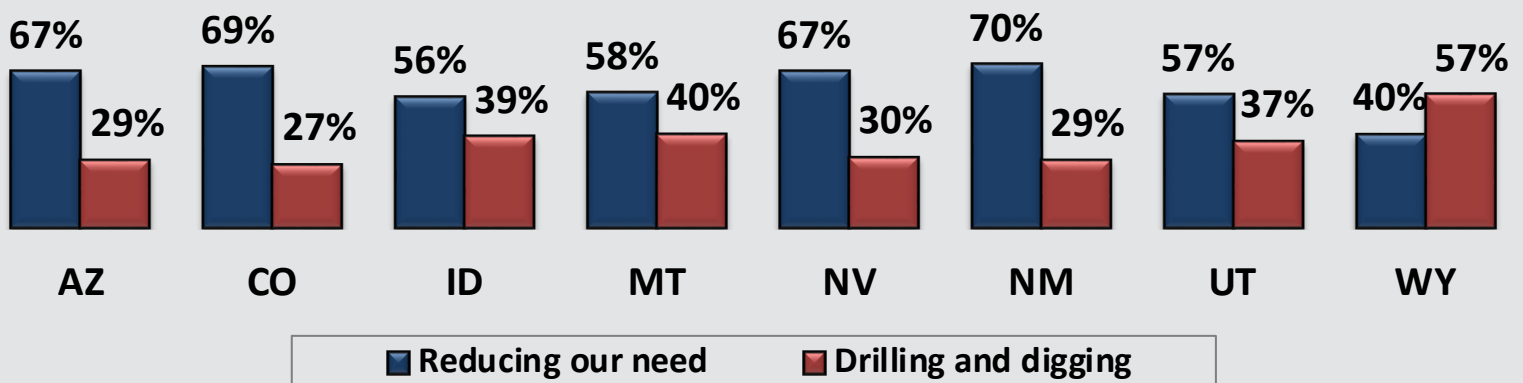


Energy in the West

Roughly two-thirds of Western voters advocate for reducing the need for coal, oil, and gas by expanding use of clean, renewable energy, and support transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy in their state. There is majority support for tighter standards on oil and gas production, even among those who say gas prices are a serious problem.

Despite increasing gas prices and energy costs, by more than a 2-to-1 margin, Westerners say reducing the need for coal, oil, and gas by expanding use of clean, renewable energy generated in the US is a greater priority than drilling and digging for more coal, oil, and gas wherever we can find it in the US. Remarkably, the roughly two-thirds support (65 percent) for expanding renewable energy is consistent with when this question was asked over a decade ago in 2012 (65 percent). Today, there is broad agreement across the Western states that America's energy needs would be better served by focusing on renewable energy. The sole exception is Wyoming, where the state's economy is much more reliant on oil, gas and coal extraction.

Highest Priority for Meeting America's Energy Needs

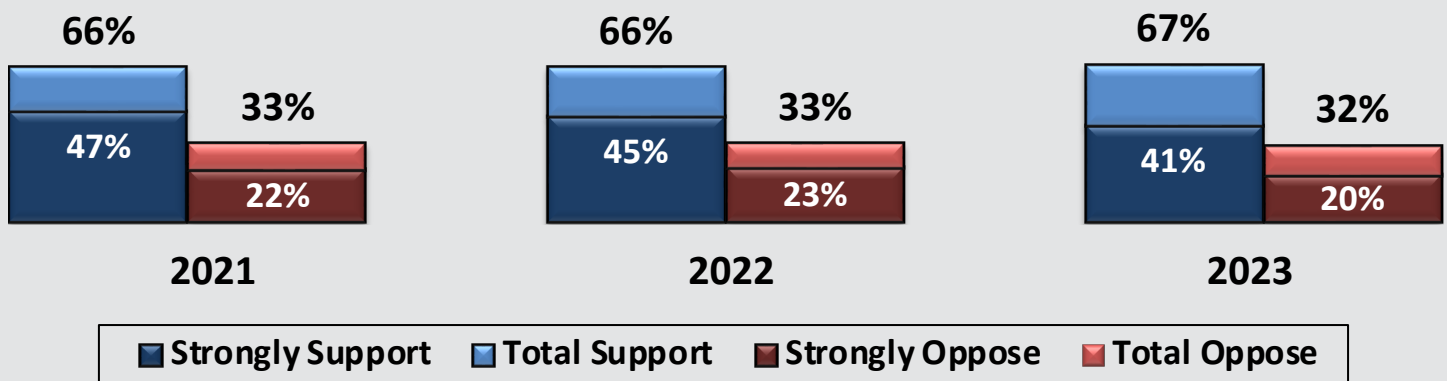


Importantly, among the 60 percent of voters who say gas prices are an “extremely” or “very” serious problem, there is majority support for expanding use of clean, renewable energy generated in the U.S. (54 percent) versus domestic fossil fuel production (42 percent).

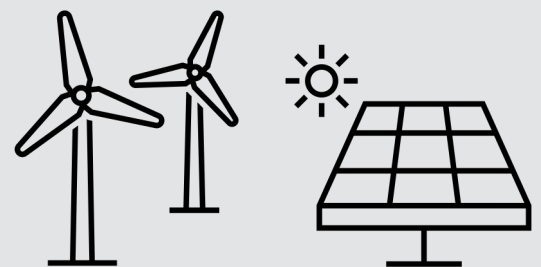


Consistent with the last two years, two-thirds of Westerners support gradually transitioning their state to 100 percent of their energy being produced from clean, renewable sources over the next 10 to 15 years. A majority in every state supports this transition, except for Wyoming where more voters oppose than support the idea (36 percent support; 64 percent oppose).

Transition to 100% renewable energy

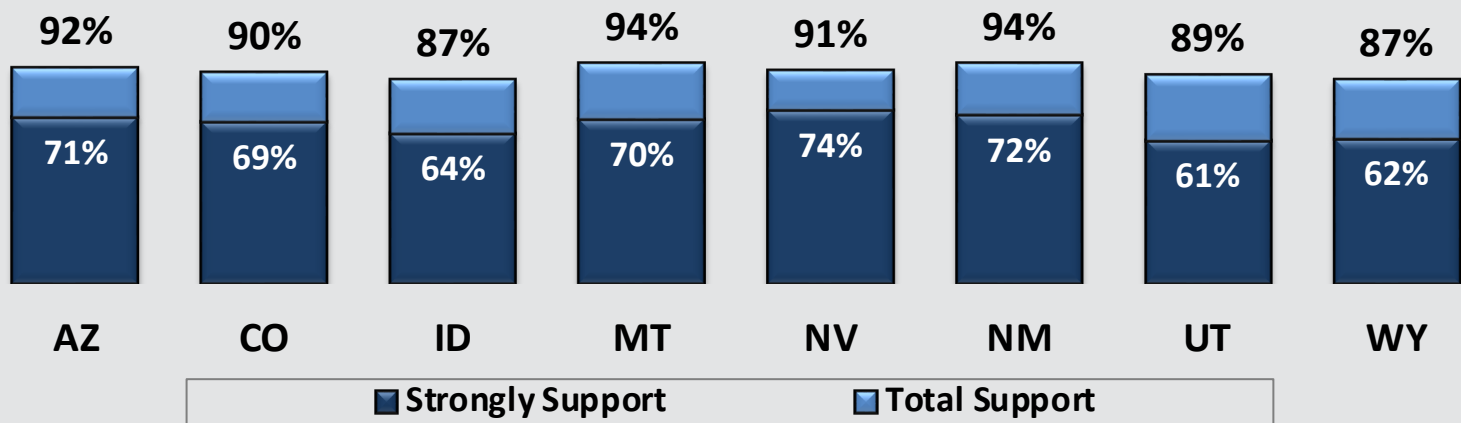


Support for this transition to all renewables is particularly strong among key voter sub-groups such as young voters under age 35 (80 percent support), Latinos (83 percent support), Black voters (80 percent support), moderates (74 percent support), and those who are newer to their state (72 percent support).



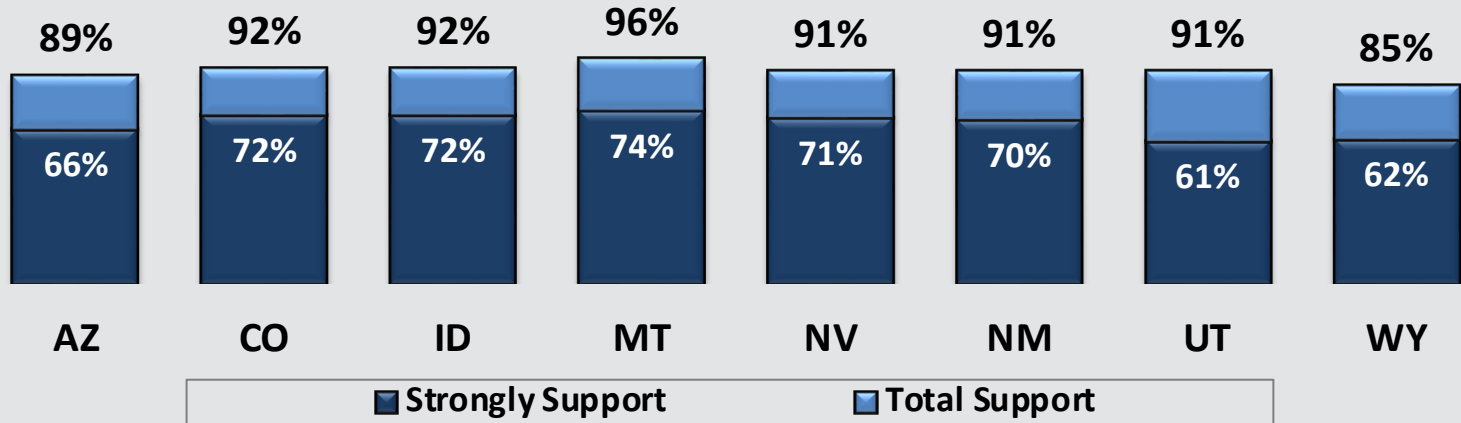
Similar to prior years, there is broad and deep support for a proposal that would require oil and gas companies to use updated equipment and technology to prevent leaks of methane gas and other pollution into the air. In addition to overwhelming support in all the states interviewed, this proposal is also favored by 86 percent of Republicans, 94 percent of Independents, and 96 percent of Democrats. It also receives 90 percent support among the three-fifths of voters who say gas prices are an “extremely” or “very” serious problem.

Requiring Oil & Gas Companies to Reduce Methane Leaks



Western voters are in almost unanimous agreement that oil and gas companies should be required to pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished. Support for this proposal is staggering (91 percent) and consistent with last year (91 percent support) and 2021 (93 percent). This year, eighty-five percent or more voters in each state favor the proposal. Overwhelming support for this proposal transcends gender, age, party lines, community type, and ethnic background.

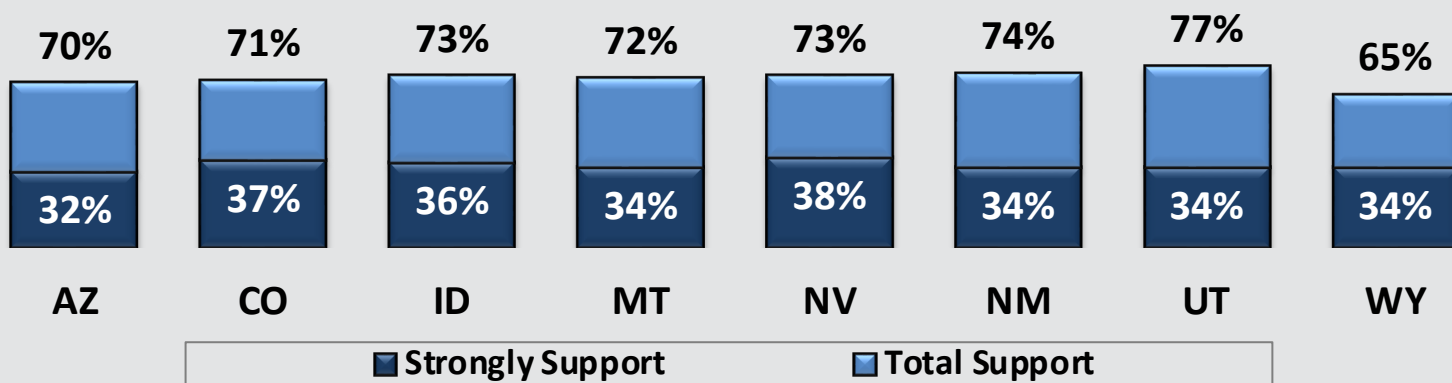
Requiring Oil & Gas Companies to Pay for Clean-up/Restoration





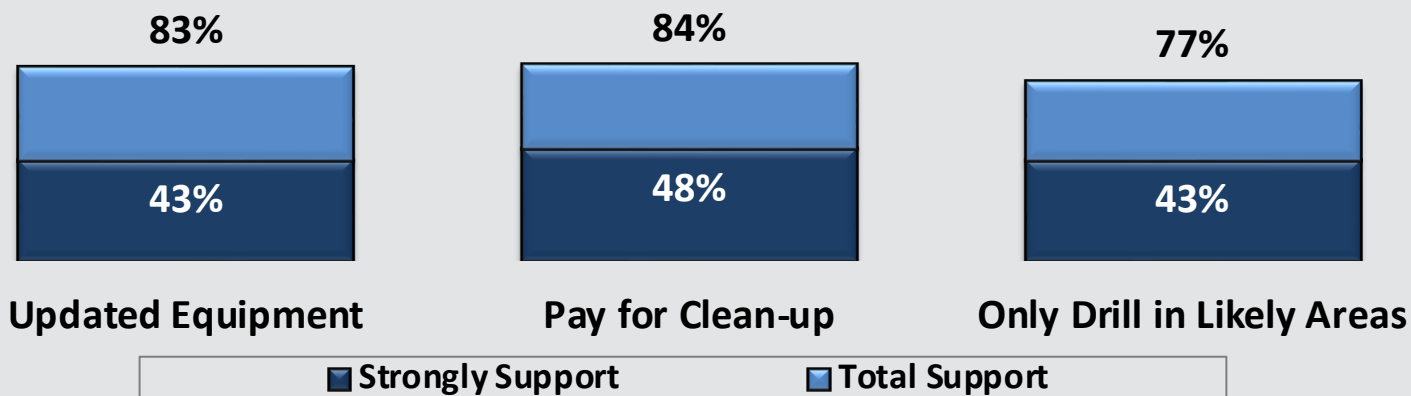
More than seven-in-ten Westerners support only allowing oil and gas companies the right to drill in areas of public land where there is high likelihood to actually produce oil and gas. Indeed, 65 percent or more voters across every state would support this increase in drilling fees. There is also solid support across political spectrum, with 78 percent of Republicans, 70 percent of Independents, and 68 percent of Democrats favoring the proposal.

Allowing Companies to Drill in Areas Highly Likely to Produce Oil & Gas



Importantly, the three proposals requiring oil and gas companies to use updated equipment to prevent leaks, pay for clean-up, and only drill where they can actually produce oil and gas, are still solidly supported by the 31 percent of voters who say it's more important to prioritize traditional energy sources like coal, oil, and gas than to expand our use of clean, renewable energy.

Support for Requirements Among Voters Who Prioritize Fossil Fuels



Support for these standards is all the more remarkable given the current level of concern about gas prices. One year after the invasion of Ukraine which led to more pain at the pump, nearly nine-in-ten Western voters say that “the price of gasoline” is a serious problem in their state (89 percent serious, with 60 percent saying it is extremely or very serious). The intensity of concern is highest among those with a high school or less education (69 percent say it is an extremely or very serious problem), rural residents (67 percent), and Native Americans (67 percent).



At the same time, nearly two-thirds of Western voters say the impact of oil and gas drilling on land, air and water is a serious problem. Concern is highest in Colorado (75 percent) and Montana (68 percent) and lowest in Wyoming, though a majority (56 percent) still express concern. Sub-groups that are most concerned about the impact of oil and gas drilling include Native Americans (80 percent), voters under age 35 (76 percent), women (72 percent), and Black voters (72 percent).