



Trusted Perspective  
Innovative Data  
Superior Results

**TO:** ARIZONA PIRG EDUCATION FUND  
**FROM:** ASHLEE RICH STEPHENSON, WPA INTELLIGENCE  
**SUBJECT:** ARIZONANS SUPPORT CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DUE TO ECONOMIC BENEFITS  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 12, 2019

The following key findings are based on survey results from a study conducted on behalf of the Arizona PIRG Education Fund from January 6-8, 2019. This study was conducted among n=504 Likely Voters and has a margin of error of ± 4.4%. Interviews were collected through live-caller research via landlines among 56% of survey participants and 44% to mobile phone respondents. WPAi selected a random sample of likely voters from the Arizona file using Registration Based Sampling (RBS).

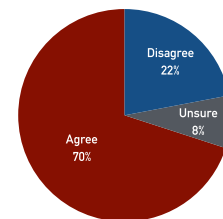
In a recent survey conducted among likely voters in the state of Arizona, insights were collected among a host of issue sets related to the use of clean and renewable energy. Overall, Arizonans think there are economic benefits through the increased use of clean and renewable energy sources. From encouraging development, to increased jobs and ultimately reducing costs in utility bills, Arizonans are supportive of solutions that will result in a greater use of clean and renewable energy sources in the state.

Beyond economic measurements, nearly three quarters (72%) of likely voters think climate change is a very or somewhat serious issue. In contrast, just a quarter (24%) say it's not that serious or not serious at all. This further brings into focus the positive outcome in economics associated with the increased use clean and renewable sources of energy is also bracketed by a belief among Arizonans that the ramifications of climate change are a serious issue that should be addressed.

### Arizonans see economic benefits to increasing the use of clean energy

- Seven-in-ten likely voters (70%) agree that increasing our use of clean and renewable energy sources in Arizona, such as wind and solar, will create jobs and encourage economic development in the state.

Some say increasing our use of clean and renewable energy sources in Arizona, such as wind and solar, will create jobs and encourage economic development in the state. Would you say you agree or disagree that increasing our renewable energy sources will improve Arizona's economy?



Majorities of Arizonans across key demographic breaks and political partisanship agree increasing the use of clean energy will create more jobs and encourage economic development.

Equal levels of women (71%) and men (70%) agree increasing the use of clean and renewable energy will encourage economic growth.

Majorities of voters across party breaks (GOP: 56%, Independent: 74% and Democrat: 89%) think increasing the use of clean and renewable energy will encourage economic growth.

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
202-470-6300  
214 4th Street, SE  
Washington, DC  
20003

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
405-286-6500  
1319 Classen Drive  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
73103

DENVER, CO  
303-748-1140  
627 S. Corona Street  
Denver, Colorado  
80209

wpaintel.com

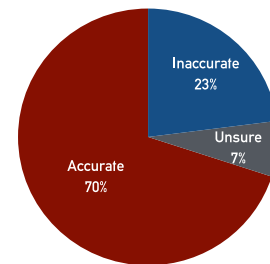
- Similarly, another seventy percent (70%) think it is accurate that renewable energy is important to Arizona's jobs and economy.

Majorities of women (73%) and men (68%) think it is accurate that renewables are important to jobs and the economy.

Further, there is strong majority support across all partisan breaks in agreement that renewables are important to jobs and the economy, driven by Democrats (89%), Independents (75%) and Republicans (57%).

*I am going to read you some phrases that you might hear related to renewable energy in Arizona. For each phrase, please, tell me whether it is an accurate or inaccurate description of renewable energy...*

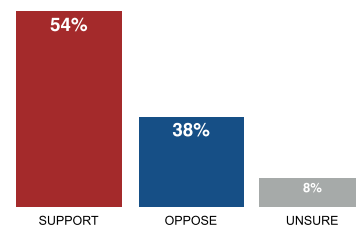
#### Important to Arizona jobs and economy



### Support exists for transitioning to clean energy sources

- A majority of Arizonans (54%) support retiring coal and natural gas plants early, even if it means a slight rate increase now for much bigger savings in the long run for consumers to move toward an increased use of clean energy sources like solar and wind.

As you may have heard, clean energy sources like solar and wind are now often more affordable than traditional sources of electricity like coal and natural gas. However, for consumers, there may be short term, additional costs associated with closing down older coal and natural gas-fired power plants as we move toward using more renewable energy sources. Knowing this, would you say you support or oppose retiring coal and gas plants early if it meant a slight rate increase now for much bigger savings in the long run?



There is equal level of support to retire coal and natural gas plants among men (55%) and women (53%). There are also high levels of support across all age breaks, with seniors 65+ (57%) as supportive as younger and middle-aged voters in the ranges of 35-54 (60%) and 55-64 (59%). Indeed, voters are supportive of this potential shift across economic breaks, with majority levels of support among those with a total annual income of less than \$50,000 (60%), an income between \$50,000-\$100,000 (56%) and \$100,000+ (58%).

### Energy Efficiency

- When asked to indicate what the biggest benefits to Arizonans are when people are more energy efficient, more than half (53%) cite examples that are directly related to economics and fiscal related ramifications.

A plurality (37%) think the biggest benefits to the state when people are more energy efficient is in the form of "saving money" and "reduced utility bill costs." Additional economics related responses to this particular line of questioning include "avoiding costly infrastructure" (8%) and "economic development" (8%).

## Electric Vehicles

- A significant majority of Arizonans believe there are benefits to the state from increasing the number of electric vehicles on the road. Indeed, more than six out of ten (62%) say “yes” there are benefits to more electric vehicles in Arizona.

Arizonans who think there are benefits for additional electric vehicles in the state are supported by men (65%), women (59%), at majority levels through major political party breaks (GOP: 52%, Independents: 64%, Democrats: 74%) and regardless of income brackets (less than \$50,000 annual: 58%, \$50,000-\$100,000: 63%, \$100,000+: 75%).

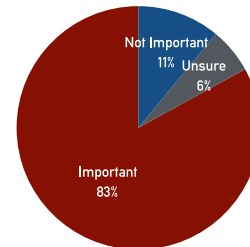
- At similar overall levels, six out of ten (60%) support Arizona’s utility regulators considering programs that would support the growth of one million electric vehicles on the roads. In contrast, this is a two-to-one advantage over those who would oppose this type of program.

This is further bolstered by a strong majority (57%) supporting an investment from utility providers for electric vehicle charging infrastructure to be developed in underserved communities, such as highway corridors or rural areas, or in areas where the private sector is unlikely to either serve or invest.

## Navajo Generation Station

- While there is an ongoing debate about the future of the Navajo Generating Station and those affected by the potential closing of the plant, a strong majority of Arizonans (83%) think it’s important the owners of the Navajo Generating Station provide financial assistance and support, such as job training for communities impacted by the closing of the plant. In contrast, just eleven percent (11%) don’t think this would be an important endeavor.

How important do you think it is for the owners of the Navajo Generating Station to provide financial assistance and support such as job training for communities impacted by the closing of the plant?



In addition, nearly three quarters (73%) also think it’s important to provide this financial assistance and support, even if it meant that electricity bills might go up slightly to cover these costs.

It’s notable to point out there are equal levels of men (71%), women (74%) and majority numbers among Republicans (69%), Independents (70%), Democrats (80%) and through financial brackets of annual household income (less than \$50k annual: 72%, \$50,000-\$100,000: 74% and \$100,000+ 74%) who think it is important to provide financial assistance and support, even if it meant bills were to slightly climb to cover these fees.

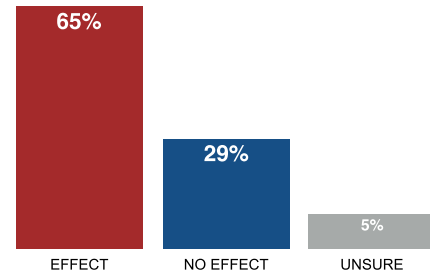
## Climate Change

- When thinking about climate change specifically, a significant majority, and more than six out of ten, (65%) think climate change will have an effect on the financial health of Arizona's communities.

This majority belief that climate change will affect the fiscal health of our local communities is supported by men (64%), women (65%), through all age breaks with the largest percentage among seniors 65+ (73%), by majorities regardless of political party identification (GOP: 51%, Independent: 62%, Democrat: 89%), along with majority support despite annual income breaks (less than \$50k annual: 70%, \$50-100k annual: 70%, \$100k+: 59%).

I am going to read you some issues that you might hear related to climate change in Arizona. For each issue, please, tell me whether climate change has an effect or no effect:

### Financial health of Arizona's communities



###