

Energy Transition Future Monitor 2026

A representative survey of the German population
aged 16 and older on the acceptance of the energy
transition



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Preface

Already in January 2025, the Institute for Demoscopy Allensbach, on behalf of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, conducted a representative survey of the German population on public acceptance of the energy transition. The study showed that while a majority of the German population is convinced of the necessity of the energy transition, a large share doubts its implementation and the chosen path. Following the change of government in May 2025, energy policy underwent several strategic realignments. For instance, in September, the Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Katherina Reiche, presented an energy policy plan to enhance the efficiency and affordability of the energy transition. Against this backdrop, the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt once again commissioned the Institute for Demoscopy Allensbach to conduct a representative survey of the population. The current study aims to examine the extent to which acceptance of the energy transition among the German population has changed over the course of 2025. To make changes in public opinion visible, a large portion of the questions are identical to those used in the previous survey.

The current study is based on a total of 1,029 interviews with a representative cross-section of the population aged 16 and older. The interviews were conducted face-to-face between November 22 and December 4, 2025.

Allensbach on Lake Constance,
Institute for Demoscopy Allensbach

December 2025

Less support for the energy transition and growing doubts about the chosen path

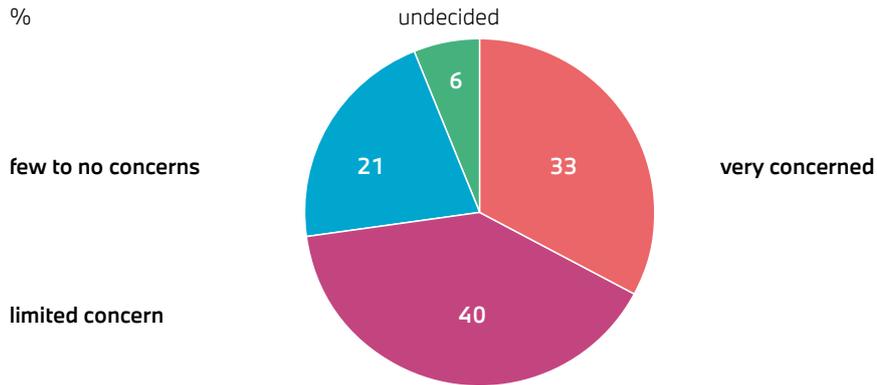
A large share of the population remains concerned about the consequences of global warming. However, in light of the many crises of recent years, support for climate protection has decreased. This is also reflected in the fact that the group of people who have serious concerns about the consequences of climate change is relatively limited. Currently, 33 percent of the German population aged 16 and older are very concerned about the effects of increasing global warming and climate change. Another 40 percent are somewhat concerned, while 21 percent have no concerns.

Women, younger people, members of higher social strata, and supporters of the Green Party attach far greater importance to climate change than men, older people, members of lower social strata, and supporters of the AfD. For example, 43 percent of those under 30 currently have serious concerns about the consequences of climate change, compared with only 30 percent of those aged 60 and older. Among Green Party supporters, 71 percent view developments with serious concern, whereas only 10 percent of AfD supporters do so.

Concern about the consequences of climate change

Question: "Some people are concerned about increasing global warming and climate change. What do you think? Are you...?"

Concerned about the consequences of global warming



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

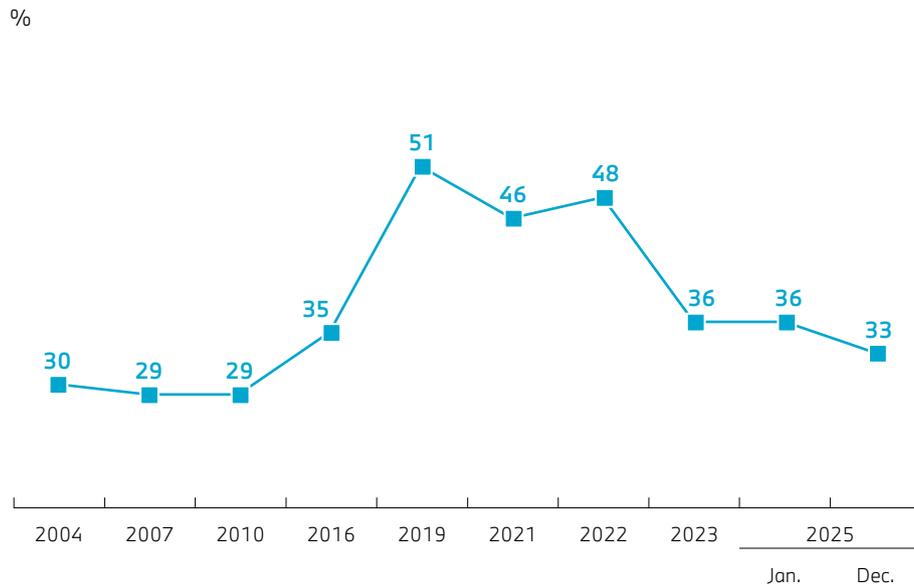
Graph 1

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The trend over time shows that concern about the consequences of increasing global warming has been declining for several years. The share of those who were very worried about the effects of climate change rose from 29 percent in 2010 to 51 percent in 2019, then remained at a similarly high level through 2022, but has since fallen, first to 36 percent and currently to even just 33 percent. The reasons lie primarily in the interplay of multiple crises, ranging from the economic crisis and the war in Ukraine to increasingly uncertain future prospects overall. On the public's political agenda, issues such as external and internal security, economic development, and questions of energy supply currently carry far greater weight than climate protection.

Concerns about the consequences of global warming continue to decrease

Very concerned about the consequences of global warming and climate change



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Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

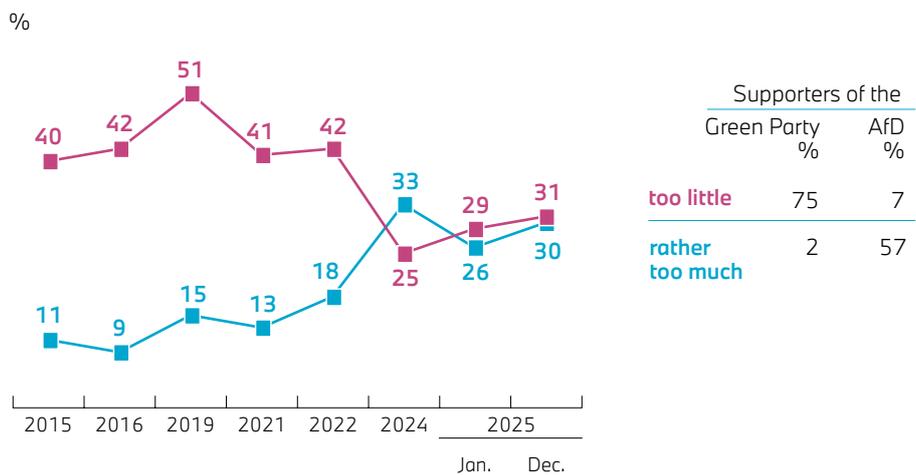
Graph 2

Concerns about the country's economic future and competitiveness are also prompting a reassessment of whether the scope of climate protection measures is justified. Between 2015 and 2022, a consistent 40-51 percent of the population believed that Germany's efforts to protect the climate were insufficient; during the same period, only minorities of 9-18 percent considered the scope of climate protection measures exaggerated. This has changed significantly since then. In 2024, for the first time, the share of those who believe that too much is being done for climate protection in Germany exceeded that of those who think Germany needs to step up its efforts. Since then, the two camps have been nearly evenly matched. Currently, 31 percent believe that too little is being done, while 30 percent consider the efforts excessive.

How strongly this question divides the political camps is shown by a separate analysis of supporters of the AfD and the Green Party. While three-quarters of supporters of Alliance 90/The Greens consider the measures to protect the climate to be insufficient, only 7 percent of AfD supporters share this view. By contrast, 57 percent of AfD supporters believe that too much is being done for climate protection in Germany, a position shared by only 2 percent of Green Party supporters.

Increasingly critical view on the extent of climate protection measures

Question: "What do you think? Is Germany doing too little to protect the climate, too much, or would you say that the measures are just right?"



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

Graph 3

In principle, the public is convinced that there is no alternative to the energy transition. A relative majority (43 percent) consider the decision to phase out nuclear power and instead prioritize the expansion of renewable energy to have been the right course in hindsight, whereas 37 percent view the chosen path as wrong. Widespread criticism of this course is particularly prevalent in Eastern Germany, among lower social strata, and among supporters of the AfD and the FDP. By contrast, broad support for the

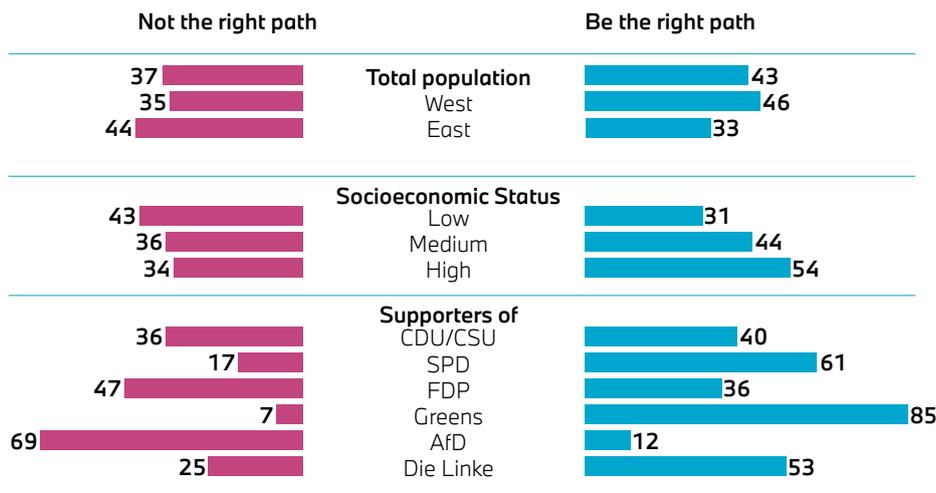
strategy guiding the energy transition comes from higher social strata and from supporters of the SPD, and is especially pronounced among supporters of the Green Party: 85 percent of Green Party supporters consider the chosen path of the energy transition to be right, with only 7 percent expressing doubts.

Only limited support for the implementation of the energy transition

Question: "As part of the so-called energy transition, Germany has phased out nuclear energy and is instead continuously expanding its energy supply primarily through renewable energy. Generally speaking, do you consider this, all in all, to be the right path or not the right path?"

Consider the phase-out of nuclear energy and the expansion of renewable energy to be

%



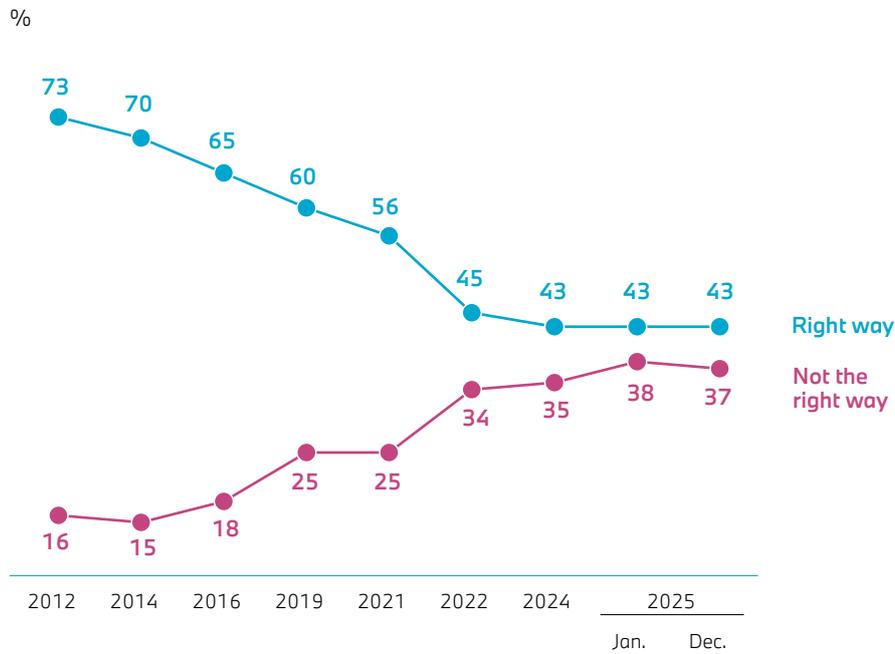
Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

Graph 4

The trend comparison, however, shows that public support for the energy transition is currently declining. While 73 percent still considered the 2012 decision to prioritize the expansion of renewable energy in the overall energy supply the right path, approval had fallen to 56 percent by 2021. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the associated reassessment of energy policy, support for the energy transition dropped to 45 percent and currently stands at 43 percent.

Support for the energy transition is declining

Consider the phase-out of nuclear energy and the expansion of renewable energy to be the



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Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

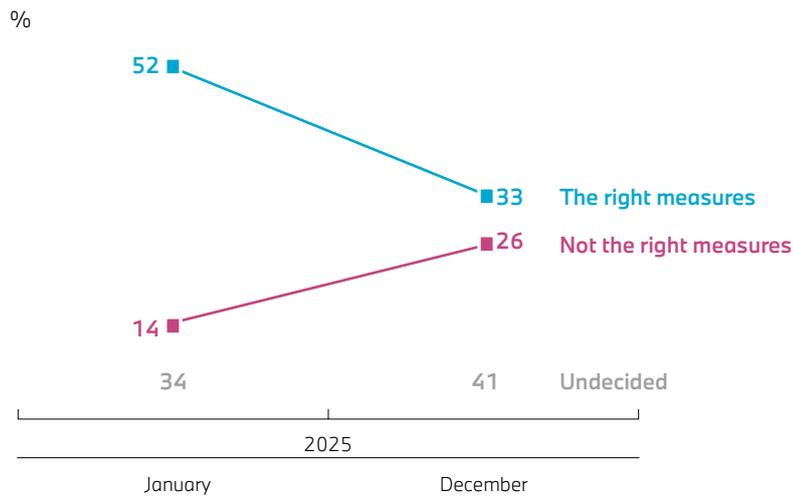
Graph 5

Particularly alarming, however, is that not only is overall support for the energy transition declining, but doubts are also growing among its supporters about whether policymakers are taking the right measures to implement it. Within one year, among supporters of the energy transition, the share of those who have the impression that Germany is taking the right measures in implementing the energy transition fell from 52 to 33 percent; conversely, the group expressing doubts about the measures taken has grown since January of this year from 14 to 26 percent.

Even among supporters of the energy transition, doubts are growing

Questions for people who believe the exit from nuclear energy and transitioning to renewable energy are the right way: "Overall, has Germany taken the right or not the right measures for the energy transition?"

Germany has taken



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, people who believe the exit from nuclear energy and the transition to renewable energy are the right way
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

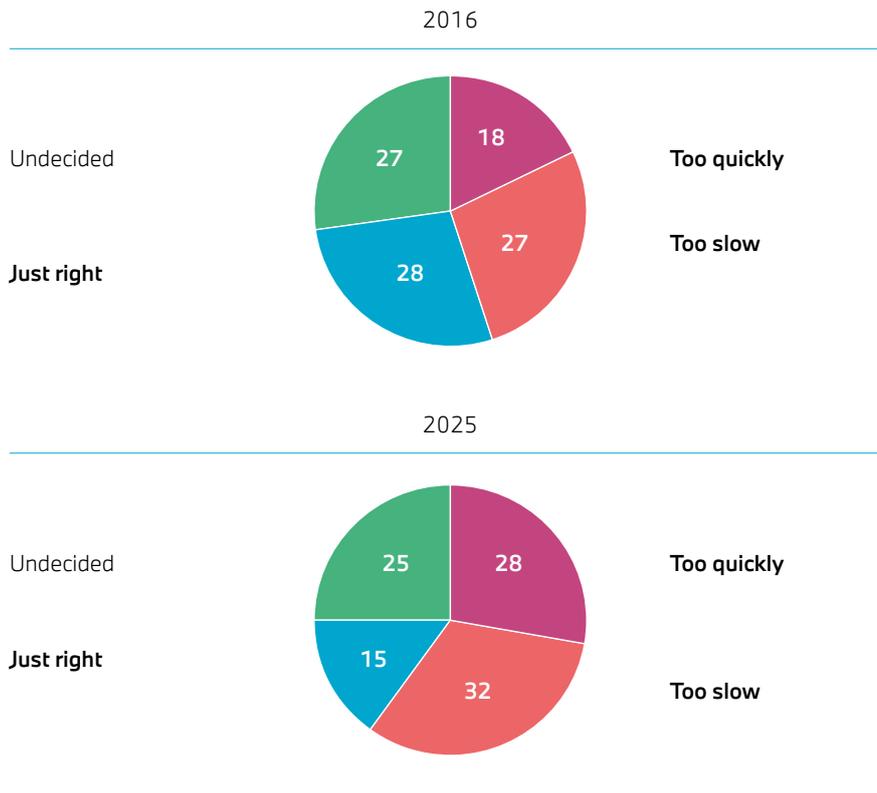
Graph 6

A key factor driving this development is that the public does not feel it can plan with certainty and, above all, feels financially overburdened. Over the past few years, the share of the population that believes the energy transition is being implemented at the right pace has declined from 28 to 15 percent. At the same time, both the proportion of those who feel overwhelmed by the speed of implementation (rising from 18 to 28 percent) and the proportion who believe the implementation is progressing too slowly (from 27 to 32 percent) have increased.

The feeling of being overwhelmed increases

Question: "Is it your impression that the energy transition is implemented too quickly, too slowly, or just at the right pace?"

%



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 11059, 13012

Graph 7

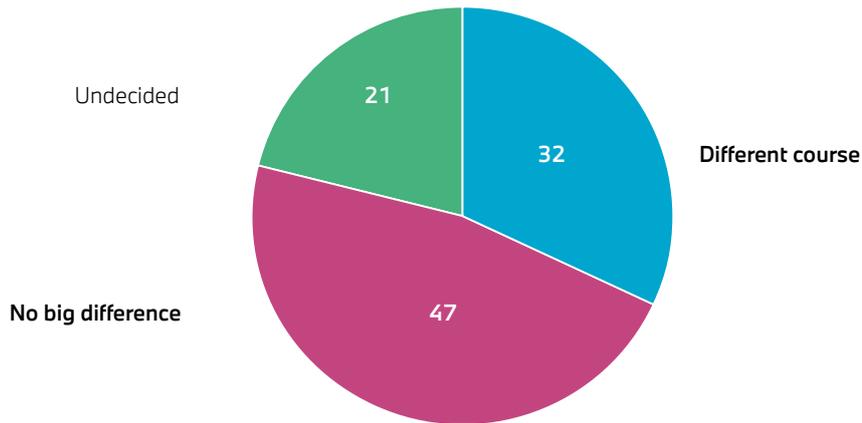
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A majority of the population also does not perceive that the change in government has brought about any significant shift in energy policy. Nearly one in two is convinced that the current federal government is continuing the course of the unpopular "traffic light" coalition on the energy transition; by contrast, only just under one in three has the impression that the current government is pursuing a different course on the energy transition. Even supporters of the governing parties largely believe that the change in government has brought little change to the direction of energy policy.

Hardly different from the "traffic light" government

Question: "What do you think: Does the current government follow a different course regarding the energy transition compared to the 'traffic light' coalition, or do you perceive no big differences?"

%



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 8

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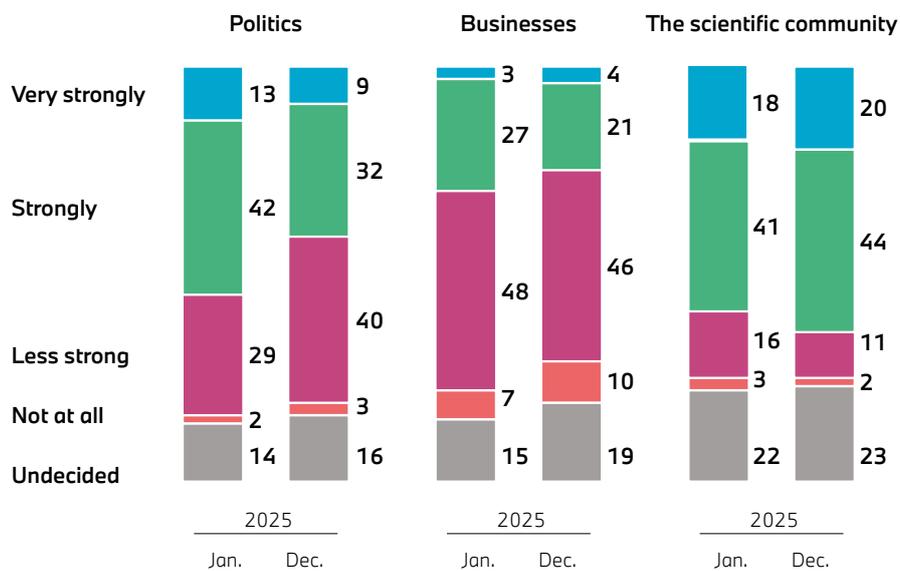
Politics is currently seen less as a driving force of the energy transition than it was a year ago. At present, this role is attributed solely to science, not to politics or business. While a year ago, 55 percent of the population believed that politicians were very strongly or strongly committed to implementing the energy transition, only 41 percent are convinced of this today. By contrast, 43 percent currently perceive at most a low level of political engagement on this issue. Already at the start of the year, only a minority believed that businesses were particularly committed to the success of the energy transition; this perception has since declined from 30 to 25 percent. Only in the case of science does a majority believe that sufficient efforts are being made to advance the energy transition. Nearly two-thirds currently see strong or even very strong engagement by the scientific community in ensuring the success of the energy transition.

Currently, politics is less seen as the driver of the energy transition

Question: "What do you think: How strongly are politics/businesses/the scientific community committed to the advancement of the energy transition?"

Committed to the advancement of the energy transition are

%



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

Graph 9

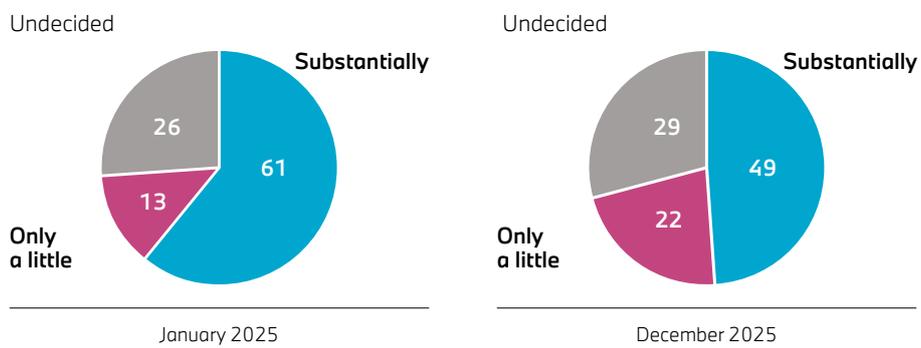
The fact that science is increasingly seen as a driving force behind the energy transition is noteworthy, given that public confidence in technological progress has declined significantly over the past year. Currently, nearly half of the population remains convinced that technological progress can make a crucial contribution to the success of the energy transition in Germany, whereas a year ago this figure was 61 percent. Over the same period, the share of those who believe that technological progress has very limited potential in this regard rose from 13 to 22 percent.

More doubts about the potential of technological progress for the success of the energy transition

Question: "How do you assess this: Can technological progress make a crucial contribution to the success of the energy transition in Germany, or can it contribute only a little?"

Technological progress makes a crucial contribution to the success of the energy transition in Germany

%



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

Graph 10

The public still has clear ideas about the right way to advance the energy transition and ensure a secure energy supply in Germany in the future. Large segments of the population favor increased use of renewable energy, expansion of energy infrastructure, energy-saving measures, and financial support or incentives. 61 percent consider it sensible to place greater emphasis on the use of biogas and biomass, as well as on expanding Germany's electricity grid to ensure a reliable energy supply in the future. Sixty percent support financial incentives for renewable energy use, 54 percent favor greater use of geothermal energy, and 43 percent support hydrogen. Half of the population sees it as the right approach for the government to create incentives for citizens to save energy and to build new solar parks. Another 45 percent support a solar panel requirement for new buildings, and nearly the same number back the construction of large offshore wind farms and the expansion of large battery storage systems.

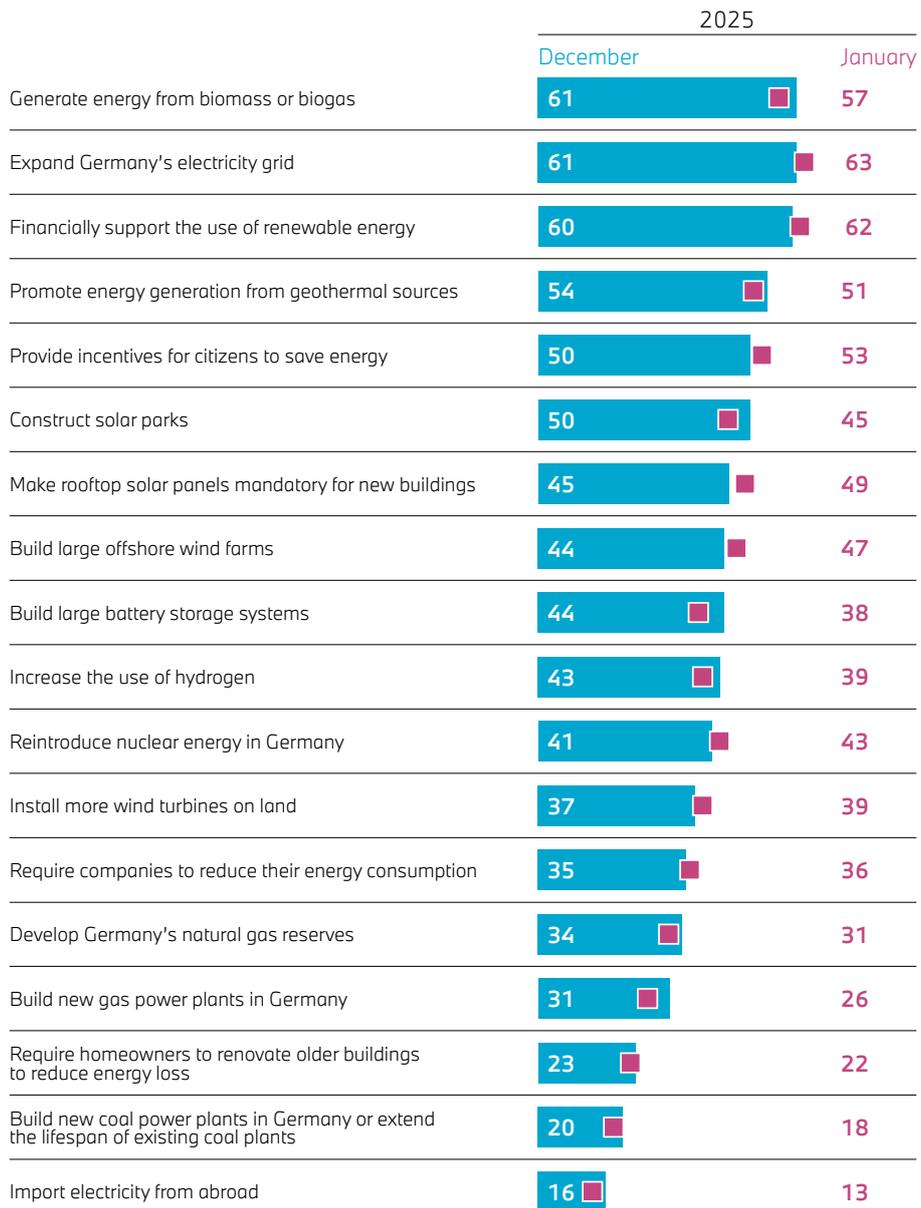
Forty-one percent considered it sensible to use nuclear energy again in Germany to secure the energy supply. In contrast, only a minority favors a greater use of fossil fuels: 31 percent support building new gas power plants, 20 percent support building new coal plants or extending the life of existing ones, and 34 percent advocate for developing Germany's natural gas reserves. A trend comparison with January 2025, however, shows that support for the use of fossil fuels is increasing. Just under a year ago, only 31 percent considered exploiting Germany's natural gas reserves the right path; now 34 percent do. Support for building new gas power plants has risen from 26 percent to 31 percent over the same period.

At the same time, compared with January 2025, more citizens now consider it sensible to invest in large battery storage systems and solar parks to secure Germany's future energy supply. The same applies to increased use of hydrogen as an energy carrier. While only 38 percent considered building new battery storage systems sensible in January 2025, that share has now risen to 44 percent.

Ideas on how to best secure the energy supply

Question: "People may have different views on which measures are sensible to ensure Germany's energy supply in the future. How do you see it: Which of the following do you consider sensible to secure the energy supply for the future?"

%



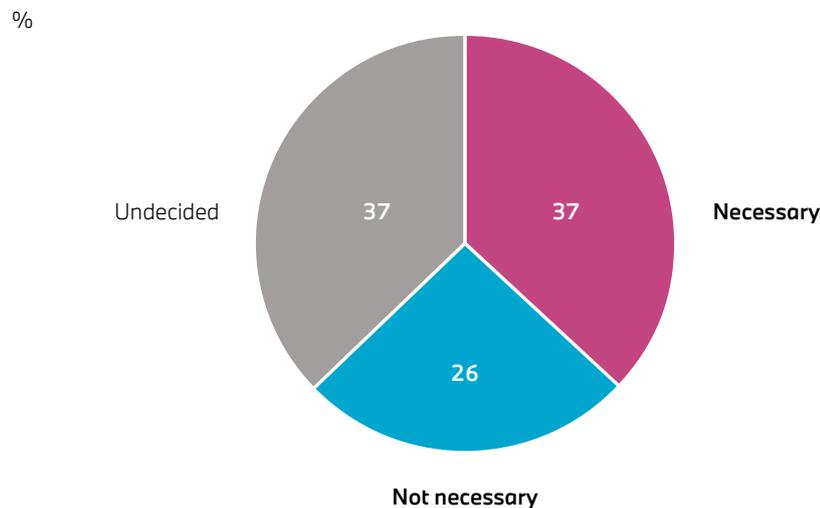
Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

Graph 11

The public's stance on building new gas power plants to secure Germany's energy supply is overall ambivalent: 37 percent consider it necessary, 26 percent do not, and 37 percent are unsure. Such ambivalence, with a relatively high share of undecided respondents, is often observed on topics that the public has not yet engaged with in depth or on which knowledge is limited.

Ambivalence about building new gas power plants

Question: "Do you believe it is necessary to build new gas power plants in Germany to secure the energy supply, or is this not necessary?"



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 12

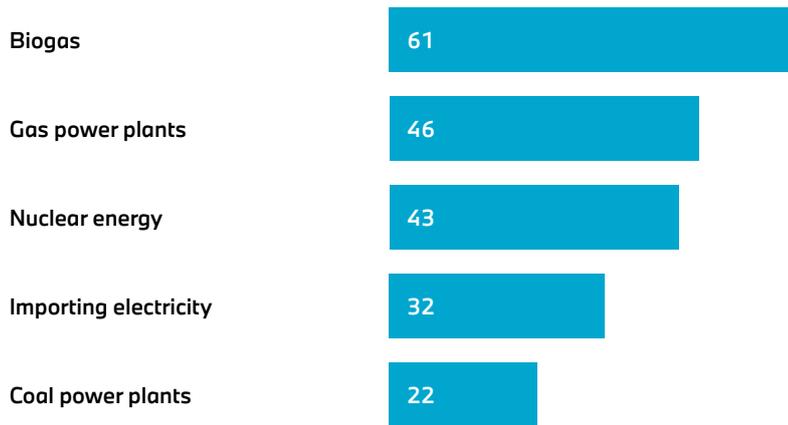
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From the public's perspective, gas power plants should, however, play an important role during so-called "dark doldrums": Forty-six percent believe that the energy supply should be stabilized using gas power plants when renewable energy sources like solar and wind are insufficient. Sixty-one percent would like the energy supply to be maintained with gas power plants during wind lulls or at night. Forty-three percent want nuclear energy, 32 percent prefer importing electricity, and 22 percent prefer coal power plants.

Preferred options for securing the energy supply during wind lulls and at night

Question: "How should Germany's energy supply be secured when solar and wind energy are not available, for example at night or during wind lulls: using gas power plants, coal power plants, nuclear energy, electricity imports from abroad, biogas facilities, or in some other way?"

%



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 13

The majority associates the energy transition with more risks than opportunities

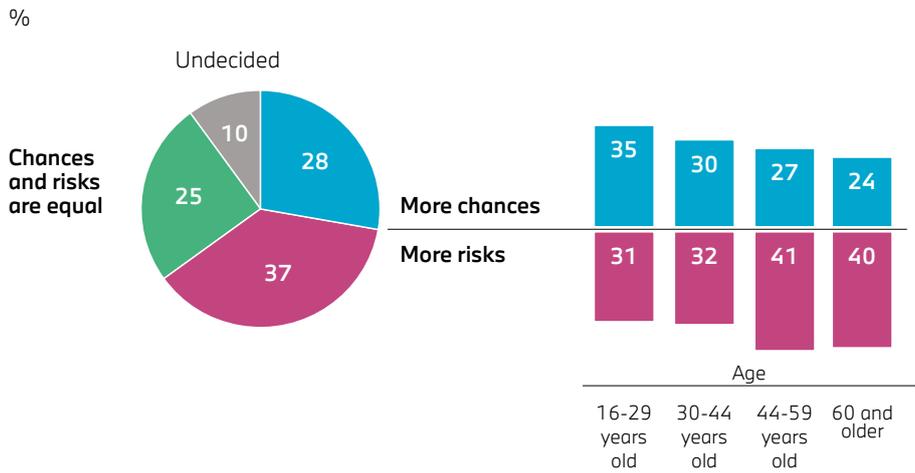
The public tends to associate the energy transition more with risks than with opportunities: for 37 percent of citizens, the energy transition is mainly linked to risks, for 28 percent it is more associated with opportunities, and for one in four, risks and opportunities balance out. This assessment is strongly age-dependent. Younger people emphasize the opportunities associated with the energy transition, whereas middle-aged and older groups perceive it as a risk more often than the average person. This opinion is also particularly prevalent among lower social strata and among supporters of the AfD and FDP. Conversely, people from higher social strata and supporters of the Green Party perceive the energy transition as an above-average opportunity for Germany.

The assessment also strongly depends on personal impact: among those who associate the energy transition more with opportunities, 68 percent see it predominantly as an opportunity for Germany, whereas only 8 percent see it predominantly as a risk. Among those who personally view the energy transition negatively, 73 percent believe it also poses more risks for Germany, and only 7 percent see it as an opportunity scenario.

More risks for Germany

Question: "In your opinion, will the energy transition bring more chances or risks for Germany?"

The energy transition brings for Germany



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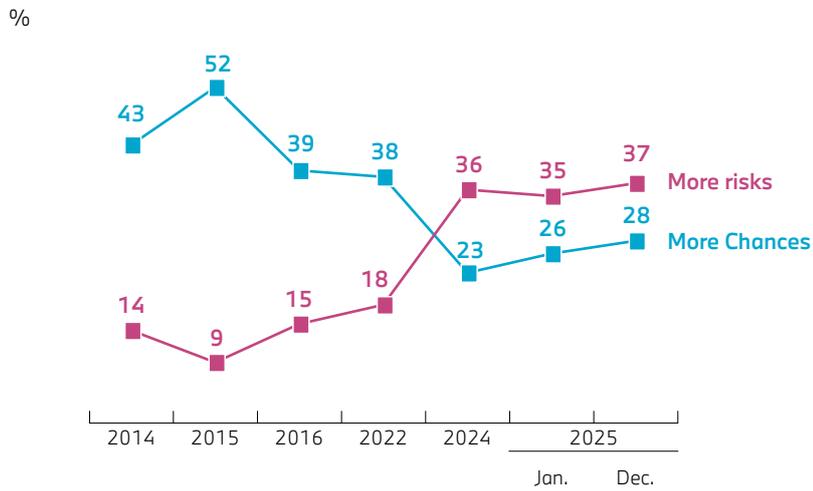
Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 14

The trend comparison shows that the perception of the energy transition as primarily associated with risks has only emerged since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. Since then, uncertainty about whether Germany's energy supply will remain secure has become so significant that it has had a lasting impact on both the general attitude toward the energy transition and the assessment of its consequences for Germany. The first decline in perceptions of the energy transition as primarily an opportunity scenario occurred between 2015 and 2016. At that time, the share of those who associated the energy transition primarily with opportunities for Germany fell from 52 to 39 percent. However, during this period, the opposing view (that the energy transition was primarily associated with risks) increased only modestly, from 9 to 15 percent. This changed after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine: between 2022 and 2024, the share of those who associate the energy transition predominantly with risks for Germany doubled, from 18 to 36 percent. Conversely, the proportion of those who viewed the energy transition primarily as an opportunity declined from 38 to 23 percent. Since then, this pattern has changed very little.

Hardly any change in the assessment of consequences

Question: "In your opinion, does the energy transition bring more chances or more risks for Germany?"



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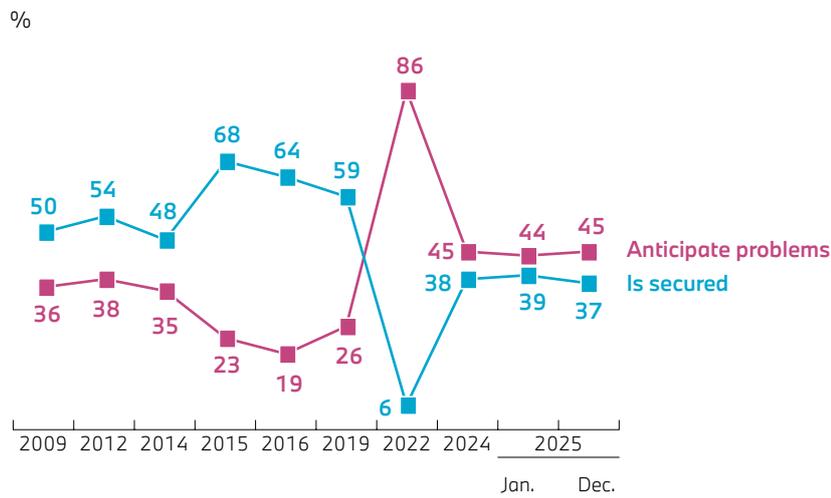
Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

Graph 15

The extent to which the outbreak of the war in Ukraine shook public confidence in the security of Germany's energy supply is evident when the trend in this question is analyzed. Until Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a clear majority consistently believed that the energy supply for the near and medium-term future was secure. This changed abruptly after February 2022. The share of those fearing energy supply shortages jumped from 26 to 86 percent. Political efforts to reduce Germany's dependence on Russian gas and oil have led to a significant decline in these concerns. However, a relative majority still fears that supply bottlenecks will occur in the future. Currently, this applies to 45 percent of the population.

Still large concerns regarding energy supply security

Question: "Do you think that our energy supply, electricity, gas, fuel oil, and gasoline, are secured in the upcoming years, or are you concerned about problems in the energy supply security?"



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

Graph 16

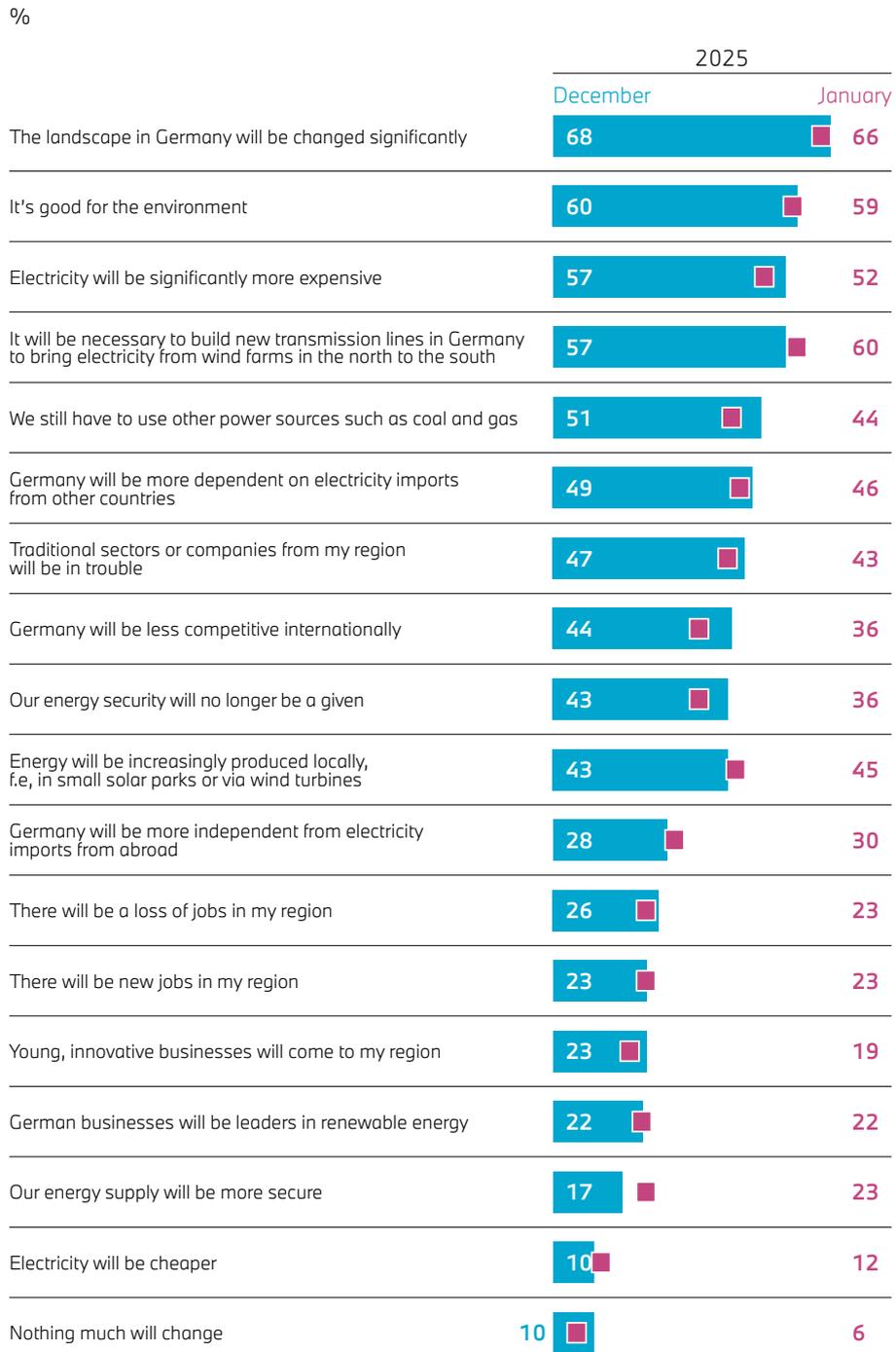
The majority of the population continues to expect primarily negative consequences if the energy supply is increasingly shifted to renewable sources. In particular, the impact on the landscape, infrastructure, and energy prices is widely viewed critically. Two-thirds expect that, as a result of the energy transition, Germany's landscape will change significantly due to wind turbines and new power lines. Fifty-seven percent fear that electricity prices will rise sharply. An equal share assumes that new transmission lines will be necessary in Germany, for example, to transport wind power from the north to the south. Approximately half of the population also assumes that, despite the energy transition, Germany will continue to rely on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas and will become more dependent on electricity imports from abroad.

That the consequences of the energy transition for Germany are assessed so negatively is primarily linked to the uncertainties triggered by the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. The resulting loss of confidence in energy supply security has led to a much more critical view of the energy transition and its consequences. In addition, the economic weakness that has now persisted for three years is increasingly being felt by the population. As a result, many people also expect growing negative effects of the energy transition on the German economy and on their own region: 47 percent fear that traditional industries and companies in their region will run into difficulties, and 26 percent fear that jobs will be lost locally. Forty-four percent are concerned about the German economy's competitiveness due to the energy transition. The negative effects of the energy transition on both the national and regional economy are currently emphasized more strongly than at the beginning of the year. The same applies to the perception that the energy supply will no longer be secure as a result of the energy transition. While 36 percent considered this a likely consequence of the energy transition in January of this year, 43 percent now fear this outcome. Accordingly, over the same period, the share of those who believe that Germany will continue to rely on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas rose from 44 to 51 percent.

Benefits continue to be associated with the energy transition only to a very limited extent. The most frequently cited benefit is environmental protection: sixty percent believe that phasing out nuclear power and transitioning to renewable energy will benefit the environment. In addition, 43 percent expect energy generation to become more decentralized. All other benefits of the energy transition are assumptions made by a minority. Only 23 percent expect more young and innovative companies to settle in their region, 22 percent believe that German companies will become leaders in renewable energy, and just 10 percent expect electricity prices in Germany to fall as a result of the energy transition.

Consequences of the energy transition

Question: "What do you think will be the consequences of transitioning to renewable energies such as solar and wind power, and what will be the results of this?"



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Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

Graph 17

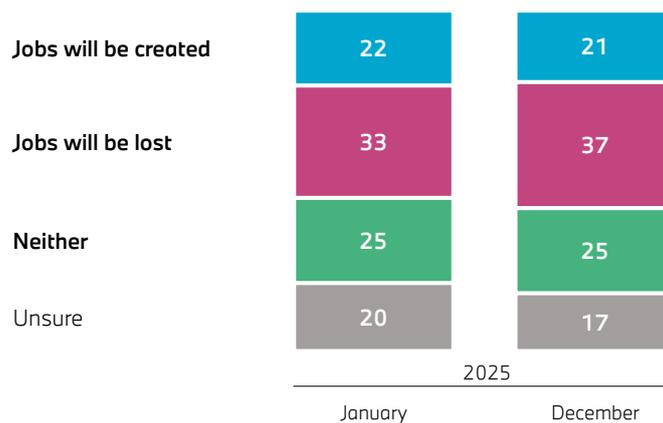
Increasingly, citizens consider it likely that the energy transition will put jobs at risk. By now, 37 percent assume that the energy transition will lead to job losses in Germany, up from 33 percent just under a year ago. By contrast, only just over one in five expect new jobs to be created as a result of the energy transition, while one in four assumes that the overall balance will be neutral.

The population increasingly assumes that the energy transition endangers jobs

Question: "What do you believe will happen overall as a result of the energy transition in Germany? Will jobs be created or lost?"

Because of the energy transition in Germany

%



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Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

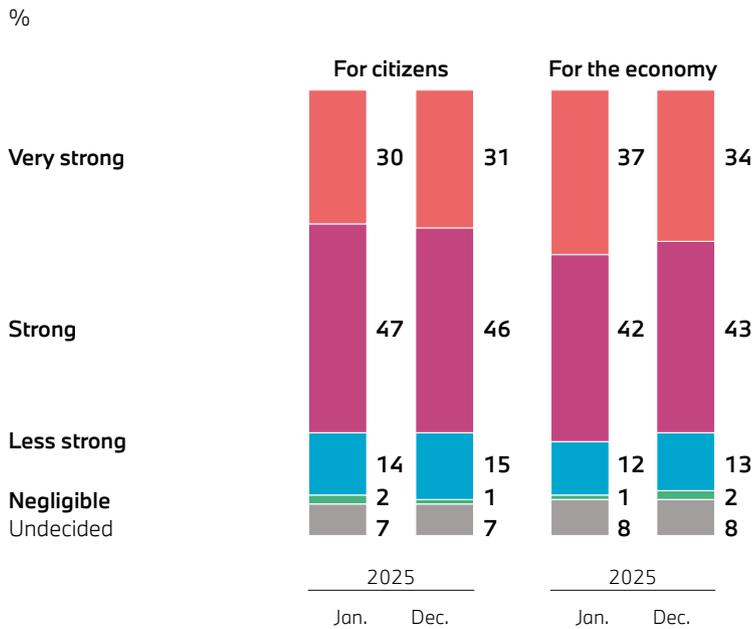
Graph 18

Of even greater concern for the public are the high costs that, in their view, the energy transition will impose on both households and the economy. Seventy-seven percent expect strong financial burdens for citizens, and the same share anticipates strong economic burdens. Only a minority expects the burdens on the public and the economy to be moderate or negligible. This assessment has remained largely unchanged compared with January 2025.

High burdens on people and businesses remain

Question: "What do you think: How much burden will be placed on citizens/the economy through the costs of the energy transition?"

The burden caused by the cost of the energy transition are



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Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

Graph 19

Growing concern about the economic consequences of the energy transition is also prompting a reassessment of whether policymakers must choose between climate protection and economic growth. Currently, 42 percent are convinced that, under present conditions, the two goals are difficult to reconcile and that policymakers must decide whether to prioritize economic growth or climate protection in the coming months. The trend indicates that this group has grown significantly since the beginning of the year and relative to 2020. Only 31 percent now believe that the two goals can be reconciled. When a trade-off between the two objectives is assumed, the public's preference is clear: by a margin of three to one, people argue that strengthening the economy should be given priority over climate protection.

The perception that climate protection and strengthening the economy are competing goals is increasing

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Question: "In your view, does policymaking have to decide in the coming years whether to give priority to strengthening the economy or to promoting climate protection, or can these goals be reconciled?"

If "must choose": "And which should policymakers choose: strengthening the economy or promoting climate protection?"

	2020	2022	2025	
	%	%	Jan %	Dec %
Politics must choose	30	34	30	42
Strengthen economy	25	19	22	31
Strengthen climate protection	4	14	7	9
Both are compatible	44	36	40	31
Undecided	26	30	30	27
	100	100	100	100

Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

Graph 20

Growing concerns about the impact of the energy transition on one's own situation

The effects of the energy transition on people's own lives are perceived as less severe than the burdens it is believed to place on the economy and on the population as a whole. Many people believe that the energy transition has little personal impact on them, and this perception has changed little recently. Currently, 42 percent are convinced that the energy transition has neither positive nor negative consequences for them personally; at the beginning of the year, this figure was 43 percent. At present, 37 percent fear that the energy transition will have a negative impact on their own lives, a share that has also remained nearly unchanged over the past 12 months. Compared with 2016, however, this represents a significant increase: at that time, only 21 percent feared negative effects on their personal lives, although in 2014 the figure had already been as high as 31 percent. The share of those who expect personal benefits from the energy transition has declined over the long term, though it has risen slightly recently.

The impact of the energy transition on your personal situation

Question: "What about your personal situation? Would you say that overall you experience advantages because of the energy transitions or disadvantages?"

Overall, the energy transition	2014	2016	2025	
	%	%	Jan %	Dec %
Has advantages	22	18	10	14
Has disadvantages	31	21	36	37
Neither	37	50	43	42
Undecided	10	11	11	7
	100	100	100	100

Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, last 13012

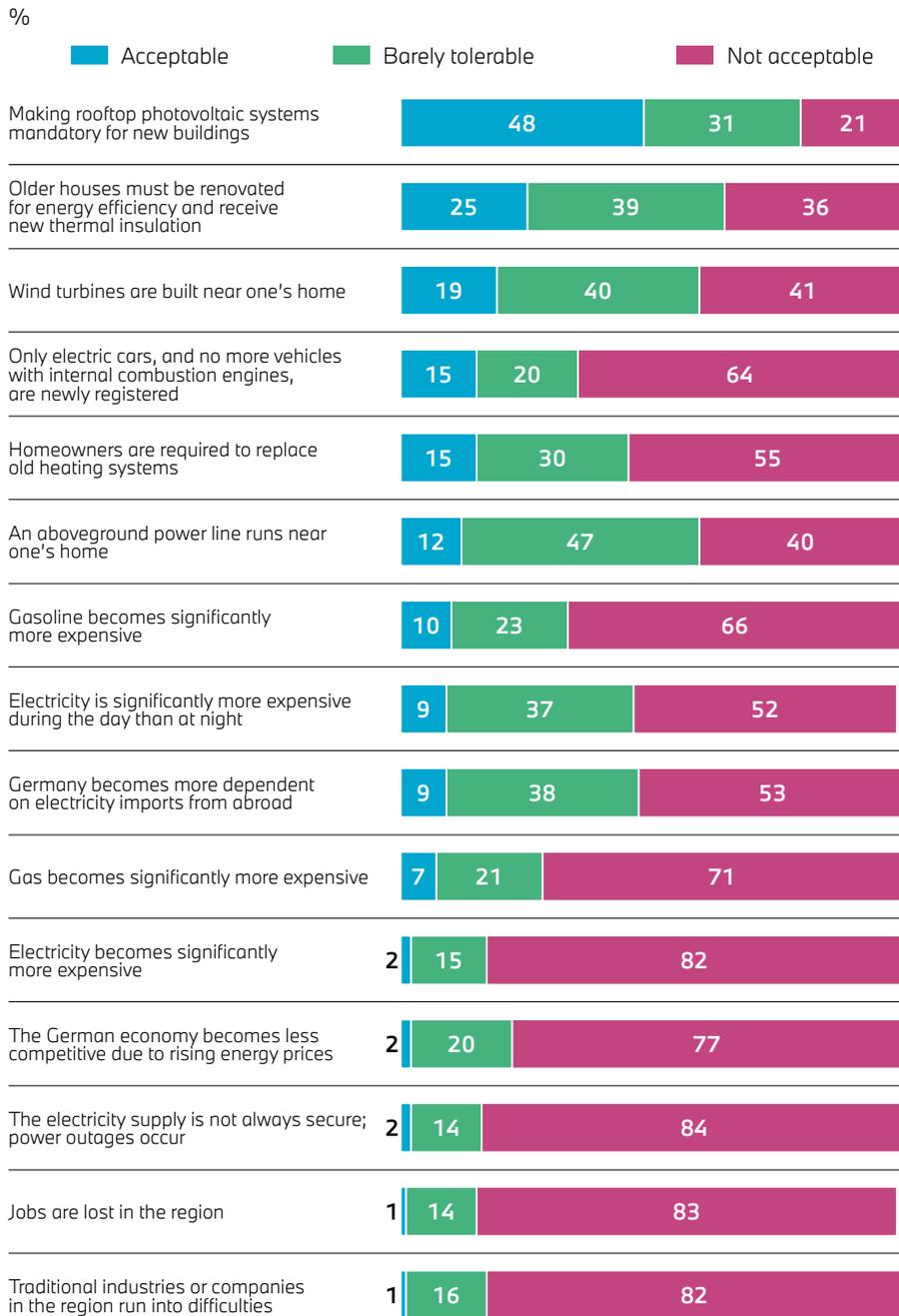
Graph 21

The public remains only limitedly willing to accept the restrictions that result from the energy transition. The only measure that a majority of citizens considers acceptable is a requirement for rooftop solar panels on new buildings. A majority also finds it at least tolerable that older houses must be renovated for energy efficiency, that wind turbines are installed near their homes, or that aboveground power lines run through their area. In addition, just under half consider it acceptable or at least barely tolerable if electricity is significantly more expensive during the day than at night, if Germany becomes more dependent on electricity imports from abroad, or if homeowners are required to replace old heating systems.

Beyond this, however, the vast majority regard the restrictions associated with the energy transition as unacceptable. This applies in particular to all consequences that affect the security of energy supply, economic stability, and people's own financial burdens. Thus, 84 percent consider it completely unacceptable if the energy transition leads to uncertainty in electricity supply, such as power outages. More than eight in ten citizens find it unacceptable if jobs are lost in their region or if traditional industries or companies in their area run into difficulties; 77 percent consider it unacceptable if the German economy becomes less competitive due to rising energy prices. In addition, 82 percent see it as unacceptable if electricity becomes significantly more expensive as a result of the energy transition, and 71 percent if gas prices rise sharply.

Restrictions largely not acceptable

If Germany increasingly relies on renewable energy in the future and less on nuclear power, oil, coal, and gas, these consequences would be



Percentages do not add up to 100 due to undecided responses or no answer.

Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 22

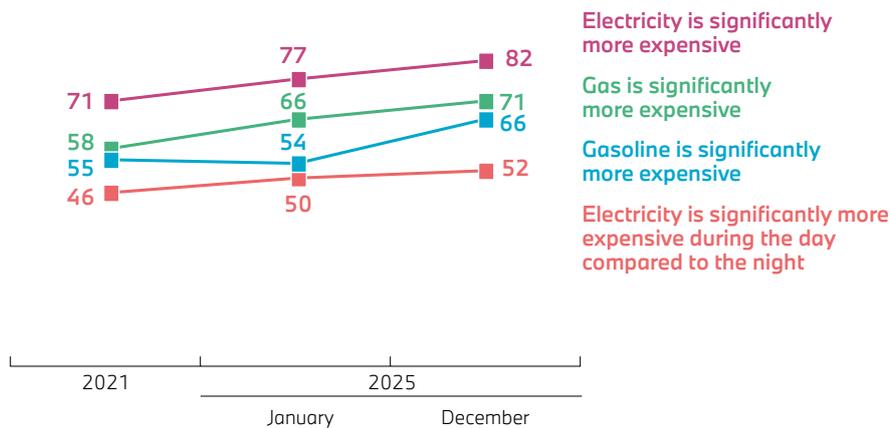
The trend comparison shows that cost increases associated with the energy transition are increasingly perceived by the public as burdensome and therefore less acceptable. The share of those who consider it unacceptable if electricity becomes significantly more expensive as a result of the energy transition has risen from 71 percent in 2021 to 82 percent, increasing from 77 to 82 percent in this year alone. The share of respondents who regard gas price increases as unacceptable increased from 58 percent in 2021 to 66 percent in January 2025 and to 71 percent in January 2025. For gasoline, the share rose from 54 percent in January 2025 to 66 percent in December 2025. The share rose from 54 percent in January 2025 to 66 percent in December 2025.

Citizens increasingly view higher costs as unacceptable

These consequences of the energy transition would not be acceptable

%

– Excerpt –



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12043, 12098, 13012

Graph 23

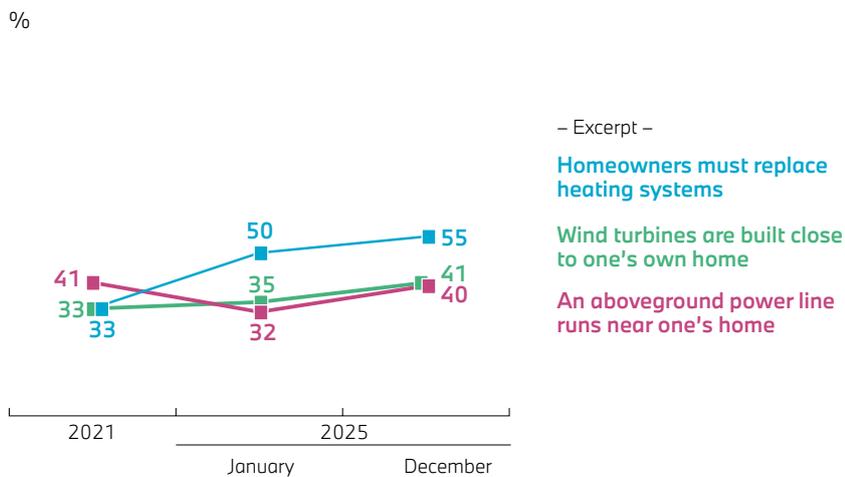
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Policy mandates and changes to the landscape resulting from the construction of power lines or wind turbines are also increasingly meeting with criticism and resistance. The share of those who consider it completely unacceptable for homeowners to be required to replace their old heating systems rose from 33 percent in 2021 to 50 percent in January 2025 and now to 55 percent. The share of respondents opposing the construction of wind turbines near

their homes increased over the past year from 35 to 41 percent, while the share of those who consider the construction of an aboveground power line near their homes unacceptable rose from 32 to 40 percent.

Policy Mandates and local changes are increasingly seen critically

These consequences of the energy transition would not be acceptable



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12043, 12098, 13012

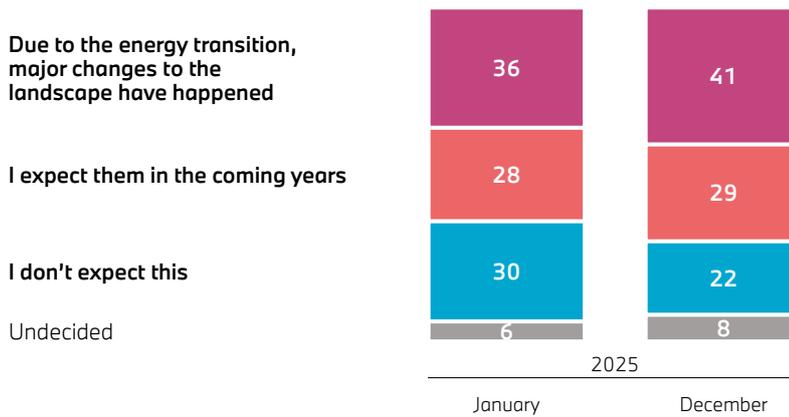
Graph 24

The increasingly negative reactions to the expansion of energy supply infrastructure are largely due to citizens' growing perception of this expansion as an intrusion into the landscape. While 36 percent reported in January 2025 that major changes to the regional landscape had already occurred as a result of the energy transition, this figure has now risen to 41 percent. Another 29 percent expect intrusions into the landscape in the coming years, for example, because wind turbines, power lines, or solar parks will be built in their local area.

Changes to the landscape

Question: "Have there been major changes to the landscape in your region as a result of the energy transition, for example, because wind turbines, power lines, or solar parks were built, or has this not happened so far but you expect it to happen in the coming years, or do you not expect it at all?"

%



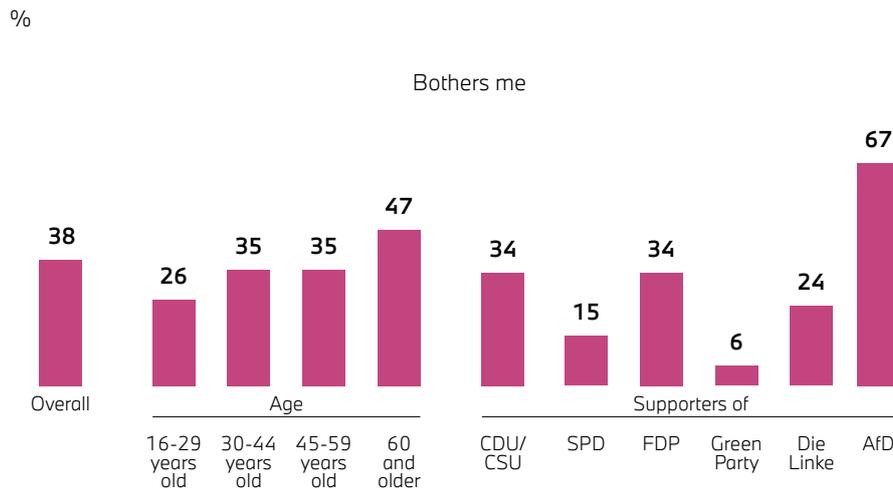
Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

Graph 25

Among those affected, changes to the landscape elicit different reactions: among those reporting changes in their region, 38 percent are bothered by them, whereas nearly half are not disturbed. Those most likely to experience distress are older adults and supporters of the AfD. Among people aged 60 and older, 47 percent report being bothered by landscape changes resulting from the energy transition, compared with only 26 percent of those under 30. Among AfD supporters, two-thirds are bothered by the changes, whereas only 6 percent of Green Party supporters feel the same way.

Feelings of disturbance mainly among the older generation and especially pronounced among AfD supporters

Question to people in regions where the energy transition has caused changes to the landscape: "How do you feel about these changes to the landscape: does it bother you, or does it not bother you?"



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, people in regions where the energy transition has caused changes to the landscape
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 26

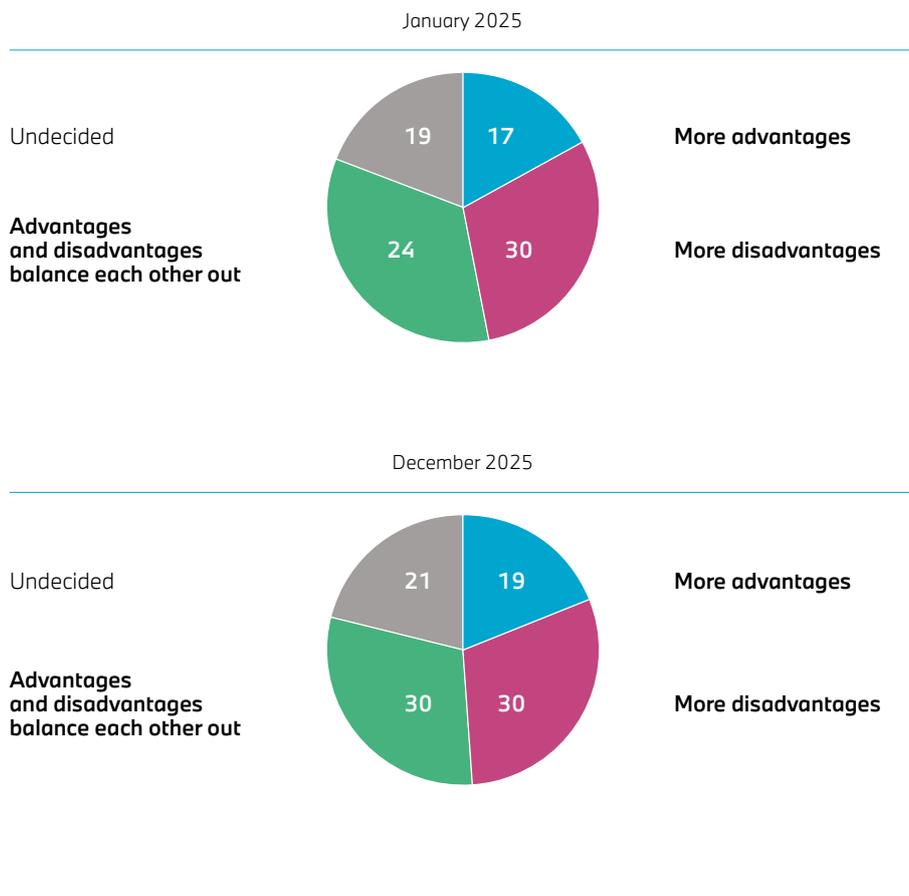
The effects of the energy transition on one's own region continue to be associated more with negative than with positive consequences, but this assessment has not worsened further over the course of the year. Currently, nearly unchanged, 19 percent believe that the energy transition brings more benefits to their region, 30 percent expect mostly disadvantages, and another 30 percent assume that the advantages and disadvantages for their region roughly balance out.

The energy transition is still not perceived as a chance for one's own region

Question: "What do you think regarding your own region? Do you expect that your region will experience more advantages or more disadvantages through the energy transition?"

The energy transition brings for one's own region

%



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Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 12098, 13012

Graph 27

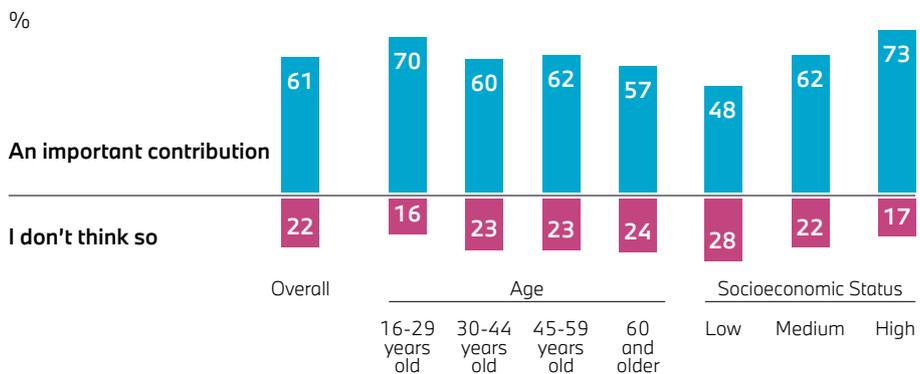
The public considers government support important

Many citizens, especially homeowners, have already implemented measures that contribute to the private energy transition. A study by the Allensbach Institute from August 2025 found that 57 percent of all homeowners are already using climate-friendly technologies in their homes. The most widespread technology is photovoltaic systems: 36 percent of all homeowners already have a PV system, and another 26 percent plan to acquire one in the coming years. It is therefore unsurprising that the majority of the population believes that photovoltaic systems can make an important contribution to Germany's energy supply security. Sixty-one percent share this view, while only 22 percent are skeptical. Particularly younger generations and people from a higher social strata believe that PV systems significantly contribute to energy supply security.

PV systems make an important contribution to energy supply security

Question: "Many people today have a photovoltaic system at home. Do you believe that these systems make an important contribution to the security of Germany's energy supply, or do you not believe that?"

Photovoltaic systems contribute to the security of the energy supply



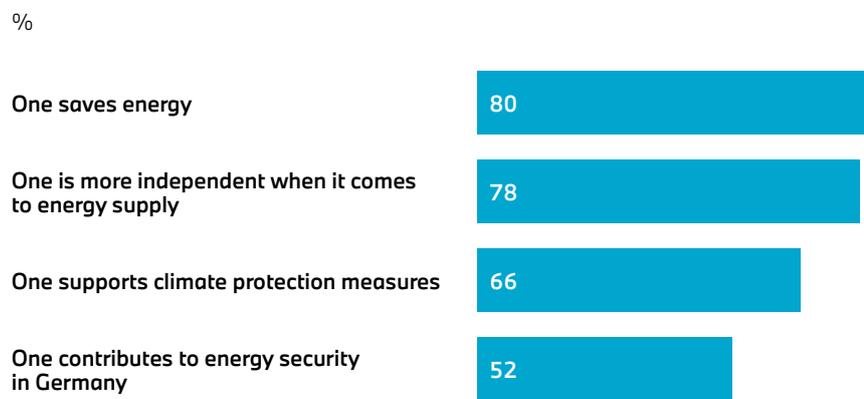
Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 28

The benefits of self-produced electricity are clear from the public's perspective: 80 percent are convinced that generating their own electricity saves costs, 78 percent believe it increases their energy independence, two-thirds see it as contributing to climate protection, and just over half think it helps strengthen Germany's energy security.

Advantages of self-produced electricity

Question: "What do you think are the biggest advantages when part of the electricity that you use is produced by yourself? Which elements of this list would you choose?"



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
 Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

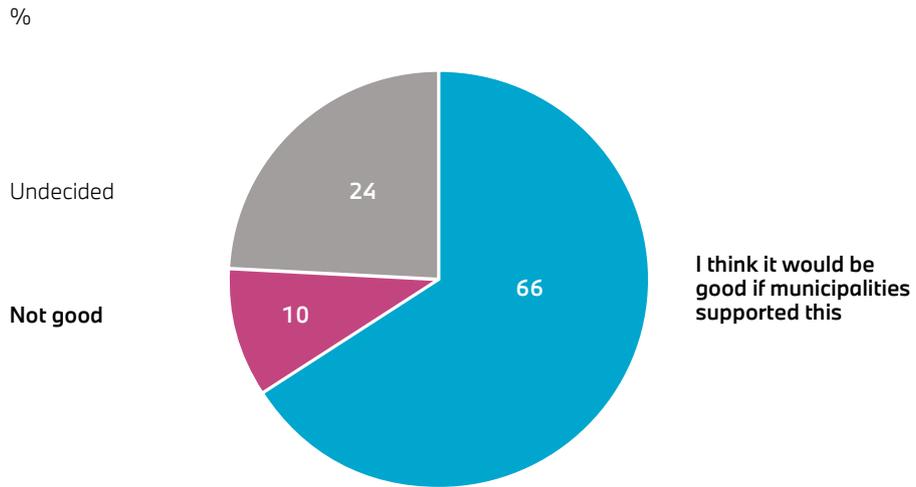
Graph 29

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A large majority of the population also supports financial backing for local citizen energy projects. Two-thirds would welcome it if municipalities provided funding for projects in which local residents collaborate to operate solar installations, wind farms, or biogas plants. Only one in ten is explicitly opposed to providing financial support for such citizen energy projects.

Majority in favor of financial support for citizen energy projects

Question: "In some towns or municipalities, there are so-called citizen energy projects, where local residents join together to operate solar installations, wind farms, or biogas plants. Would you support your municipality providing financial support for such projects, or would you not support that?"



Basis: Federal Republic of Germany, Population 16 and older
Source: Allensbacher Archive, IfD-Questionnaire, 13012

Graph 30

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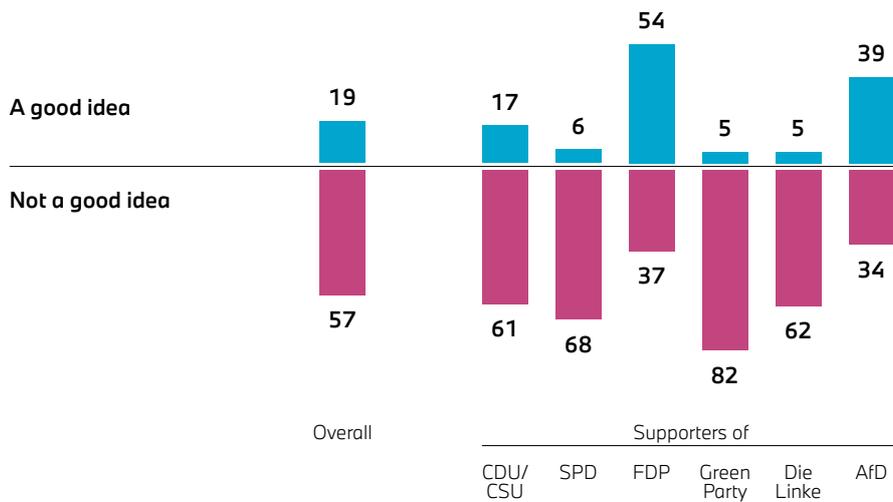
In any case, the majority of the population views it as the state's responsibility to finance the expansion of renewable energy. Accordingly, most people do not consider it a good idea to cut subsidies for renewable energy expansion. Only 19 percent support reducing subsidies, while 57 percent reject the idea. Only supporters of the FDP and AfD largely favor cutting subsidies; supporters of all other parties (often by a clear majority) oppose any reduction in subsidies in this area.

The majority considers cutting subsidies for renewable energy expansion the wrong approach

Question: "Recently, it was proposed to cut subsidies for the expansion of renewable energy. Do you consider this a good idea or not a good idea?"

Cutting subsidies for the expansion of renewable energy is considered

%



Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population aged 16 and older
Source: Allensbach Archive, IfD Survey 13012

Graph 31

Despite the clear opinions the public expresses on various aspects of the energy transition, the majority still feels insufficiently informed about its background: only 34 percent report feeling very well or well informed about the goals and progress of the energy transition. In contrast, 45 percent rate their knowledge as less good, and another 12 percent as not good at all. Just under a year ago, 37 percent felt well or very well informed about the goals and progress of the energy transition.

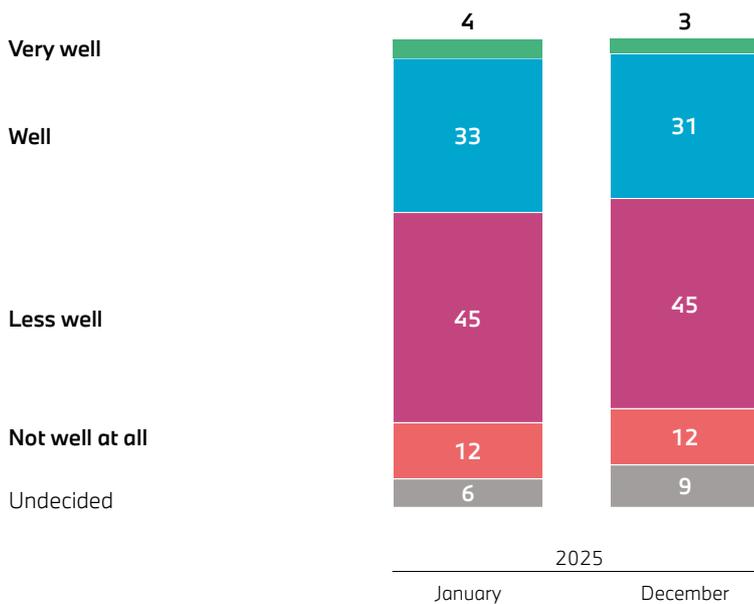
Improving public knowledge in this area is one of the central challenges for policymakers. The government must ensure that the public understands the plans for the energy transition. This includes better and clearer communication of the goals and, above all, the paths that will be taken to achieve them. Citizens require planning security, especially when they perceive that the costs and risks of the energy transition are working to their disadvantage.

Still major information gaps

Question: "How well informed do you feel overall about the goals and progress of the energy transition? Would you say ..."

About the goals and progress of the energy transition, I feel informed

%



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Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population aged 16 and older
 Source: Allensbach Archive, IfD Survey 12098, 13012

Graph 32

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