

Enthusiasm for green energy varies, and few are willing to pay more for it

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When it comes to green energy, in which category are you?

The Stevens *TechPulse* Report: Green Energy Perceptions and Usage shows the public has **four core perceptions** of green energy.



The Stevens TechPulse Report: Green Energy Perceptions and Usage shows the public has four core perceptions of green energy. The poll was conducted by Morning Consult. Credit: Stevens Institute of Technology

Whether they identify as Evangelists, Promoters, Passives or Detractors of green energy, few Americans are willing to pay more to adopt green

energy, according to the *Stevens TechPulse Report: Green Energy Perceptions and Usage*. The national poll, conducted in June 2022, surveyed 2,210 adults on behalf of Stevens Institute of Technology by Morning Consult and examined Americans' views on a wide range of green energy-related issues.

"Green energy is at the heart of America's [energy transition](#)," said Philip Odonkor, an assistant professor in the School of Systems and Enterprises at Stevens. "This survey highlights the tremendous progress made in sparking public interest, but also exposes the bigger challenge that lies ahead—converting that momentum into tangible action."

Green energy adoption varies from evangelists to detractors

Based on the survey, there is no national consensus on green energy adoption. Generally, responses aligned with one of four categories in a spectrum of very likely to very unlikely to seek out green energy technologies for personal use. Self-reported data describe the demographics most closely associated with each category.

Evangelists (26%)

Very likely to seek out green energy technologies for personal use

Evangelists skew male, younger, most likely to be urban, most educated

Promoters (30%)

Somewhat likely to seek out green energy technologies for personal use

Promoters skew female, urban/suburban, college educated

Passives (27%)

Neutral on seeking out green energy technologies for personal use

Passives skew female, slightly older, suburban/rural, less educated

Detractors (10%)

Unlikely to seek out green energy technologies for personal use

Detractors skew male, most likely to be older and rural, least educated

Don't know/no opinion (7%)

Price is top of mind

The essential question is whether and how much people will pay more to use green energy. More than half of adults (52%) say the long-term benefits of green energy outweigh the cost, but only one-third (36%) say they're willing to pay more for green energy. And when it comes to how much more, adults overall say they would be willing to pay 10% more per month for green energy related consumption. Among Evangelists, this rose to 19%, with Promoters at 12%, Passives at 9% and Detractors at 1%.

When weighing factors about whether to purchase green energy-related products (e.g., [solar panels](#)), adults view price (86%) as the most important aspect, although function/performance (82%) and ease of maintenance (83%) are also important overall. When actually making a green energy-related product purchase, more than six in 10 (63%) say price is their primary consideration, and that environmental impact is secondary to price.

Importance of higher education in preparing students for green careers

Green careers, as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor, are "any occupation that is affected by activities such as conserving energy, development alternative energy, reducing pollution, or recycling." When asked how important it is, if at all, for universities/colleges to offer

education that prepares students for green careers, three in four adults (73%) say it's important versus only 4% who say it's not important. Nearly all Evangelists (97%) say it's important, closely followed by 90% of Promoters with a solid majority of Passives (60%), and 36% of Detractors.

"This survey illustrates the challenges our society faces in building consensus around policies, funding models and increasing adoption of sustainable energy solutions for the future," said Nariman Farvardin, president of Stevens Institute of Technology. "It is also abundantly clear that universities such as Stevens Institute of Technology must play a critical role in increasing public awareness, educating the future energy workforce and contributing its R&D capacity to advance the field."

Responsibility for green energy adoption in everyday life

When it comes to the future of green energy, half of all adults (48%) view larger entities, such as governments and businesses, as well as individuals and households as equally responsible for adopting its use in everyday life.

Fuzziness on terminology

There is a lack of clarity among Americans on exactly what green energy is. The majority of adults (48%) say they are most familiar with the term renewable energy, while 35% say clean energy and only 16% say green energy technology. There is overlap among phrases used by survey participants with "solar and wind" noted for all three and "electric vehicles" being examples for clean and [green energy](#) technology.

"Green energy has an identity problem," said Odonkor, an expert in

sustainable energy and energy optimization. "The rich diversity of overlapping terms—from [clean energy](#), to sustainable and renewable [energy](#)—reflects and reinforces confusion in public understanding."

This [survey](#) is the second in the *Stevens TechPulse Report* series conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of Stevens Institute of Technology to elucidate public understanding, acceptance and concerns about emerging [technology](#), and its impact on humanity and society.

More information: Report: www.stevens.edu/sites/stevens/files/TechPulse_Green%20Energy.pdf

Provided by Stevens Institute of Technology

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