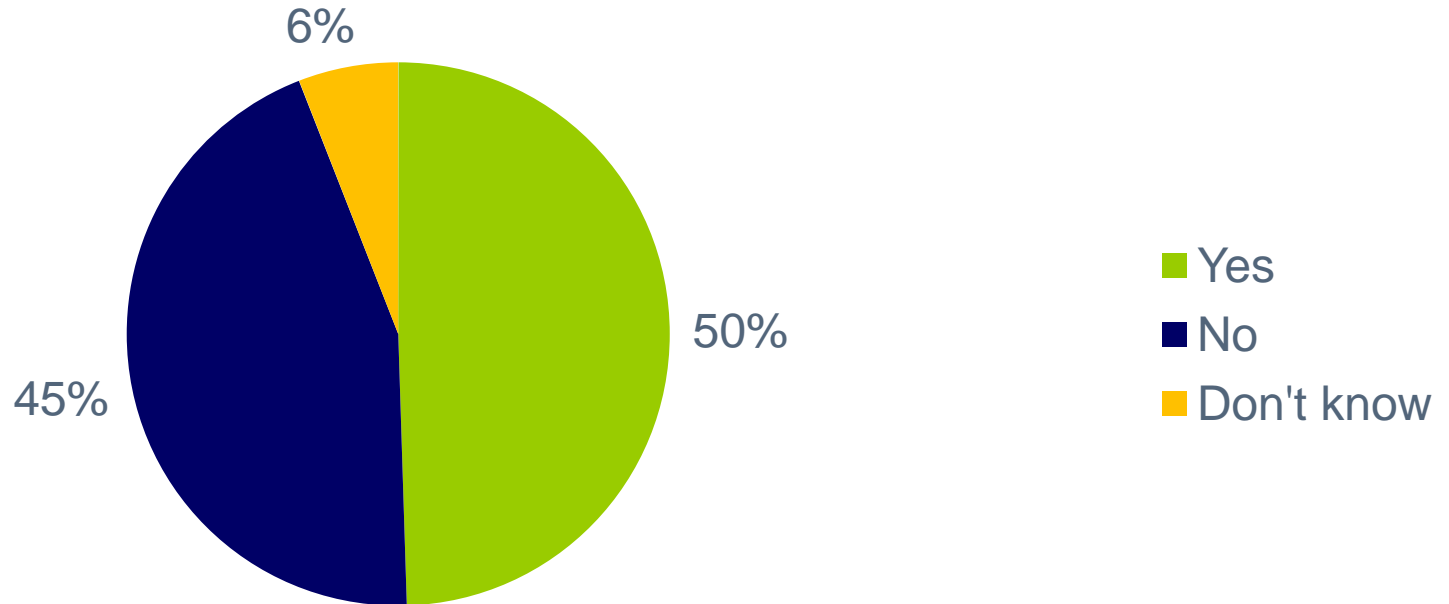
QN9 If the federal government had to provide loan guaranties or other subsidies to energy companies, where would you prefer to have them go?
Base: Total respondents n=1,049

Support for a Moratorium on New Nuclear Reactors

- Half of Americans would support a moratorium on new nuclear reactors even if a combination of energy efficiency, wind and solar were able to meet our energy demands. Forty-five percent would not support such a moratorium.

Support for a Moratorium on New Nuclear Reactors

Only half support a moratorium on nuclear reactors even if a combination of efficiency, wind and solar were able to meet our energy demands.



QN11 If increased energy efficiency and off the shelf renewable technologies such as wind and solar could meet our energy demands, would you support a moratorium on new nuclear reactor construction in the United States?

Base: Total respondents n=1,049

What Real Energy Independence Mean to Americans

- Two thirds of Americans (64%) define energy independence as freedom from both domestic and international sources of energy that result in death, illness, pollution of the environment or excessive use of scarce resources. Only 24% think energy independence means freedom from foreign energy sources in favor of domestic sources regardless of the environmental or health damage they may cause.
- Those who favor independence from any type of energy source that may cause environmental or health damage tend to be female (68%), college graduates (70%), identify themselves as Democrats (78%), oppose the Tea Party (79%), and are Millennials (78%).

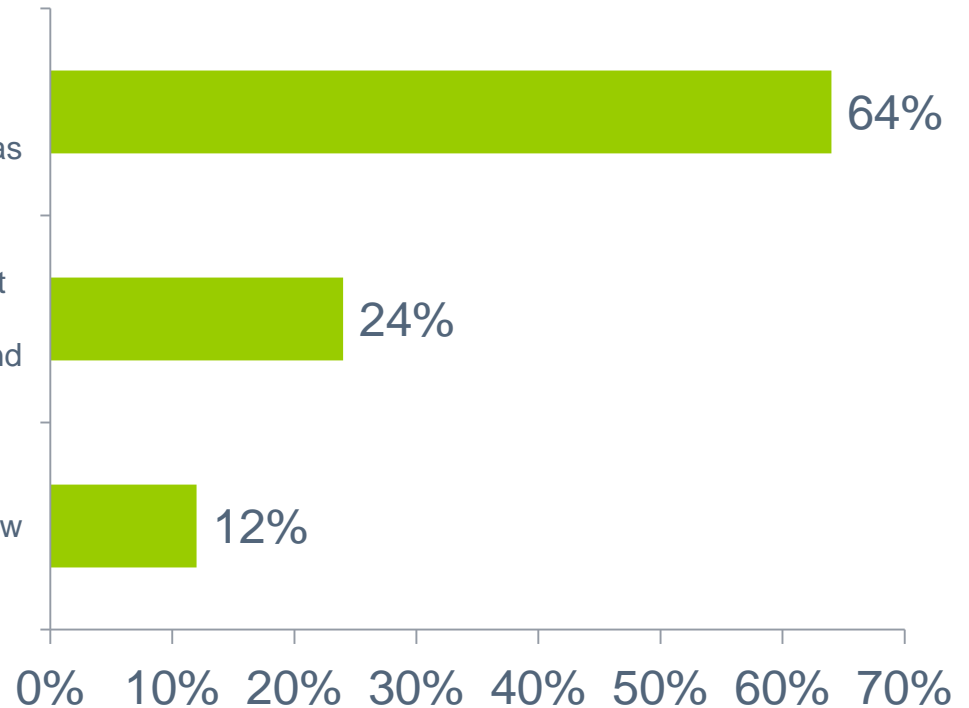
What Real Energy Independence Mean to Americans

To Americans, real energy independence means freedom from both international and domestic energy sources that can cause environmental damage or health issues.

Real energy independence for America means freedom from both foreign energy sources and domestic energy sources that result in death, illness, pollution of the environment or excessive use of scarce resources such as water

Real energy independence of America means freedom from foreign energy sources and it does not matter what domestic energy sources are used to replace them, including those energy sources that may cause health and environmental damages

Don't know



QN15: I want to get your input about what meaningful "energy independence" would mean for the United States. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

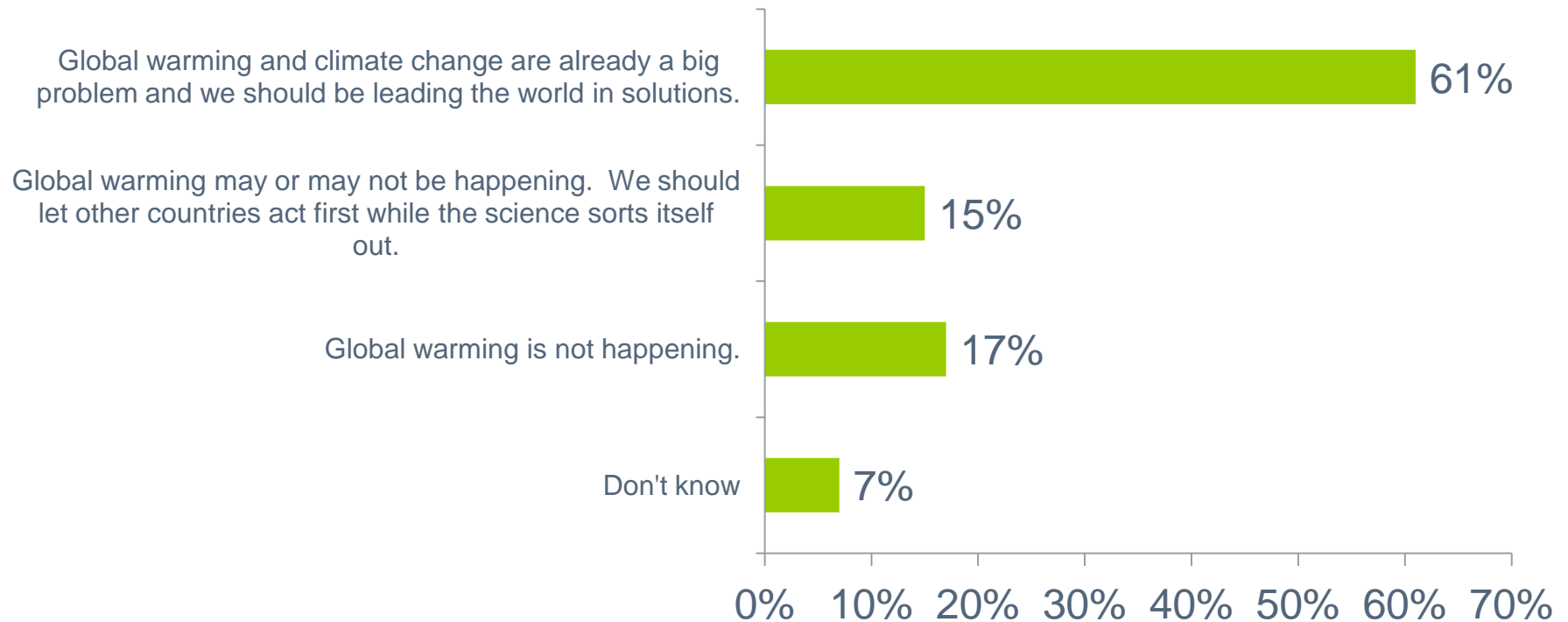
Base: Total respondents, n= 1,049.

Is Global Warming Happening?

- A majority of Americans (61%) believe that not only is global warming happening, but that the US should be taking the lead in finding a solution. Fifteen percent think it may or may not be happening and we should let other countries act while science sorts itself out. Seventeen percent think global warming isn't happening at all.
- Those who think global warming is a problem and that the US should be leading the way in solutions tend to be female (66%), live in regions other than the West, identify themselves as Democrats (81%), didn't vote in the 2008 election (69%), are opposed to the Tea Party (79%), and are Millennials (71%) or Gen X (67%).

Is Global Warming Happening?

Most Americans believe global warming is happening and that we should be taking the lead in finding a solution.



QN16: Which of the following statements BEST reflects your view?

Base: Total respondents, n= 1,049.