

FOR RELEASE JUNE 5, 2025

Americans' Views on Energy at the Start of Trump's Second Term

Republicans are far less supportive of renewable energy than during the first Trump administration

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, June 2025, "Americans' Views on Energy at the Start of Trump's Second Term"

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' views on energy issues. For this report, we surveyed 5,085 U.S. adults from April 28 to May 4, 2025.

Everyone who took part in the survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), a group of people recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses who have agreed to take surveys regularly. This kind of recruitment gives nearly all U.S. adults a chance of selection. Interviews were conducted either online or by telephone with a live interviewer. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for this analysis](#), the [topline](#) and the [survey methodology](#).

Americans' Views on Energy at the Start of Trump's Second Term

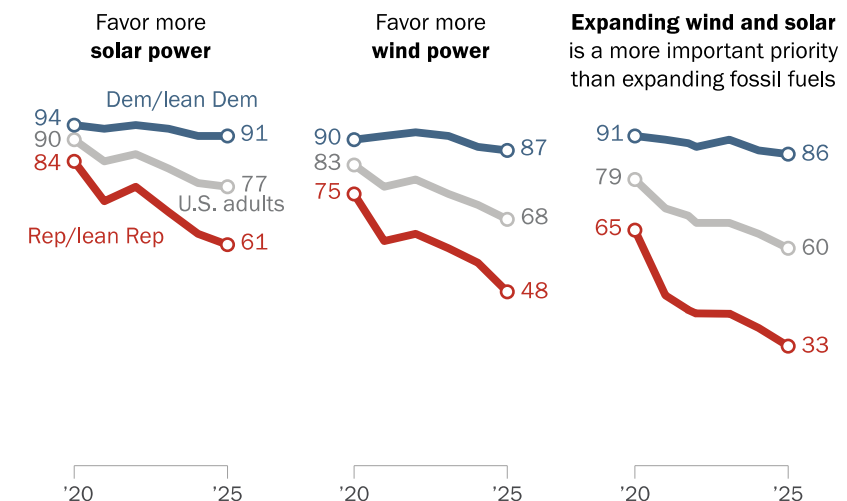
Republicans are far less supportive of renewable energy than during the first Trump administration

The Trump administration has pursued [an energy policy](#) that prioritizes the development of fossil fuels, such as oil, coal and natural gas, over renewable sources like wind and solar. In Washington, Congress is [considering speeding up approval](#) of oil and natural gas projects and [cutting incentives](#) for low-carbon electricity development.

How have Americans' views on energy changed in recent years? A new Pew Research Center survey of 5,085 U.S. adults conducted from April 28 to May 4, 2025, takes a look. This report builds on our long-standing work tracking how Americans think about energy production in the United States and related issues, including views on electric vehicles.

Americans' support for more renewable power has declined, driven by shifts in Republicans' views

% who say ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Key highlights

- While wind and solar power are still popular overall, Americans have become less supportive of these sources since the first Trump administration. This shift has been driven by sharp declines in support among Republicans and Republican leaners.
- Nuclear power has seen an increase in support in recent years, with more positive views among Republicans and Democrats alike.

- Phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035 is unpopular with Americans. A majority oppose this proposal, and opposition has become more widespread since 2021 (among both Republicans and Democrats).
- Americans are more likely to say they would seriously consider buying a hybrid vehicle (45%) than an electric vehicle (33%). Democrats remain more likely than Republicans to say that next time they purchase a vehicle, they would be interested in buying a hybrid or electric model.

Shifting support for renewable energy since the first Trump administration

In the new survey, 68% of Americans favor more wind power, compared with 83% in 2020 at the end of the first Trump administration.

Similarly, 77% of Americans favor more solar power, down from nine-in-ten in 2020.

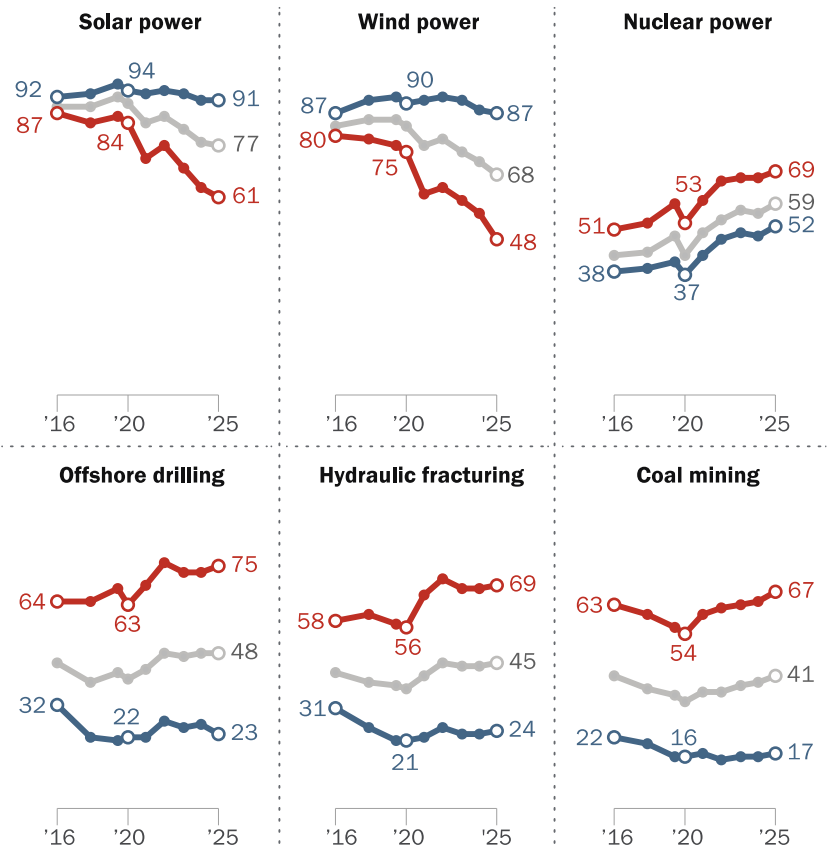
Using more of these renewable energy sources still remains popular with Americans – more so than carbon-intensive options like hydraulic fracturing and coal mining – but there’s been a clear trend in waning support nonetheless.

While less popular than renewable options, forms of fossil fuel development receive somewhat greater support today than five years ago.

Americans’ views on which sources of energy should see more development in the U.S.

% who say they favor more ___ in the country

● U.S. adults ● Dem/lean Dem ● Rep/lean Rep



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Decline in support for renewables among Republicans since first Trump administration

In 2020, and in other Center surveys during the first Trump administration, **wind and solar were the most popular forms of energy development among Republicans.** For example, in 2020, 84% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents supported more solar power and 75% favored more wind power. Smaller shares favored more offshore oil and gas drilling (63%), hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas (56%), coal mining (54%) and nuclear power (53%).

In the new survey, wind and solar are much less popular among Republicans than they were, reflecting declines that have occurred over the last five years. About six-in-ten favor more solar power (61%), and about half favor more wind power (48%). There's now greater GOP support for expanding offshore oil and gas drilling (75%), hydraulic fracturing (69%), nuclear power (69%) and coal mining (67%).

Should the country prioritize renewable or fossil fuel energy?

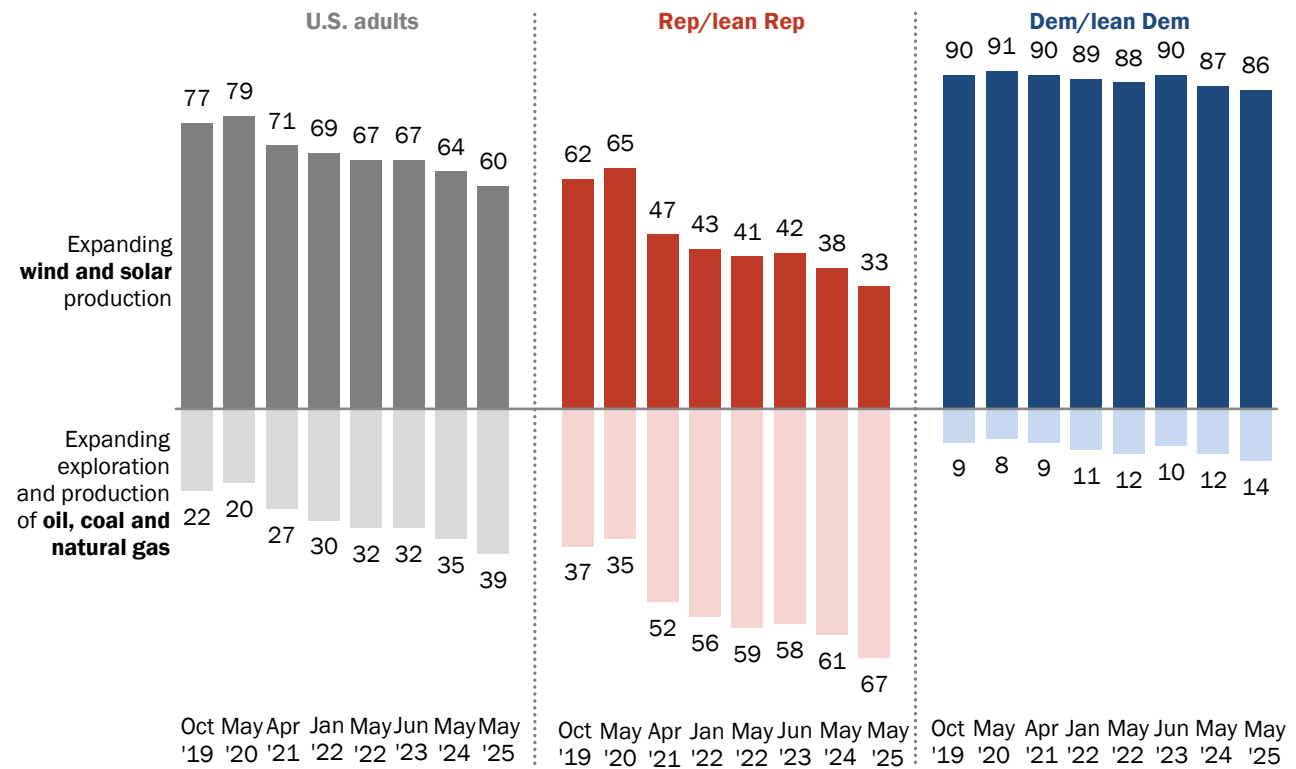
When asked whether the country should prioritize developing renewable sources or fossil fuel sources, six-in-ten Americans say the country should prioritize renewables like wind and solar. While this remains the majority opinion, the share who prioritize renewable sources is down significantly from a high of 79% in the spring of 2020.

Republicans' views on the nation's energy priorities are now the *reverse* of what they were in 2020.

- Today, 67% of Republicans and Republican leaners say the country should give priority to developing fossil fuel sources like oil, coal and natural gas. In 2020, 65% of Republicans said *renewable energy* development should be the country's bigger priority.

Americans continue to say the U.S. should give priority to renewable energy development, but this view is much less widely held than in 2020

% who say the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply should be ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. Data for May 2024 and May 2025 combines responses from two questions with similar wording. Each question was asked of a random half of respondents. For more information, refer to the Topline.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Younger Republicans still prioritize renewable energy more than older Republicans, but their support has dropped since last year

Younger Republicans remain more supportive of solar and wind power than their older counterparts – but their support for renewable energy has declined in the last year. For example, 51% of Republicans ages 18 to 29 say the country should prioritize renewable energy, a decrease of 16 percentage points from last year.

Refer to the [Appendix](#) for more.

Overwhelming majorities of Democrats continue to back wind and solar power. In the new survey, 91% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they favor more solar power and 87% support more wind power. Democratic support for renewables has been steadfast in recent years, and these shares are nearly identical to those seen during the first Trump administration. Consistent with these views, a large 86% majority think the country should prioritize renewable energy development over fossil fuel development.

Increased support for nuclear power

Some are pointing to more nuclear power as one way for the U.S. to meet rising demand for electricity. Americans have become much more favorable toward more nuclear power plants in recent years. About six-in-ten (59%) now back more nuclear power plants to generate electricity. As recently as 2020, there was greater opposition than support for more nuclear power. **The increase in support for nuclear power has occurred among both Democrats and Republicans.**

Jump to: [Views on Trump administration energy policies and priorities](#) | [Americans' interest in purchasing electric and hybrid vehicles](#)

1. Views on Trump administration energy policies and priorities

The Trump administration has taken [a number of actions](#) to promote the development and use of fossil fuels and reduce support for renewable energy. This includes [a push to increase](#) drilling for oil and natural gas on federal lands and [an executive order](#) pausing approvals and permits for wind energy projects, including offshore wind. Where do Americans stand on these issues?

When asked about drilling for oil and natural gas on federal land, 33% of Americans say it should be increased and 28% say it should be decreased.

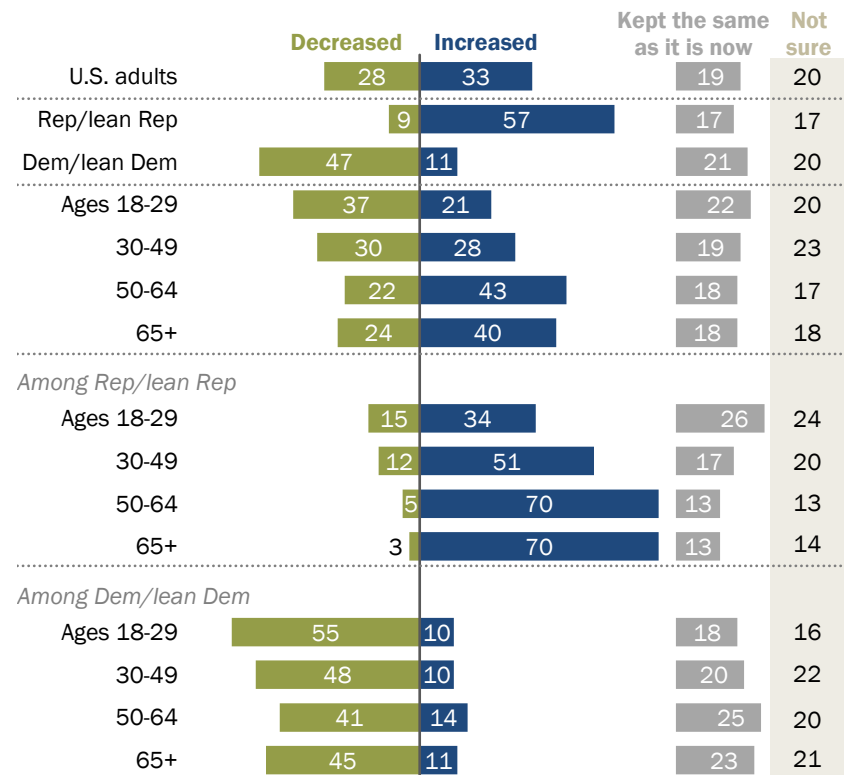
The remainder say the amount of oil and natural drilling should be kept the same as it is now (19%) or are not sure (20%).

Democrats and Republicans have divergent views on this question, reflecting broader differences on fossil fuel production and use. A

majority of Republicans (57%) say drilling for oil and natural gas on federal land should be increased, while only 9% say it should be decreased. In contrast, almost half of Democrats say oil and natural gas drilling should be decreased and about one-in-ten say it should be increased.

Public views on drilling for oil and natural gas on federal land

% who say drilling for oil and natural gas on federally owned land should be ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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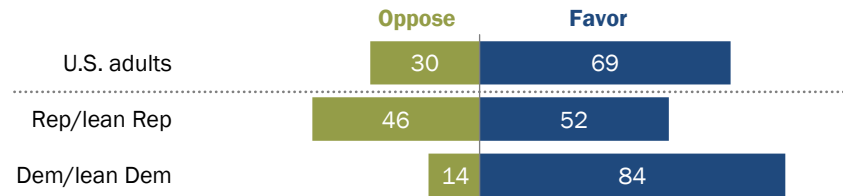
Younger Republicans are far less likely than older Republicans to say oil and natural gas drilling should be increased on federal land. Roughly one-third of Republicans ages 18 to 29 (34%) say drilling for oil and natural gas on federally owned land should be increased, compared with 70% of Republicans 50 and older. A smaller share of Republicans 18 to 29 (15%) think drilling for oil and natural gas on federal land should be decreased.

The survey asked roughly half of respondents whether they favor or oppose more *offshore*

wind turbine farms (the other half of respondents were asked about their views on “wind turbine farms,” which is regularly included in our surveys on energy). **About seven-in-ten favor more offshore wind farms (69%), while three-in-ten oppose this.** More than eight-in-ten Democrats (84%) favor more offshore wind power, while about half of Republicans do (52%).

Most Americans support more offshore wind farms

% who say they ___ more offshore wind turbine farms



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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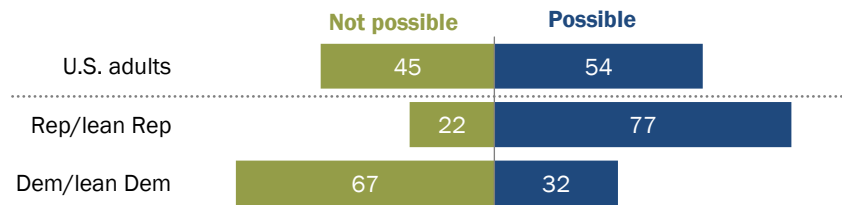
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Views on environmental regulations

In March, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that it would [scale back many environmental regulations](#), including rules and policies that regulate emissions from cars and trucks. Slightly more than half (54%) of Americans say it is possible to cut back on environmental regulations and still protect air and water quality in the U.S., while 45% say it’s not possible.

Republicans largely say it is possible to cut back on environmental regulations and still protect air and water quality; Democrats say the opposite

% who say it is ___ to cut back on environmental regulations and still effectively protect air and water quality in the U.S.



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Republicans and Democrats

have opposite positions on this question: 77% of Republicans say it is possible to cut back on

environmental regulations and still protect air and water quality, and 67% of Democrats say it is not possible.

2. Americans' interest in purchasing electric and hybrid vehicles

The electric vehicle market in the U.S. continues to [expand](#), [albeit at a slower pace](#) than earlier in the decade.

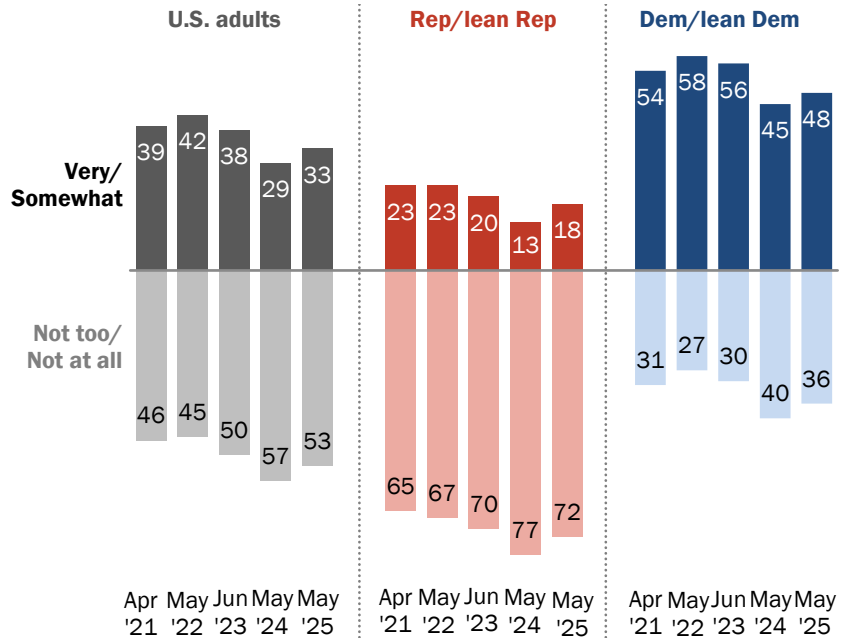
One-third of Americans say they would very or somewhat seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle (EV) as their next vehicle.

This is a slight uptick from last year (4 percentage points), but still down from the 42% of Americans in 2022 who said they would seriously consider purchasing an EV.

A larger share of Americans (53%) say they are not too or not at all likely to seriously consider purchasing an EV. And 14% say they do not plan to purchase a vehicle.

One-third of Americans interested in purchasing an EV

% who say the next time they purchase a vehicle, they are ___ likely to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle (EV)



Note: Respondents who gave other response of "I do not expect to purchase a vehicle" or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Democrats remain more likely than Republicans to say they would seriously consider purchasing an EV (48% vs. 18%). Adults younger than 50, including both Democrats and Republicans in this age group, are more likely than older adults to say they would consider purchasing an EV. Those who live in urban and suburban areas are also more likely than those in rural areas to say they would be interested in purchasing an EV. Refer to the [Appendix](#) for more.

Interest in hybrid vehicles

In the face of slowing EV sales in the U.S., [some automakers are focusing more on hybrid vehicles](#). Americans are more interested in purchasing a hybrid vehicle than an electric vehicle: 45% say they are very or somewhat likely to seriously consider purchasing a hybrid the next time they purchase a vehicle. A slightly smaller share (40%) say they are not too or not at all likely to consider purchasing a hybrid vehicle. Refer to the [Appendix](#) for more on Americans' interest in buying a hybrid vehicle.

Views on phasing out production of new gasoline vehicles

California and 11 other states have adopted plans to ban the sale of new gasoline cars and trucks in 2035, but last month [the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate voted to block California](#) from implementing its ban. The state of California is [expected to sue](#) over the procedural tactic Senate Republicans used.

About one-third of Americans (34%) say they favor phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035, while about two-thirds (65%) say they oppose it.

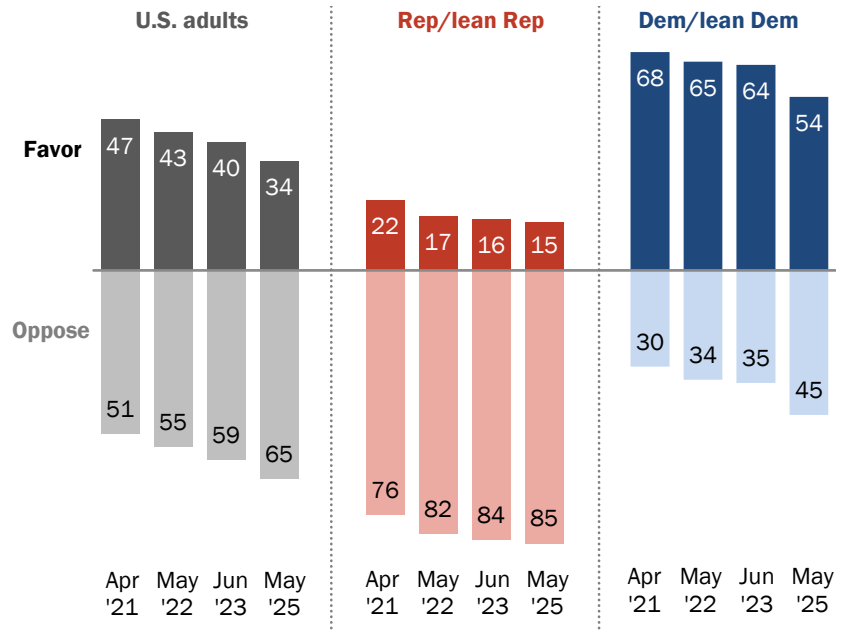
The share of Americans who favor phasing out new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035 has fallen by 13 points since 2021.

This decline has been driven by both Republicans and Democrats. In the new survey, just more than half of Democrats (54%) favor phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035, down 14 points since 2021.

Still, Democrats remain far more likely than Republicans to support phasing out new gasoline cars and trucks.

65% of Americans oppose phasing out the production of new gasoline vehicles by the year 2035

% who ___ phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by the year 2035



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Differences among Democrats on electric vehicles

Democrats across the ideological spectrum oppose more fossil fuel use, but there's less consensus among Democrats when it comes to EVs.

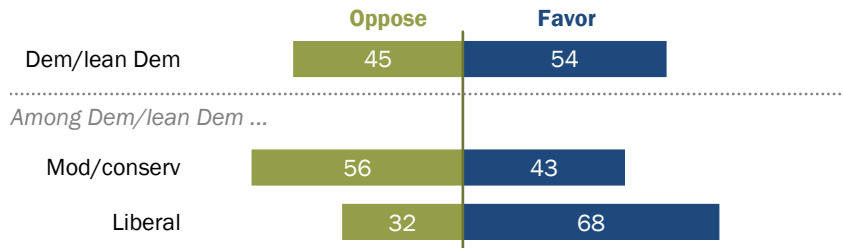
Liberal Democrats have different views than moderate and conservative Democrats on EVs.

About two-thirds of liberal Democrats and Democratic leaners (68%) favor phasing out the production of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035. A majority of moderate and conservative Democrats (56%) oppose this policy.

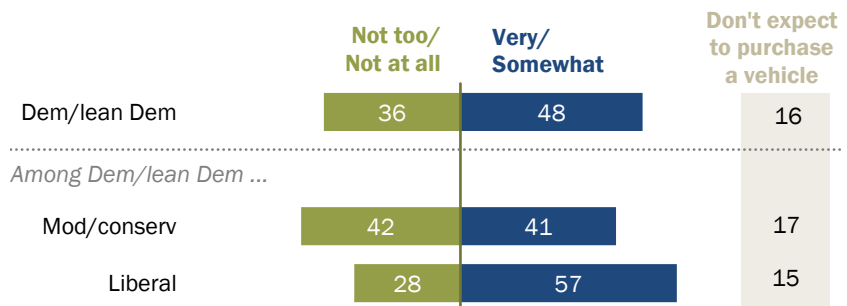
There is a 25-point gap between liberal Democrats and moderate to conservative Democrats who support phasing out new gas-powered vehicles (68% vs. 43%).

Majority of liberal Democrats favor phasing out production of new gas vehicles by 2035; majority of moderate and conservative Democrats oppose it

% of Democrats/Democratic leaners who ___ phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by the year 2035



% of Democrats/Democratic leaners who say the next time they purchase a vehicle, they are ___ likely to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle (EV)



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Ideological differences among Democrats also come into play when making the personal decision of purchasing a vehicle. Liberal Democrats are more likely than moderate to conservative Democrats to say they would very or somewhat seriously consider purchasing an EV or hybrid. A majority of liberal Democrats (57%) say they are likely to seriously consider purchasing an EV, compared with about four-in-ten moderate and conservative Democrats (41%).

Acknowledgments

This report is made possible by The Pew Charitable Trusts. It is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals. Find related reports online at:

pewresearch.org/science.

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In addition, the project benefited greatly from the guidance of the Pew Research Center methodology team: Courtney Kennedy, Andrew Mercer, Ashley Amaya, Dorene Asare-Marfo, Dana Popky, Anna Brown and Arnold Lau.

Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 169 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted from April 28 to May 4, 2025. A total of 5,085 panelists responded out of 5,772 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 88%.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,085 respondents is plus or minus 1.6 percentage points.

The survey includes an [oversample](#) of non-Hispanic Asian adults in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=4,895) and live telephone (n=190) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel](#).”

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.¹ Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.² Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#).”

² Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”) to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$15 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was April 28 to May 4, 2025. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online: Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on April 28.³ Survey invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch.

³ The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys. Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on April 28. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on April 29.

**Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents,
ATP Wave 169**

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	April 28, 2025	April 29, 2025
First reminder	May 1, 2025	May 1, 2025
Final reminder	May 3, 2025	May 3, 2025

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Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer: Prenotification postcards were mailed on April 25. Soft launch took place on April 28 and involved dialing until a total of three interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, one ATP respondent was removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was

invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2023 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Race/Ethnicity x Age	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2023 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2020 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2024 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation x Age	
Party affiliation among registered voters	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 169

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	5,085	1.6 percentage points
Rep/lean Rep	2,319	2.3 percentage points
Dem/lean Dem	2,575	2.2 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of non-Hispanic Asian respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. Refer to the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 169

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,085
Logged in (web)/Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	111
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	33
Never logged on (web)/Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	542
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other non-interview	2.30	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	1
Total panelists sampled for the survey		5,772
Completed interviews	I	5,085
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	144
Non-contact	NC	542
Other	O	1
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		5,772
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		88%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 169

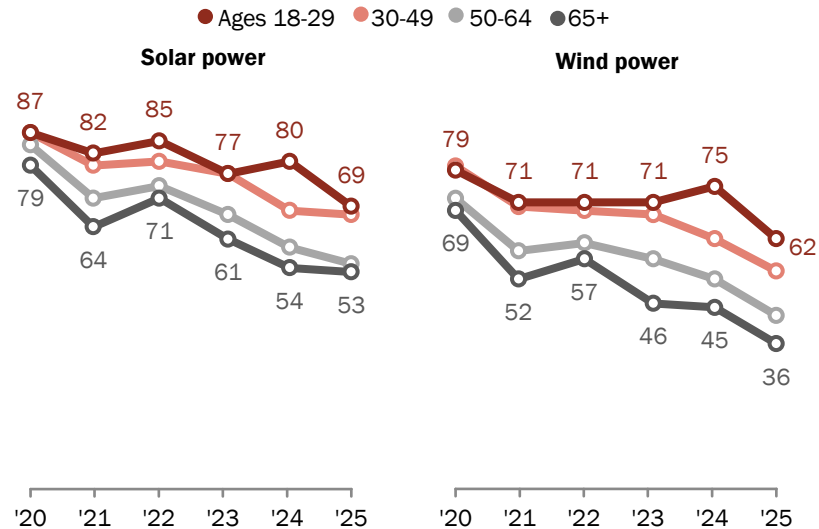
	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 169	35%
Response rate to Wave 169 survey	88%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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Appendix: Detailed charts

Support for more solar and wind power among young Republicans declines in 2025

% of **Republicans/Republican leaners** who say they favor more ___ in the country, by age



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

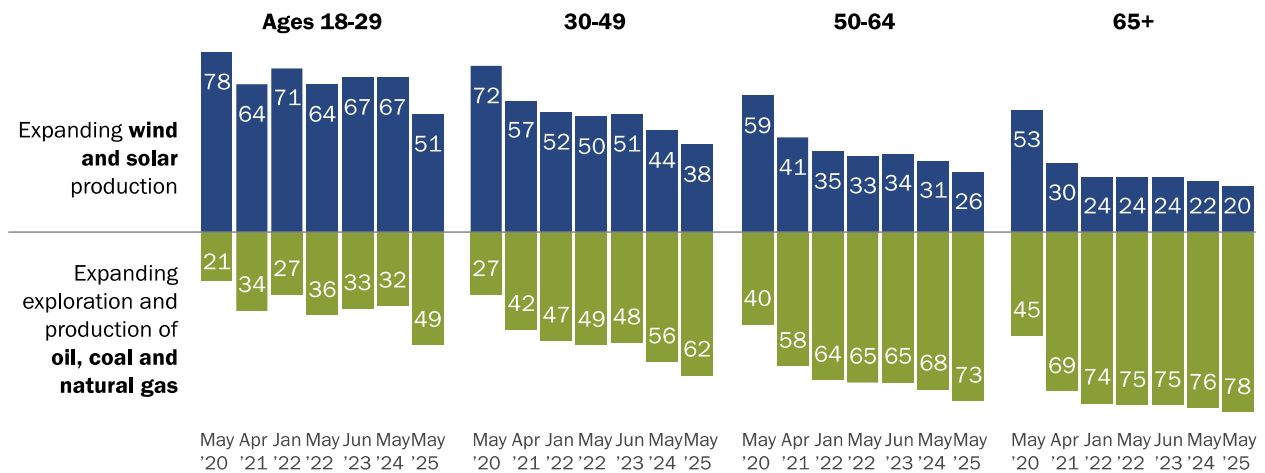
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Prioritizing production from wind and solar or fossil fuels among Republicans by age

% of **Republicans/Republican leaners** who say that the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply should be ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

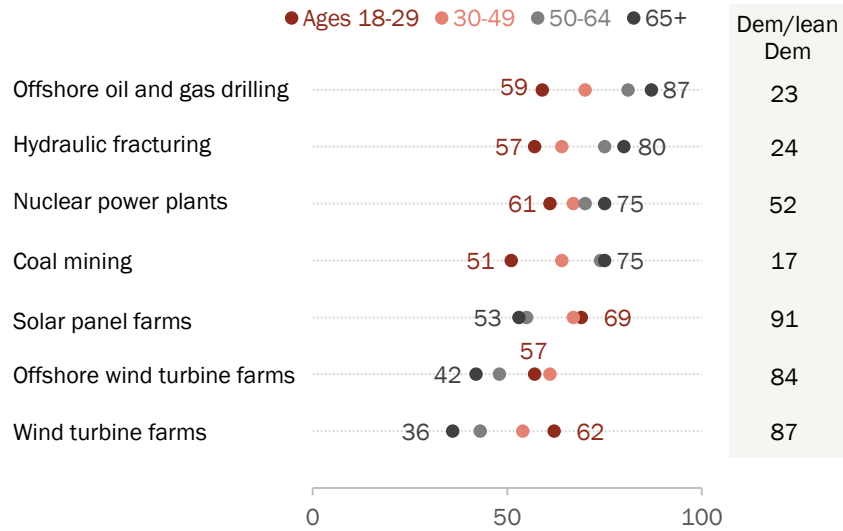
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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Young Republicans remain less favorable toward fossil fuel sources than older Republicans

% of *Republicans/Republican leaners* who say they favor more ___ in the country, by age



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

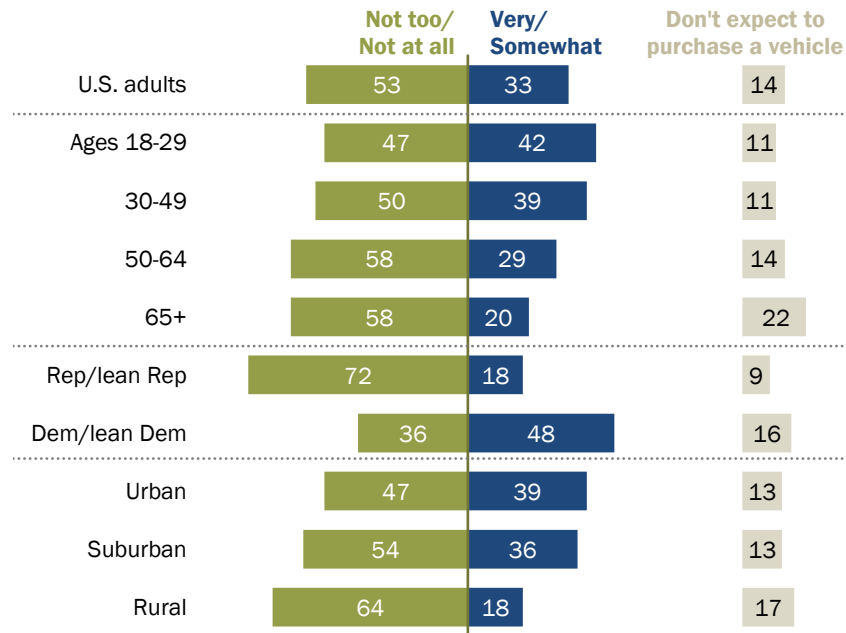
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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33% of Americans say they'll seriously consider buying an EV the next time they purchase a vehicle

% who say the next time they purchase a vehicle, they are ___ likely to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle (EV)



Note: Respondents did not give an answer are not shown.

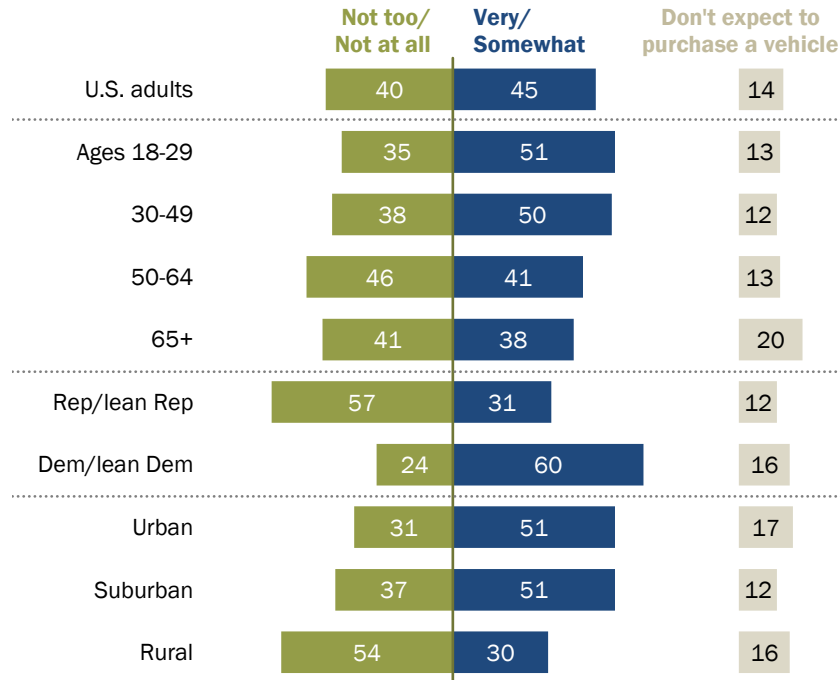
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

"Americans' Views on Energy at the Start of Trump's Second Term"

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45% of Americans say they'll seriously consider buying a hybrid the next time they purchase a vehicle

% who say the next time they purchase a vehicle, they are ___ likely to seriously consider purchasing a hybrid vehicle



Note: Respondents did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 28-May 4, 2025.

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