

Press release
28 May 2025

Exclusive Ifop survey for ENGIE: 84% of French people have a favourable opinion of renewable energy

- Survey conducted between 3 and 16 April 2025, with an extensive sample of 12 029 individuals representative of the French population, including 2,500 living near a renewable energy site.
- 84% of French respondents report having a favourable opinion of renewable energy, rising to 94% among people living close to renewable energy facilities.
- 56% of French people say that electricity should be generated using a mix of nuclear and renewable energy.
- To deliver on this broad support, renewable energy must be actively integrated into our daily lives, making its benefits tangible and accessible to all.

"The French overwhelmingly favour renewable energy. Their support, however, is not unconditional; it is contingent on tangible results, clear advantages and a balanced energy mix. What we're seeing is far from simple optimism. It is a thoughtful and mature demand for an energy transition that is believable and effective," explains **Jérôme Fourquet, Director of the Opinion Department at Ifop**.

"French people have a highly favourable opinion of renewable energy, a finding that challenges the widely held assumption that people are generally opposed to it. As the leading wind and solar energy company in France, ENGIE is fully committed to meeting public expectations by delivering tangible benefits from the energy transition in people's everyday lives," says **Catherine MacGregor, CEO of ENGIE**.

For the French, Energy is a Top Priority

The survey conducted by Ifop for ENGIE **highlights the strategic importance of energy** for French people, with nearly one in two French people (48%) saying energy is a **top priority**.

With almost 7 in 10 respondents considering it "very important", energy sovereignty has emerged as a key issue. It is closely related to other major concerns for French people: purchasing power, safety, international tensions and the environmental crisis.

Favourable Opinion of Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is seen favourably by 84% of the French population. **People living near a renewable energy site are more likely to have a positive opinion**, with 94% of local residents reporting a favourable view, more than 10% higher than the national average. Local residents are even more likely to have a favourable opinion (95%) when they have been involved in the decision to set up the facility, proving that **early engagement is a factor in securing support**.

This support is based on **clearly identified benefits**: fighting climate change (79%), strengthening energy sovereignty (78%) and job creation (77%). However, the **impact on energy bills** (62%) remains to be proven.

Similarly, French people support the development of renewable energy: 62% believe the growth of renewable energy has been too slow, and 68% would like to see it increase over the next five years. 56% believe electricity should be generated through a balanced energy mix of nuclear and renewables, while only 12% support relying solely on nuclear energy.

This support, however, must be grounded in evidence. French people want tangible information on the production capacity of renewables, their reliability and their impact on the landscape and biodiversity. The public is looking for reassurance regarding every stage of the value chain, from dependence on imports for essential components to recycling.

67% of French people consider energy companies a reliable source of information on these issues, ranking them above the media, AI and politicians in trustworthiness.

Real-World Exposure to Renewable Energy

Based on a rigorous methodology, this survey isolated a robust sub-sample of **over 2,500 French people who live near renewable energy facilities**, enabling a detailed analysis of how real-world exposure impacts opinion.

Contrary to popular belief, **people living near renewable energy facilities have a positive and clear-sighted opinion of them**. They are more likely than French people in general to see the benefits, including job creation and tax revenues, while also recognising the drawbacks. They are also more likely to expect to benefit directly in return for accepting the existence of these facilities.

However, acceptance is not the same as unquestioning approval. It is grounded in **real-world experience, a clear grasp of how the facilities operate and an ability to put any inconveniences into perspective**. The survey shows that **living close to these sites does not trigger opposition to them — instead, it helps shape a more realistic and informed view of them**.

How to Build Stronger Public Support

Broadly supportive of renewable energy, French people are ready to support an energy transition more heavily reliant on it in the future. Their support, however, is contingent on them being **well-informed, actively involved and having their need for clear information satisfied**.

Education is a crucial driver for understanding and support, as one in two French people report having a more positive opinion of renewable energy once they are presented with factual, objective information on its advantages, including its impact on purchasing power, local economic growth, energy sovereignty and environmental protection. With 67% of French people — and 76% of local residents — viewing companies as trustworthy sources of information, businesses have a key role to play in turning renewable energy from a promising concept into a concrete, shared reality.

The real challenge now is **building credibility** — transforming renewable energy from an inspiring promise into a proven, visible and measurable reality that **delivers on its potential**.

Survey methodology:

Survey conducted by Ifop between 3 and 16 April 2025, with a sample of 12,029 individuals representative of the French population, including a sub-sample of 2,500 people living near a renewable energy site.

In addition, interviews were conducted to better understand the perceptions and expectations of the French population: two focus groups of eight to ten people in Tours and Nantes, along with four interviews with local residents from across France.

About ENGIE

ENGIE is a major player in the energy transition, whose purpose is to accelerate the transition towards a carbon-neutral economy. With 98,000 employees in 30 countries, the Group covers the entire energy value chain, from production to infrastructure and sales. ENGIE combines complementary activities: renewable electricity and green gas production, flexibility assets (notably batteries), gas and electricity transmission and distribution networks, local energy infrastructures (heating and cooling networks) and the supply of energy to individuals, local authorities and businesses. Every year, ENGIE invests more than €10 billion to drive forward the energy transition and achieve its net-zero carbon goal by 2045. Turnover in 2024: €73.8 billion. Listed in Paris and Brussels (ENGI), the Group is included in major financial indices (CAC 40, Euronext 100, FTSE Euro 100, MSCI Europe) as well as non-financial indices (DJSI World, Euronext Sustainable – Europe 120 / France 20, CAC 40 ESG, MSCI EMU ESG screened, MSCI EUROPE ESG Universal Select, Stoxx Europe 600 ESG-X).

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About the Ifop Group

Founded in 1938 by sociologist Jean Stoetzel, Ifop pioneered the survey method and was the first to conduct public opinion polls in France. Over the years, Ifop has expanded across Europe, the United States and China, establishing itself as a specialist in understanding consumers and the general public. Today, it is a multi-expertise group that includes Sociovision, Occurrence, Deep Opinion and Brain Value. Driven by the conviction that people are the force behind change, and fuelled by a passion for human insights, a culture of expertise, a commitment to objectivity, and an investigative spirit, the Ifop Group has set itself the mission of connecting with people. By deciphering their expectations, attitudes and behaviours, Ifop supports its clients in a holistic way, helping them identify the levers to create value and pave the way to a positive future. Everything starts with people.

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