

# OPALCO Executive Summary

## OPALCO Member Survey on Energy Reliability and Local Renewable Development

December 2025

In November and December 2025, OPALCO conducted a member survey to assess customer satisfaction, awareness of energy reliability challenges, and perspectives on local renewable energy development, land use, and permitting. The research included a statistically representative survey of 300 members and an opt-in community engagement survey of 989 members, along with open-ended written comments. Representative Sample key takeaways include:

- Customers are highly satisfied with OPALCO.
- Maintaining and improving service and reducing dependence on mainland energy are almost universally important for customers.
- About six in ten (61%) are concerned about future outages in San Juan County.
- When asked to rank which project they'd prioritize, about a third each rank microgrids first, individual projects—such as rooftop solar—second, and mainland sources third.
- With the context that it would allow for quicker renewable development and prevent future outages, a minimum of six in ten would support flexing land use policies (60%) and permitting processes (63%).
- When initially presented with OPALCO's renewable projects and the power outages they aim to prevent, eight in ten are supportive, with nearly half in strong support.
- Customers are split on if they are willing to pay more for renewable energy.
- In open-ended feedback, customers re-emphasize their top priorities – protecting the environment, improving energy reliability, and keeping costs down – while also reiterating their concerns.

## Conclusion

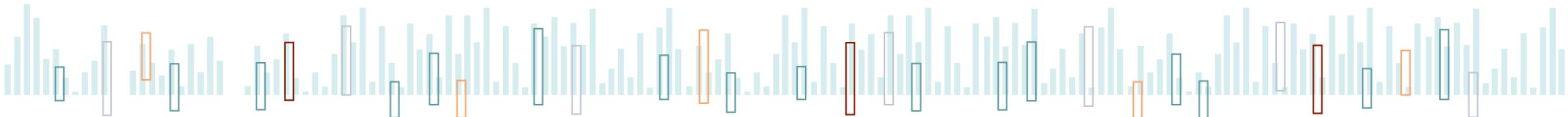
Survey results show strong member support for maintaining reliable electric service, reducing dependence on mainland power, and advancing local renewable energy projects with appropriate environmental safeguards. Members recognize the need for permitting predictability to ensure essential energy infrastructure can be developed in a timely and responsible manner.



**OPALCO**  
Co-op Run. Community Powered.

# OPALCO Member Survey

December 2025

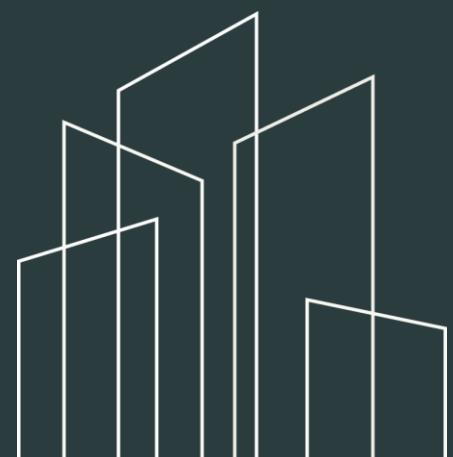


# Research purpose

- Assess general perceptions of OPALCO
- Test awareness of and reception to new local renewable project development
- Understand members' priorities for projects, especially environmental and aesthetic impact

# Representative Sample

$n=300$



# Methodology

- Mixed mode (phone and text-to-online) survey of N=300 OPALCO customers
- Conducted November 11-26, 2025
- Data were weighted and quotas were set to ensure a representative sample
- Margin of error was  $\pm 5.7\%$  for representative sample
- Due to rounding, some totals may differ by  $\pm 1$  from the sum of separate responses

# Key Takeaways



# Satisfaction, Priorities, and Concerns

- **Customers are highly satisfied with OPALCO.** 94% of customers say they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the services they receive from OPALCO. Satisfaction is very high across demographics.
- **Maintaining and improving service and reducing dependence on mainland energy are almost universally important for customers.** 98% say each of these are very or somewhat important for OPALCO to focus on. A large majority of customers view keeping costs down (82%) and building local energy resources (81%) as key priorities for OPALCO. Just as many (82%) say building local energy resources is important to address power disruptions.
- **About six in ten (61%) are concerned about future outages in San Juan County.** About three in four (74%) become more concerned after learning about projected population growth and potential grid strain as a result.

# Projects and Tradeoffs

- **When asked to rank which project they'd prioritize, about a third each rank microgrids first, individual projects—such as rooftop solar—second, and mainland sources third.** 13% said that none of the listed projects are a priority for them.
  - The impacts to scenic views, wildlife, and cost are the biggest concerns customers have with these renewable projects, and similarly, customers most prefer building new projects on previously disturbed sites.
  - Knowing that San Juan county already has environmental protection policies in place makes nearly three in four customers (73%) more likely to support renewable development.
- **With the context that it would allow for quicker renewable development and prevent future outages, a minimum of six in ten would support flexing land use policies (60%) and permitting processes (63%).** Those who are not concerned about future outages are far less supportive.
  - Even more (71%) say renewable projects should receive priority in the land use process, and 74% think San Juan County should adjust policies to allow for more energy generation - though over half say there should be extra care taken to protect the environment.
  - Similarly, 71% say OPALCO should move forward with development despite opposition, as long as effort is made to shield aesthetic and environmental impacts.

# Support for Renewable Development

- **When initially presented with OPALCO's renewable projects and the power outages they aim to prevent, eight in ten are supportive**, with nearly half in strong support.
  - After hearing about projects, tradeoffs, and other considerations, support remains high.
  - While support is high across demographics, those who are not concerned about power outages are less supportive than other key demographics.
- **Customers are split on if they are willing to pay more for renewable energy.** Half (50%) are willing to pay more, but 45% are unwilling. Long-time residents, those unaware of current energy issues, and those not concerned about future outages are more likely to say they are unwilling to pay more.
- **In open-ended feedback, customers re-emphasize their top priorities - protecting the environment, improving energy reliability, and keeping costs down - while also reiterating their concerns.** The most common feedback in the open-ended question was lingering concerns about projects (17%), followed by prioritizing the environment (10%), minimizing blackouts (9%) and keeping costs down (8%).

# Communications

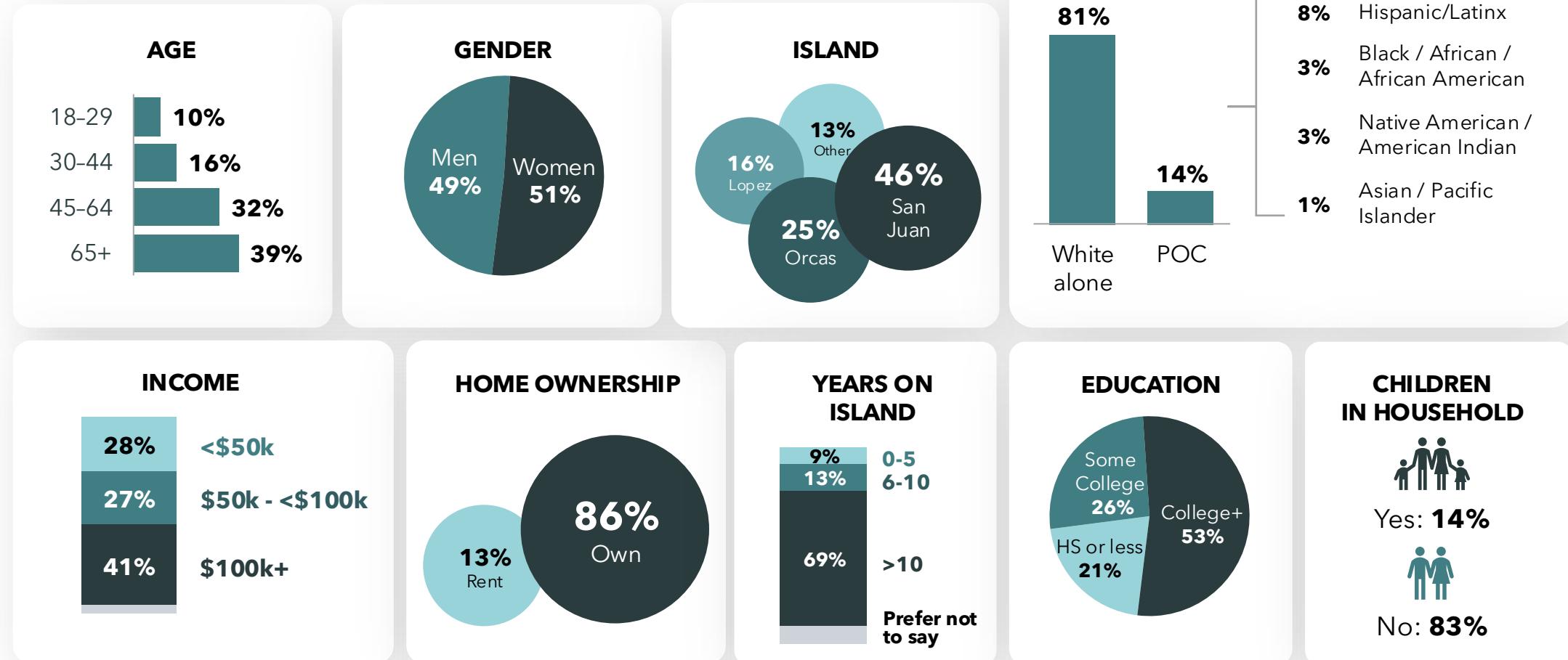
- **Email newsletters (69%) are by far the most commonly preferred method of communication from OPALCO.** Local newspaper articles (33%), website updates (27%), social media updates (22%) and community meetings (19%) are less preferred methods to receive updates.

# Demographics

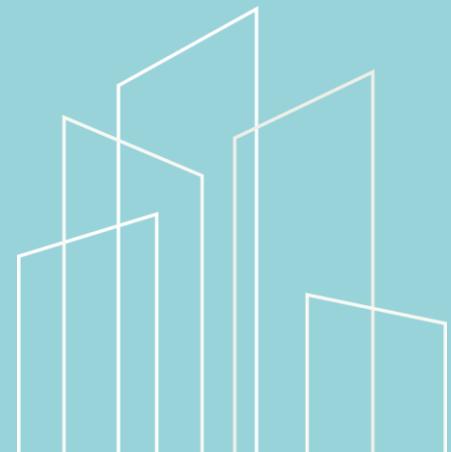


## Demographic breakdown of *representative sample* survey respondents

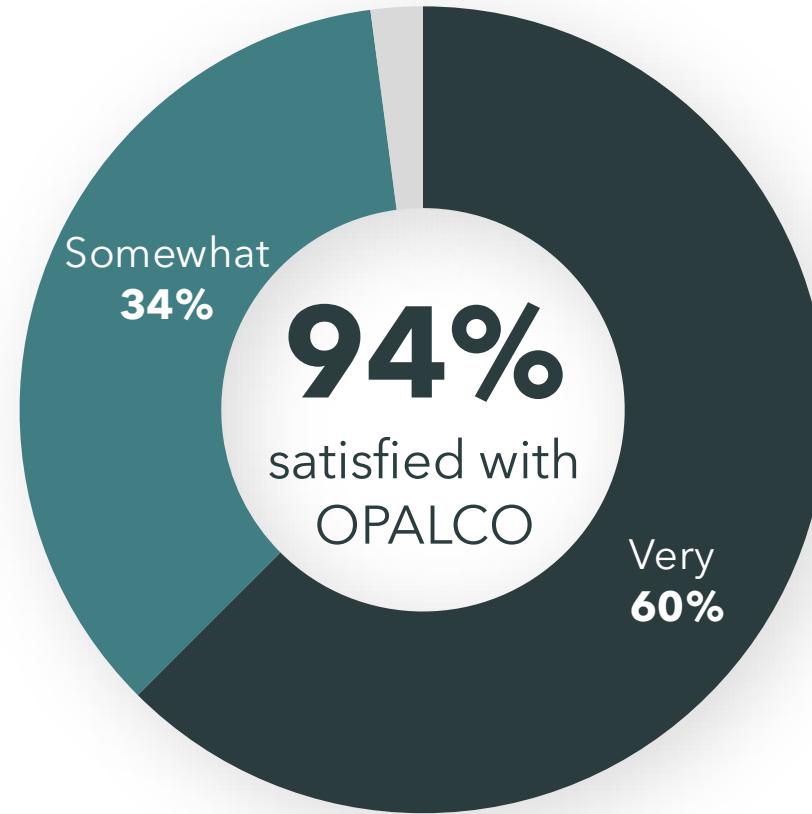
N=300 OPALCO customers



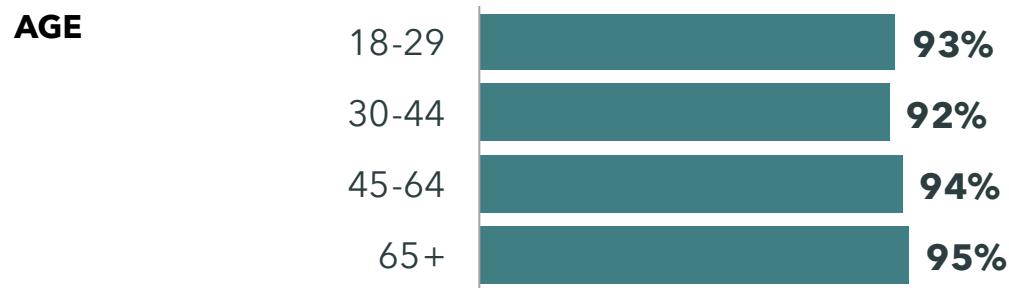
# Customer Satisfaction and Concerns



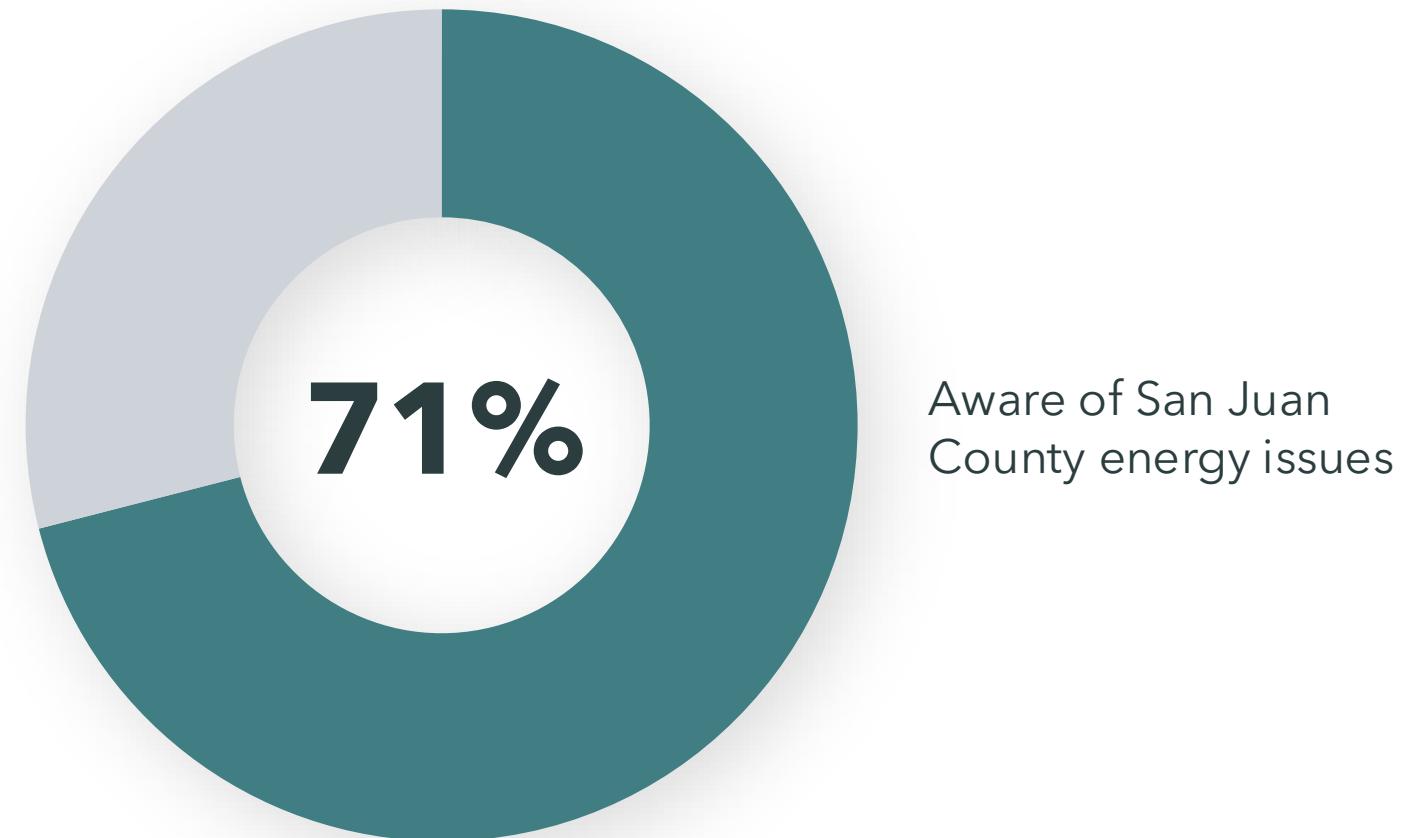
Most customers are satisfied with the service they receive from OPALCO. Over half are very satisfied.



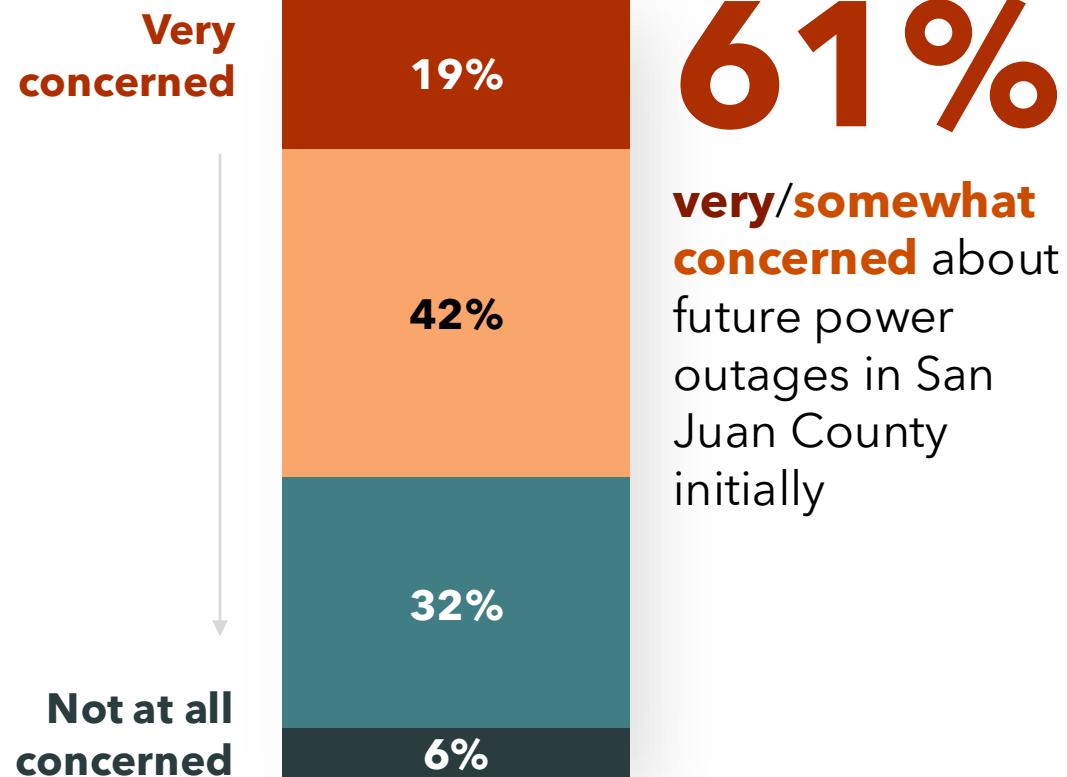
# Satisfaction is very high across all key demographic groups.



Prior to taking the survey, over seven in ten customers were already aware of the energy issues in San Juan County.

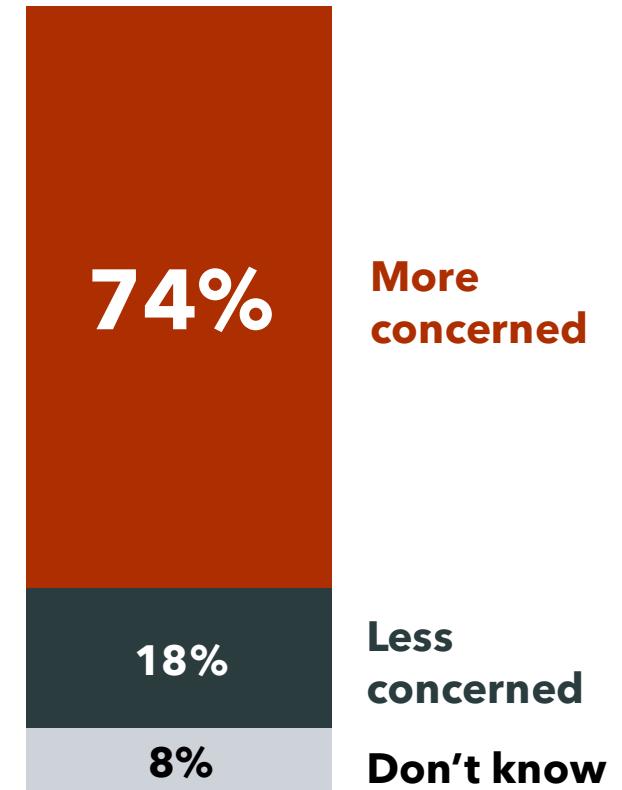


# Given their high awareness, over six in ten are concerned about future power outages. Three in four become more concerned after hearing additional context.



*Power outages in the county are rare and usually short. However, the county's Comprehensive Plan projects 30% more electrical use primarily due to population growth, and there is no plan for increased electricity need this growth will bring.*

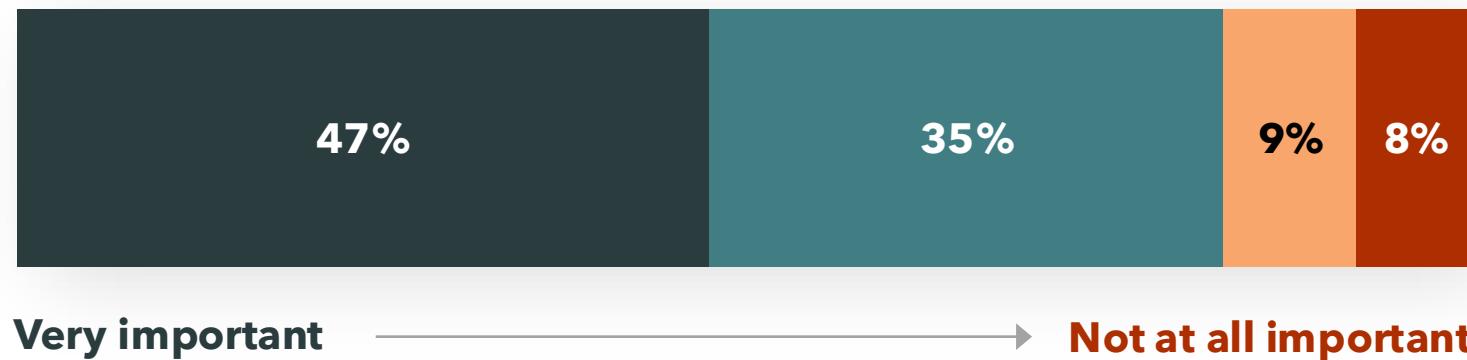
*Knowing this, are you more or less concerned than you were before?*



**Over eight in ten say it is important to build local resources to minimize power disruptions and prevent future outages.**

**82%**

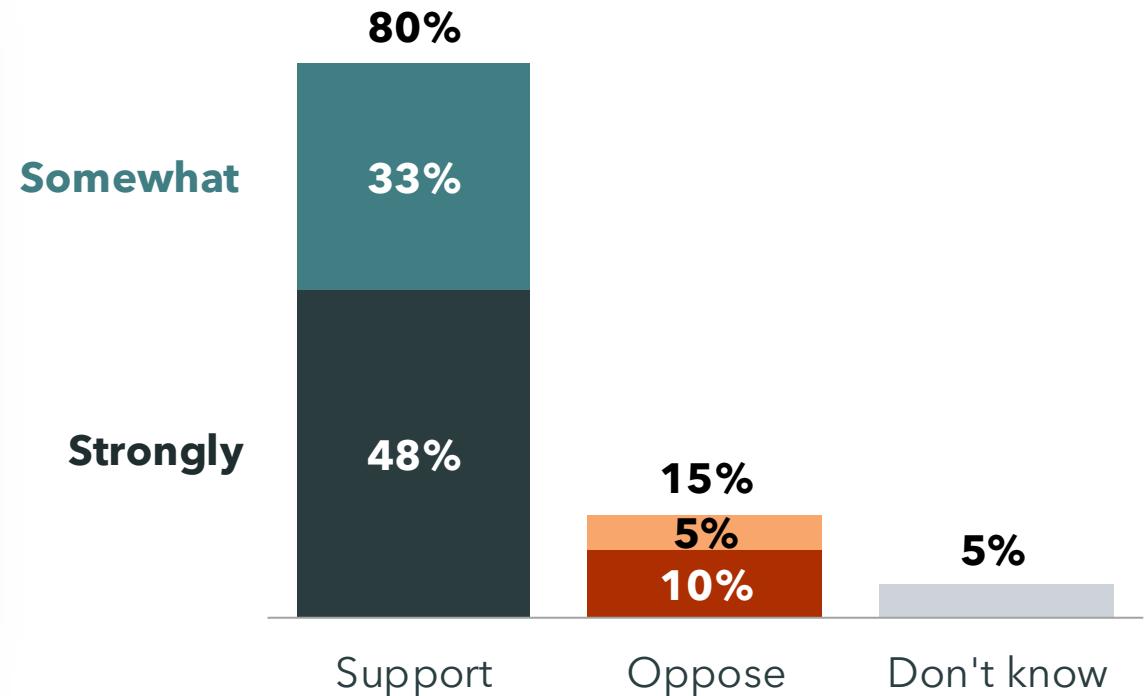
say it is **very/somewhat important** for OPALCO to build local energy resources to minimize power disruption



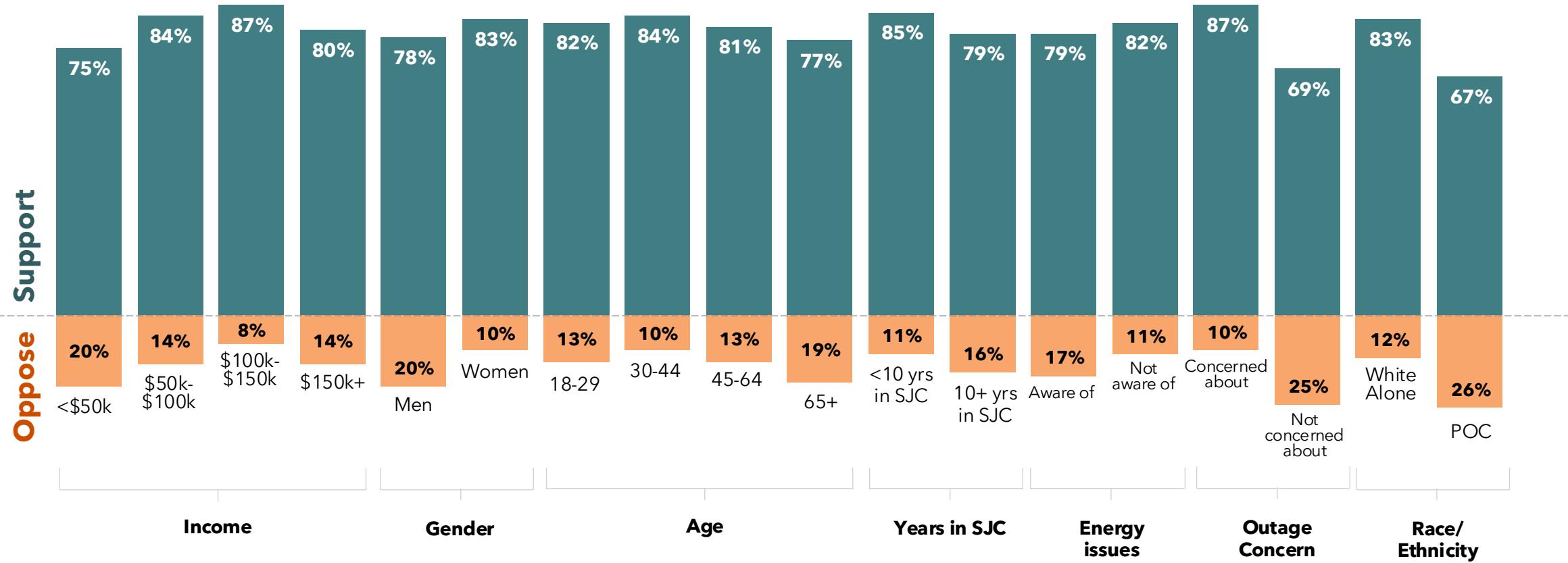
# When presented with OPALCO's renewable projects that aim to prevent future power disruptions, eight in ten are supportive. Nearly half strongly support these projects.

OPALCO is pursuing many avenues to address projected growth, including promoting energy conservation and rooftop solar. However, these avenues alone are not enough to meet increased energy needs.

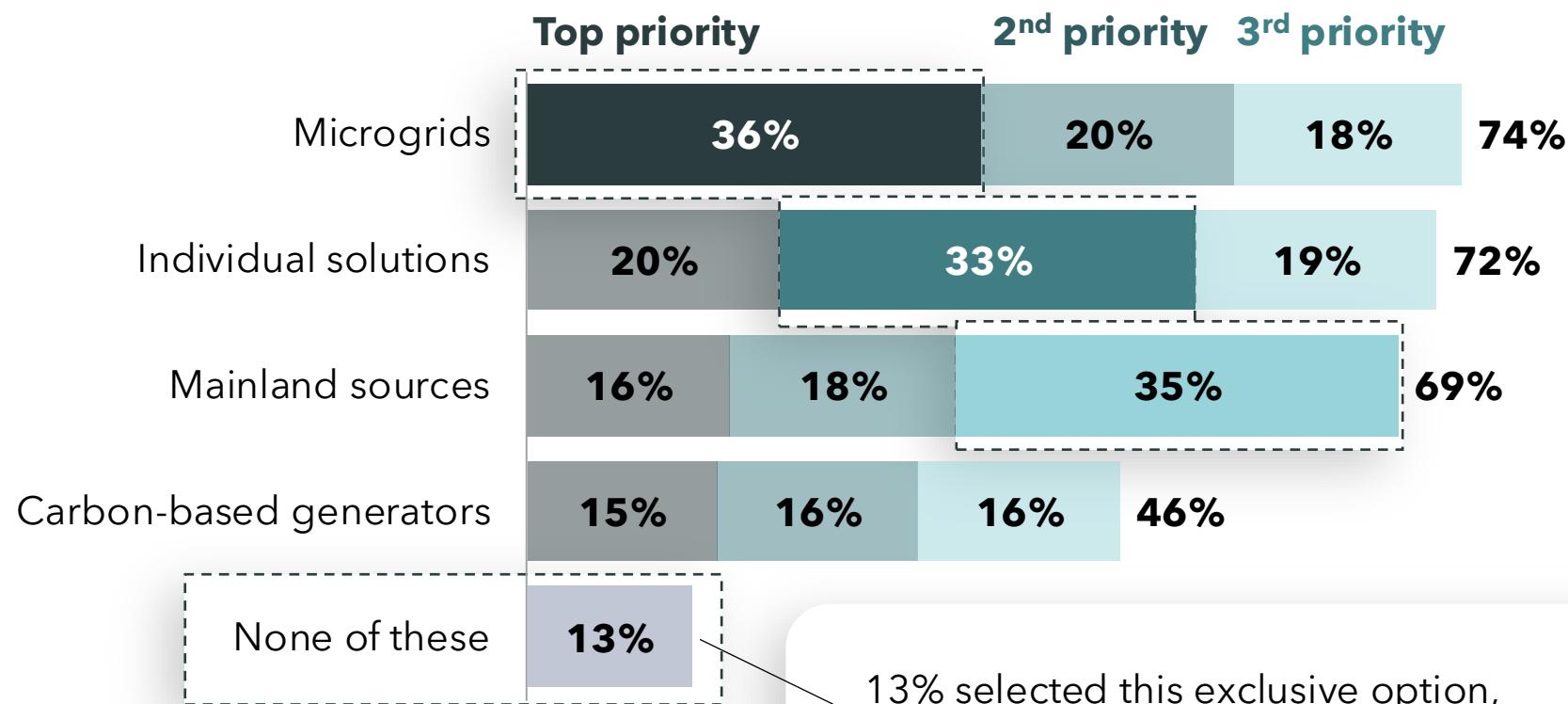
Given this, do you support OPALCO developing local renewable energy projects, such as utility scale solar, battery storage, and microgrids?



# A minimum of two in three customers across all key demographic groups support renewable development.



**When it comes to specific projects, a plurality ranked microgrids as their top priority, individual solutions as their second priority, and mainland sources as their third priority.**

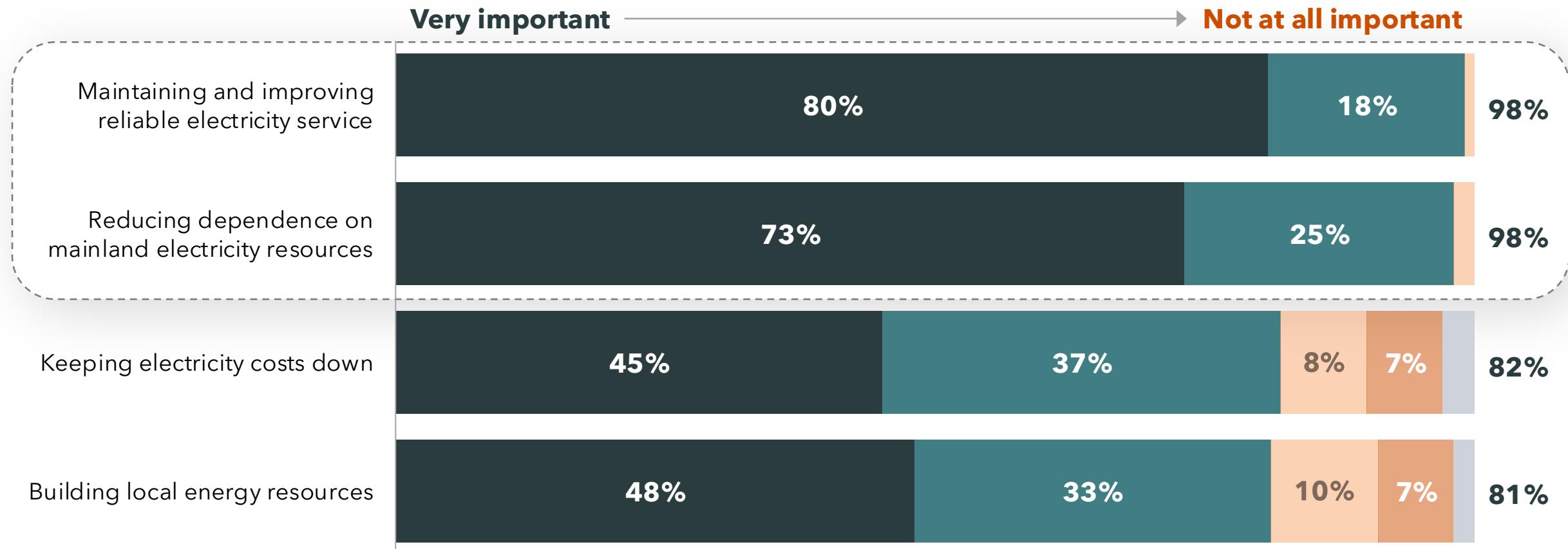


13% selected this exclusive option, indicating no projects were a priority for them.

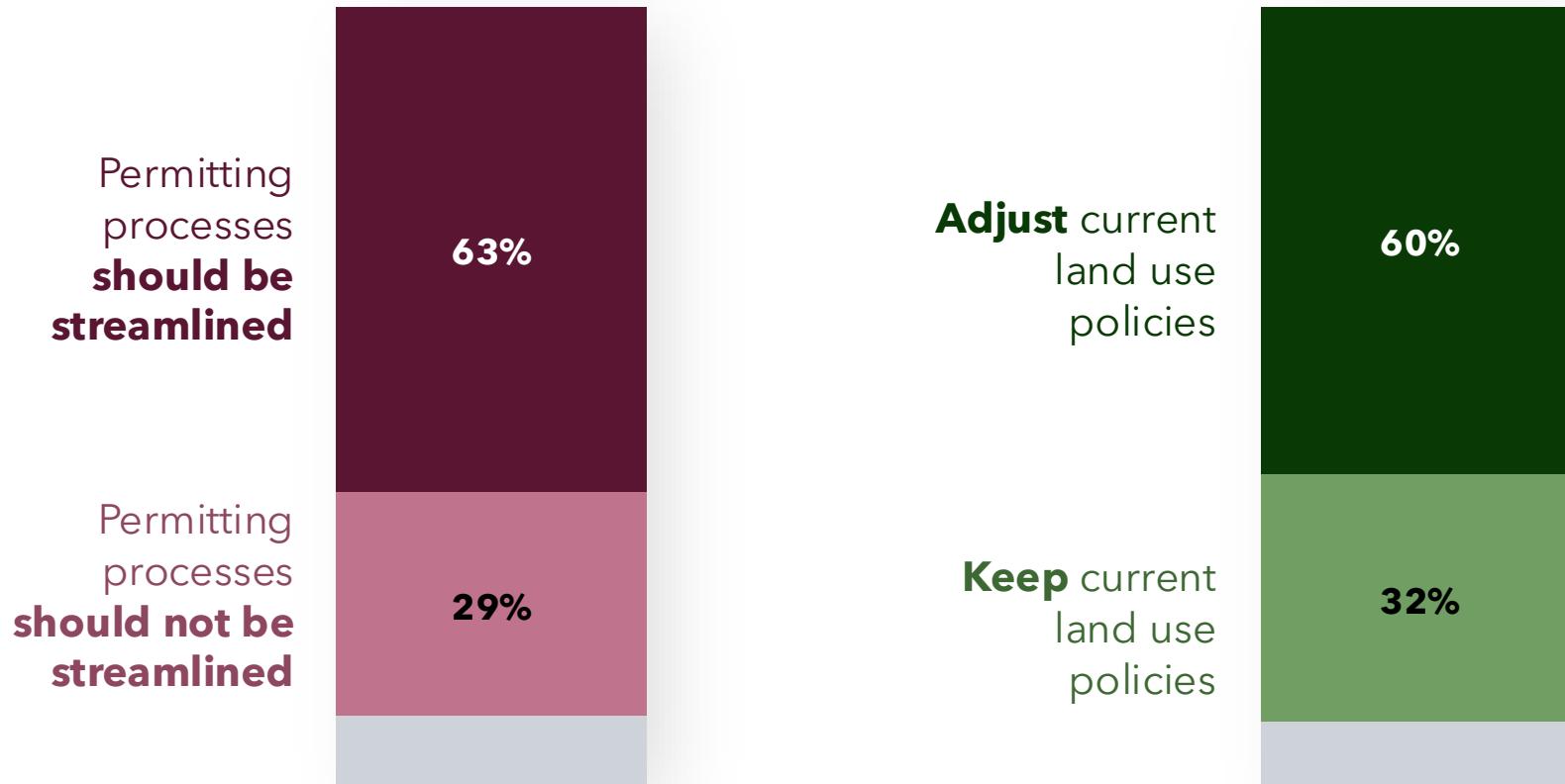
# Energy Reliability



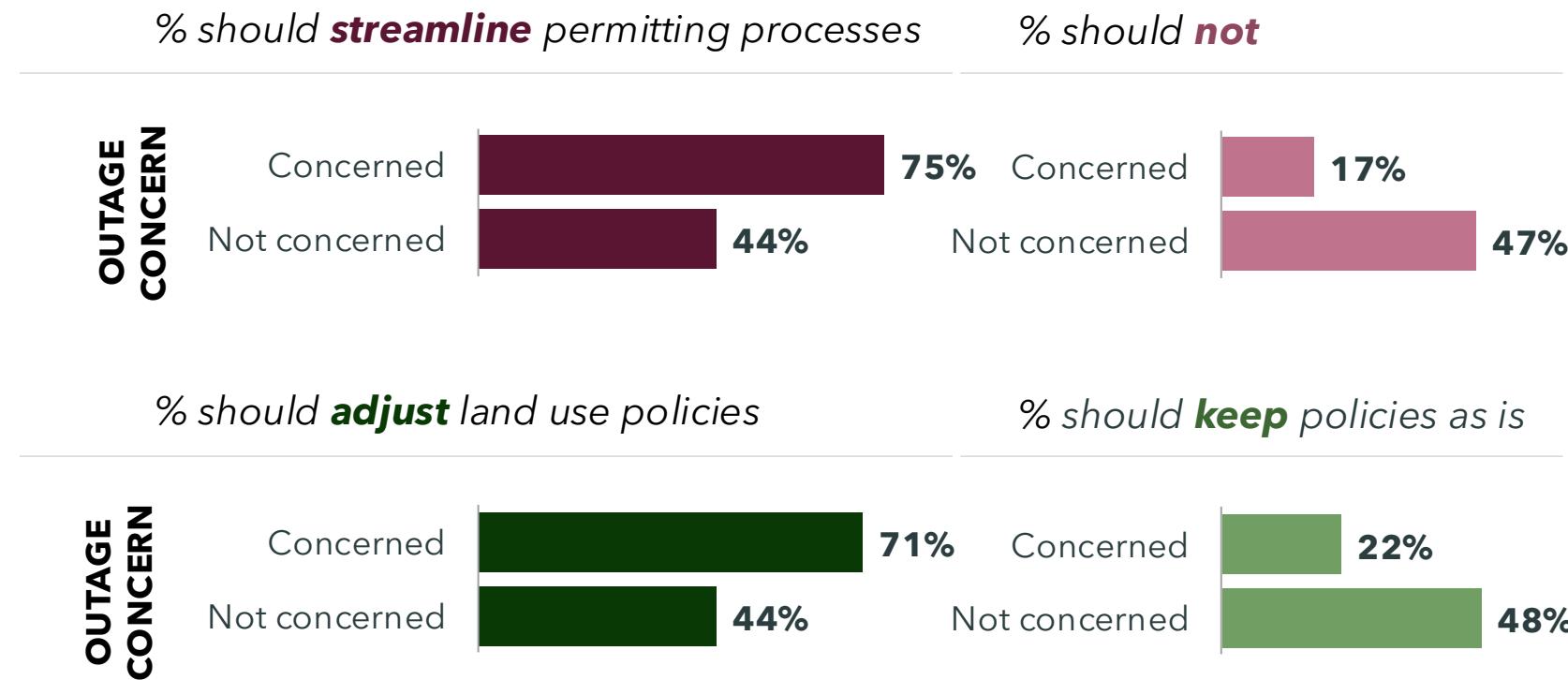
While all of these priorities are important for customers, maintaining and improving service and reducing mainland dependence is nearly universally important.



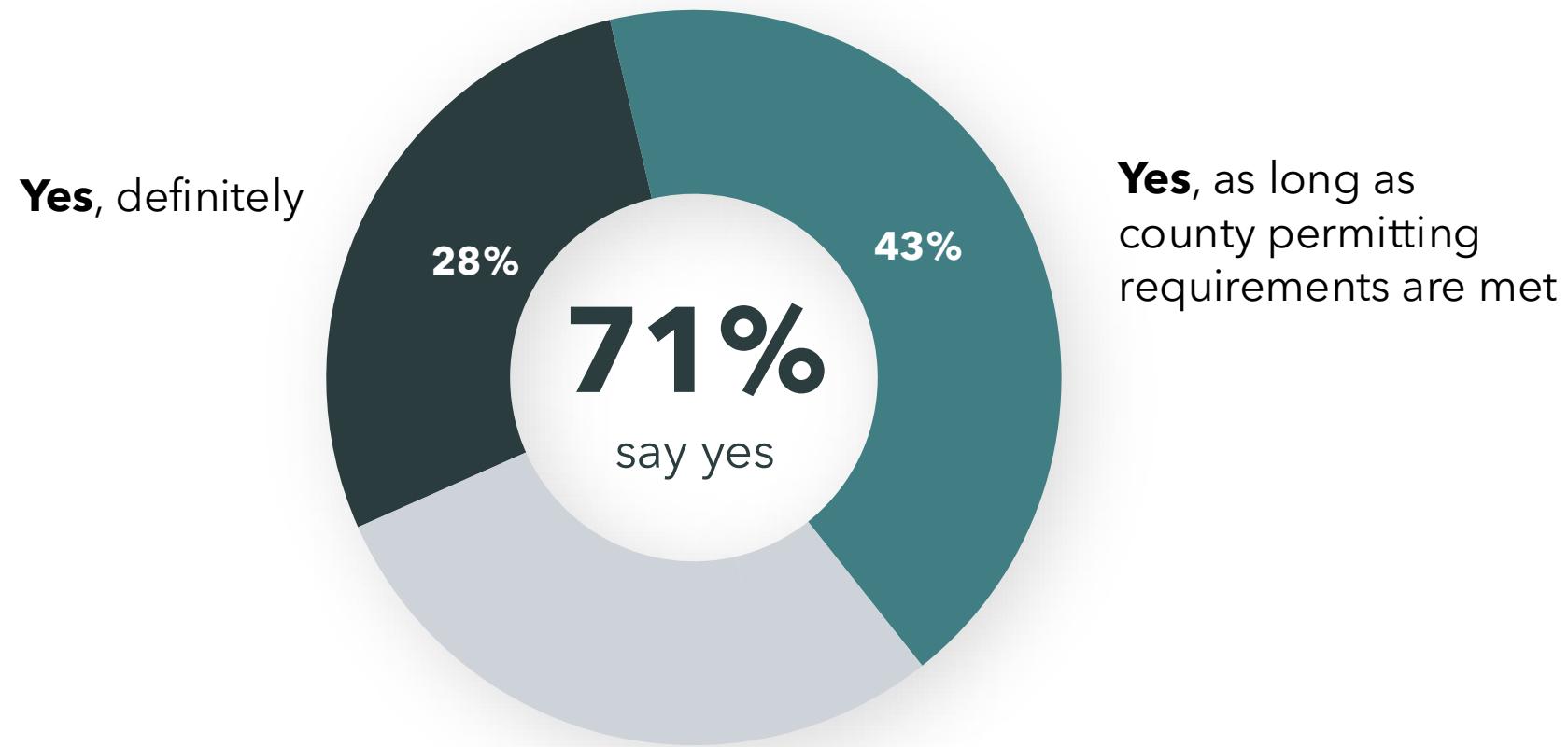
In the interest of maintaining the quality and reliability of service, a majority support being flexible with permitting processes and land use policies.



**While support for flexing land use policies and permitting processes is high, those who are not concerned with power outages are far more likely to oppose both.**



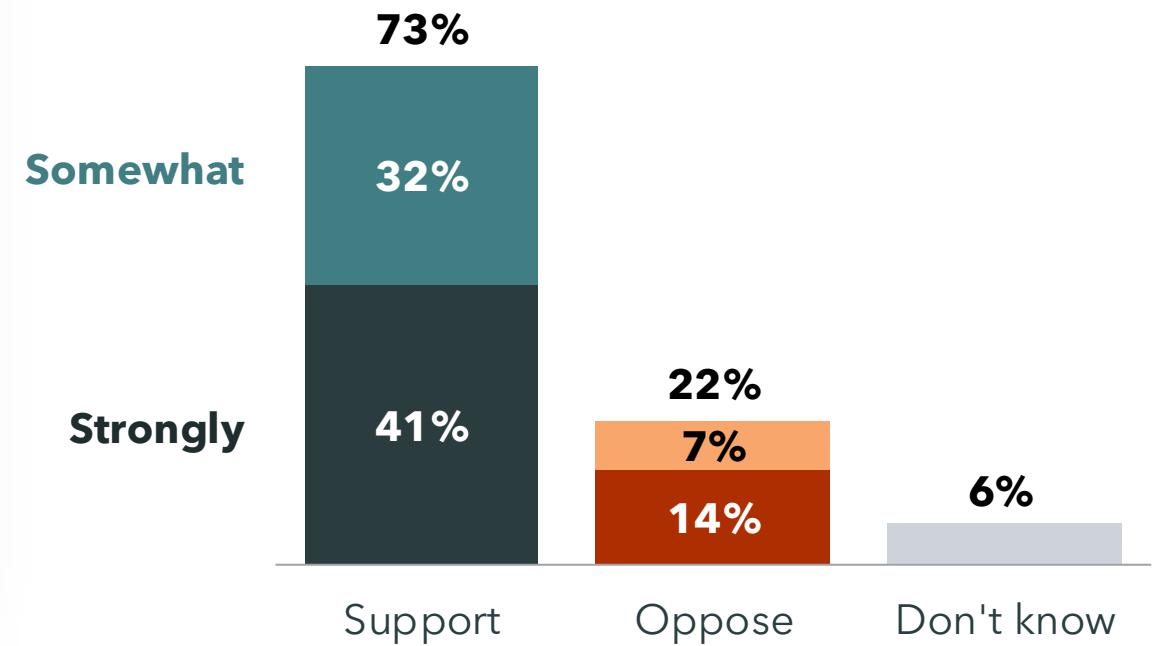
**Over seven in ten say renewable energy development should receive priority in the land use process over other projects.**



# After learning about Essential Public Facilities, nearly three in four support designating renewable projects as such in the interest of getting them built.

*An Essential Public Facility is a land use designation that helps get essential facilities built without circumventing environmental permitting requirements.*

*Would you support designating OPALCO's renewable energy and battery storage projects as an Essential Public Facility?*

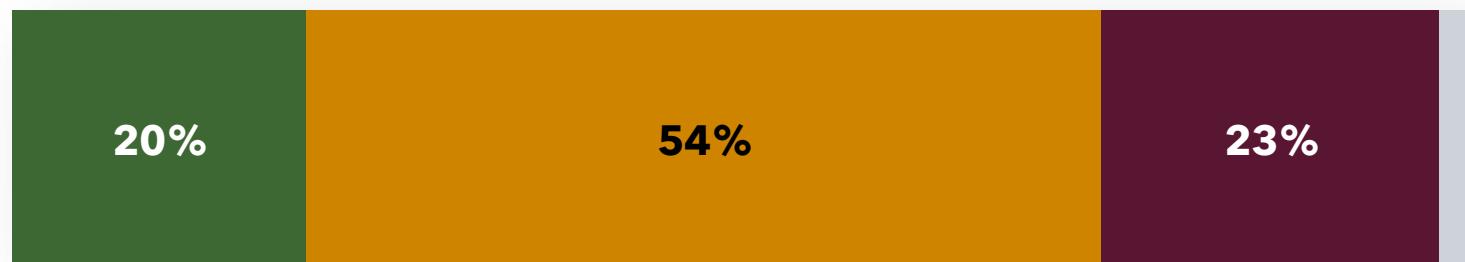


Just as many say the county should adjust policies to allow for more local energy generation - though about half are supportive only if the environment is protected.

74%

**think San Juan County should adjust its policies**

to allow for more local energy generation



**Adjust,**  
as quickly as  
possible

**Adjust,** as long as being intentional  
about environment, conservation,  
and safeguards

**Keep**

# Environment and Aesthetics



# Knowing that San Juan County already has protective policies in place makes nearly three in four customers more likely to support renewable projects.

*San Juan County protects land in environmentally sensitive areas, but severely limits having renewable energy facilities even outside of these areas.*

*Does knowing that San Juan County's policies already protect environmentally sensitive land make you more or less likely to support renewable projects?*

**Much more likely**

**Much less likely**

**Don't know**

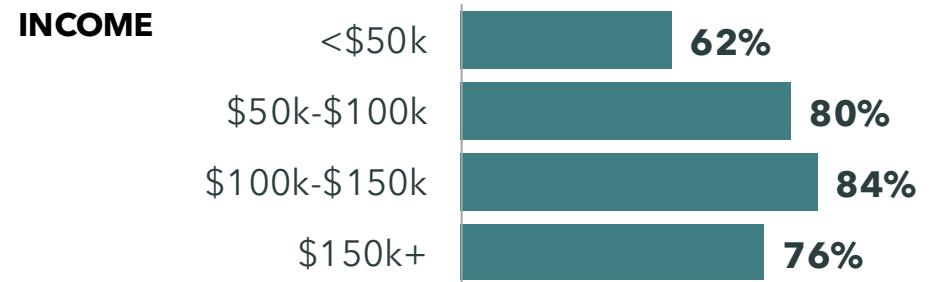
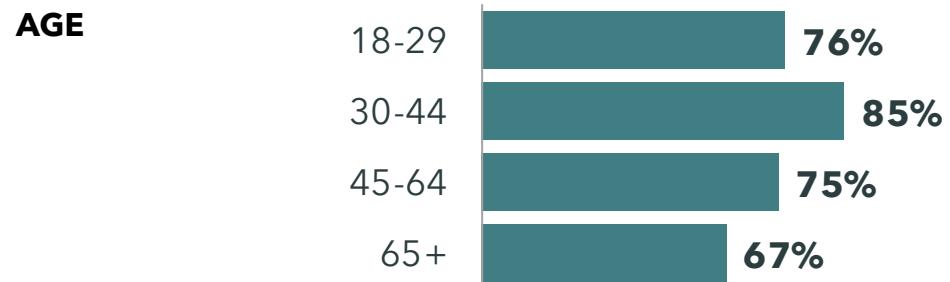
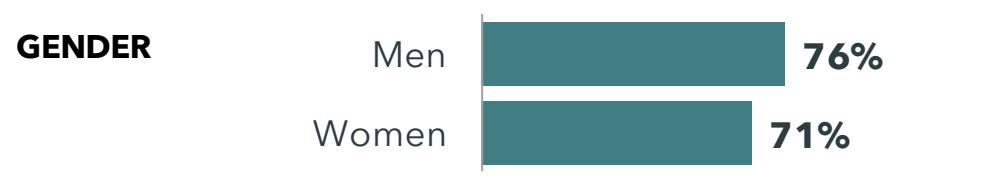


**73%**

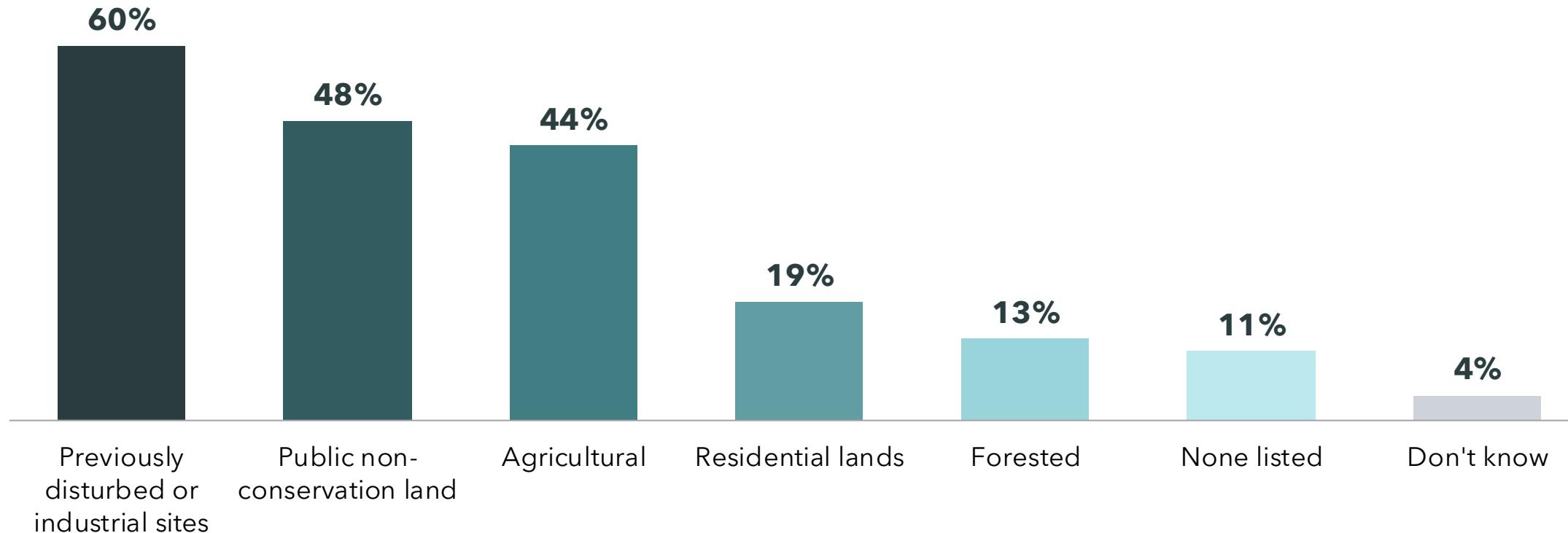
say they are **much more/somewhat more likely to support** renewable projects knowing San Juan County's existing protective policies

While a majority are more likely to support renewable projects after hearing about protective policies, margins are narrower among the lowest income residents and those not concerned about outages.

*% much more/somewhat more likely* to support projects

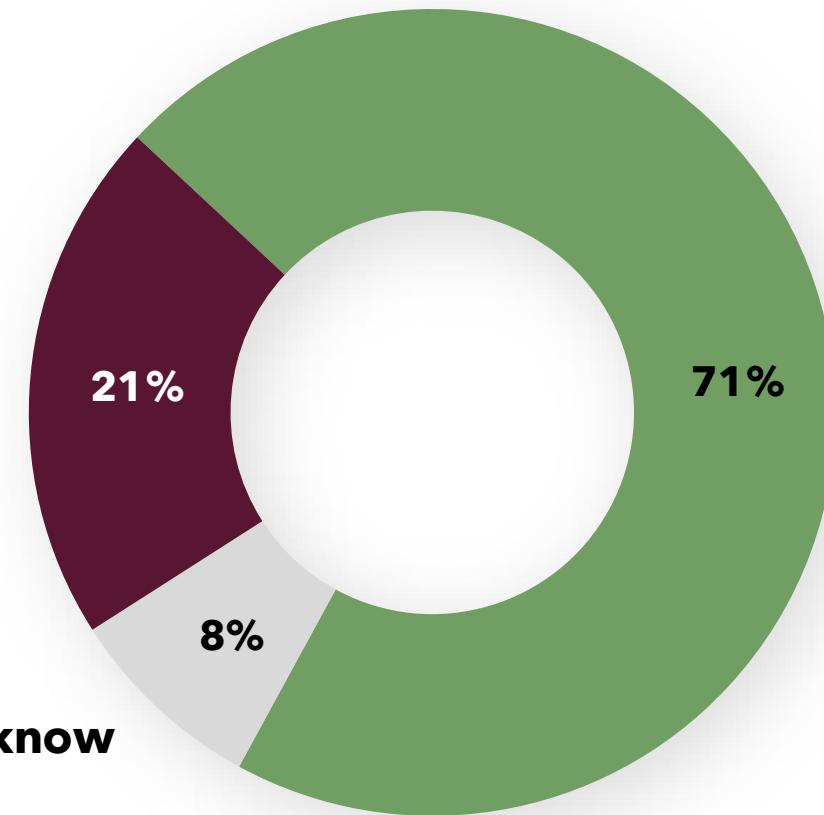


**Customers prefer projects to be placed on previously disturbed sites, non-conservation land, or agricultural plots. Fewer support developing on residential or forested lands.**



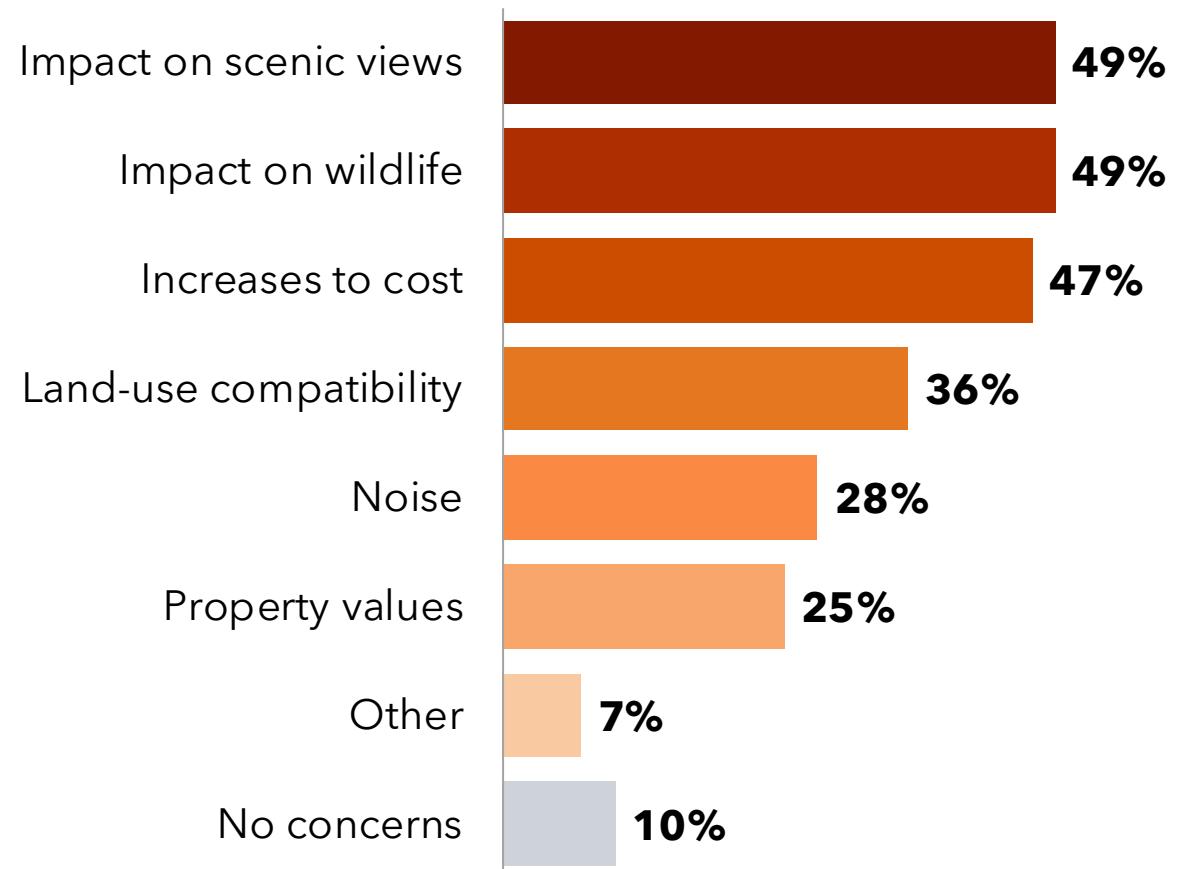
**Seven in ten say any opposition to building renewable projects should be treated with care and efforts should be made to minimize aesthetic impacts.**

**Not build renewable projects,**  
knowing that energy blackouts  
may become more prevalent in  
the future



**Build projects,** but  
make extra efforts  
to shield aesthetic  
and other impacts

The potential impacts to scenic views and wildlife are the greatest concerns that customers have about renewable projects, as is the cost.

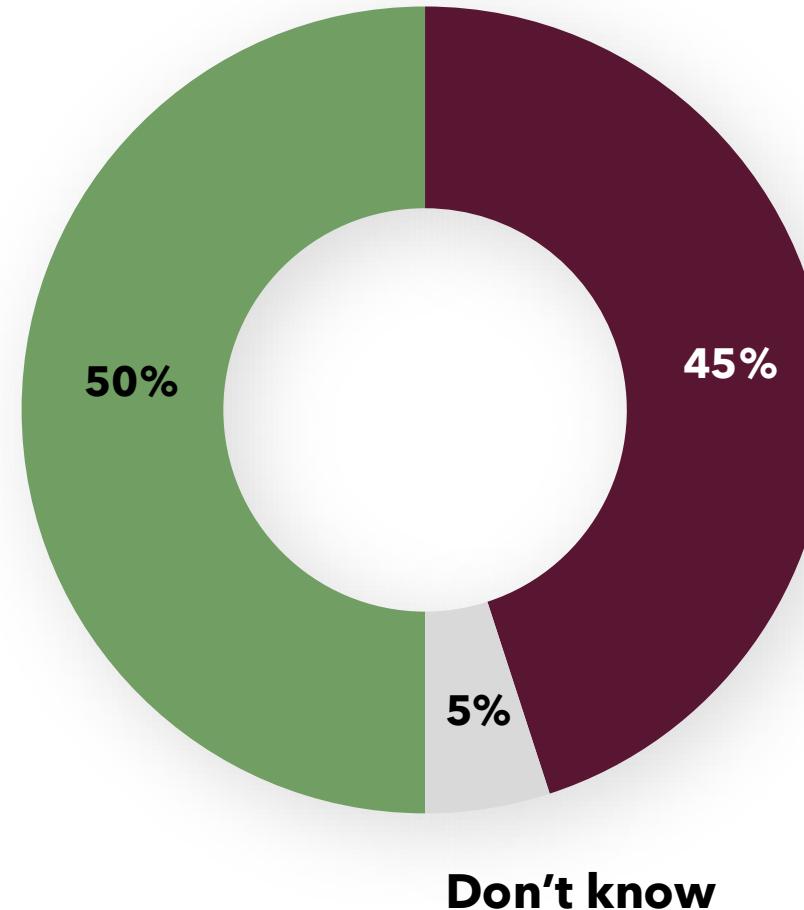


# Costs



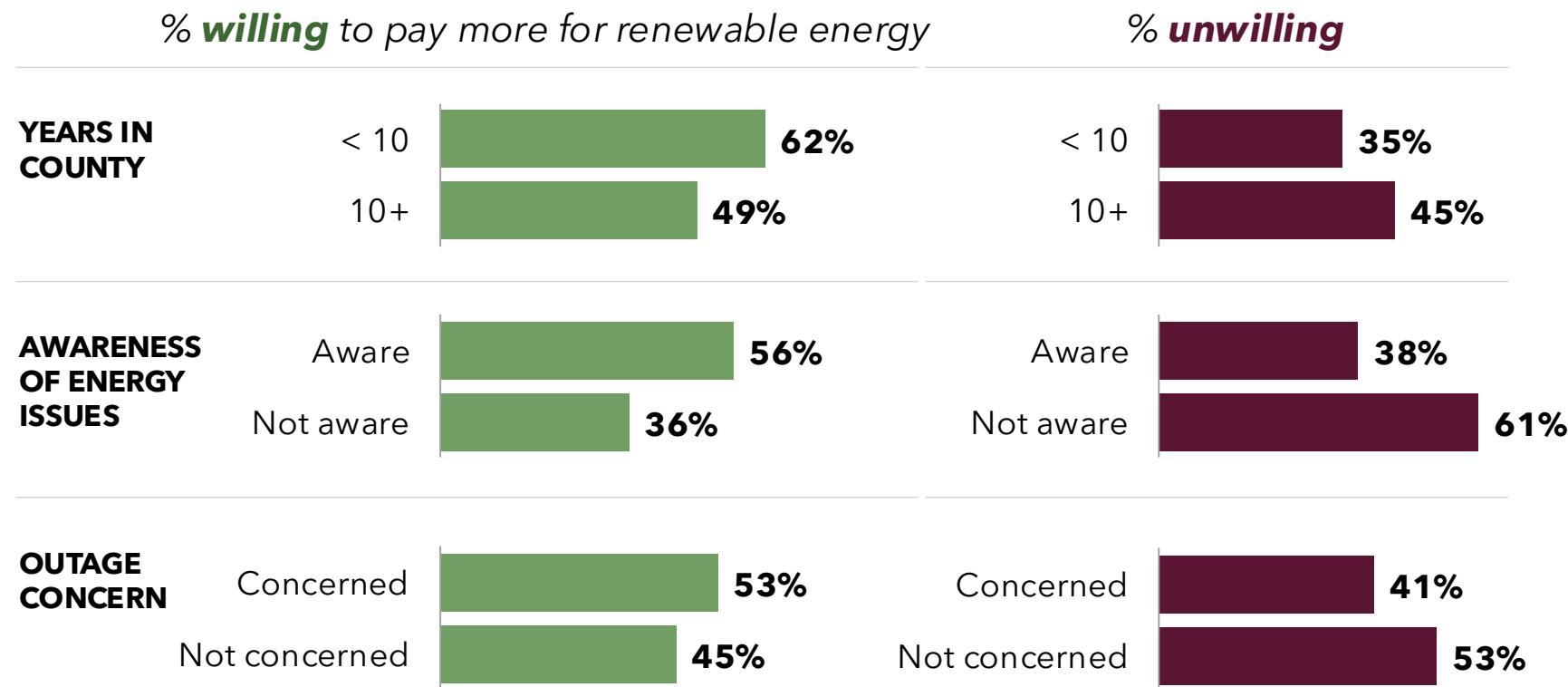
**Customers are split on if they are willing to pay more for renewable electricity in their homes and businesses.**

**Willing to pay a little more**  
for renewable energy



**Unwilling to pay more**  
for renewable energy\*

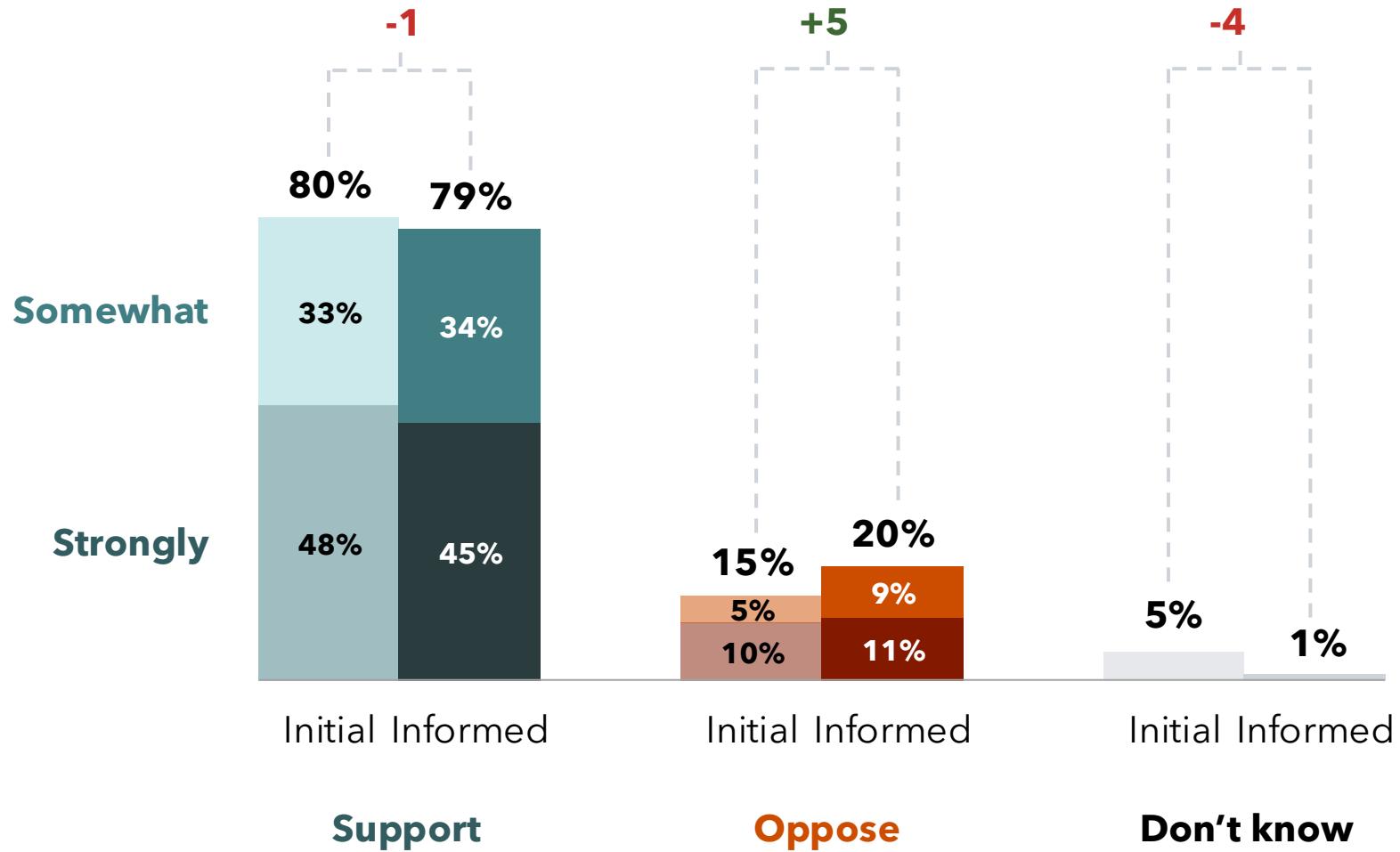
# Long-time residents, those unaware of current energy issues, and those not concerned about future outages are less willing to pay more for renewable energy.



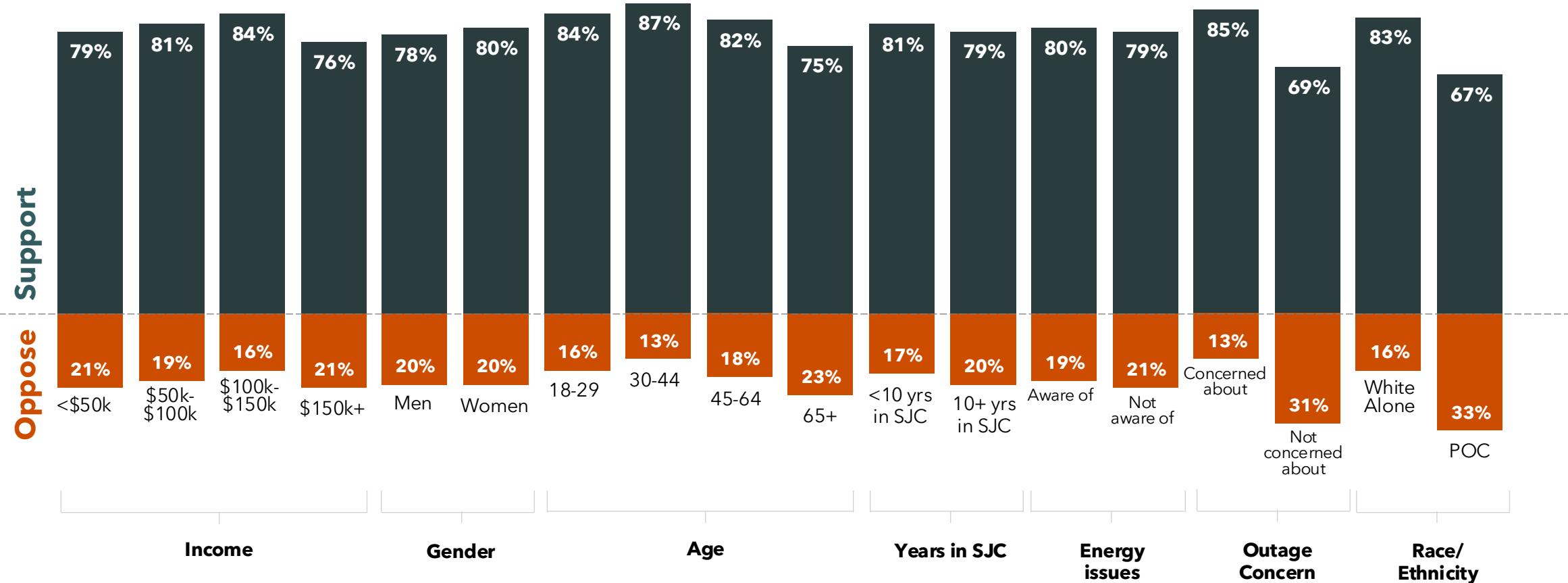
# Support for Renewable Projects and Open- Ended Feedback



# After hearing about projects and tradeoffs, support for renewable development remains high.



# Those not concerned about power outages and People of Color are less supportive of building new renewable projects.



# In open-ended feedback, some expressed lingering concerns about renewable projects - the top concern being land use and aesthetic disruption.

*What final thoughts do you want to share with local leaders about balancing renewable energy development, reliable energy, land-use priorities, and environmental concerns?*

**17%**



## **Concerns about new renewable projects**

- 6% Aesthetic concerns/Land use
- 3% Won't work/meet energy needs
- 2% Renewables don't belong on the islands
- 2% Noise/Pollution/Wildlife concerns
- 1% Building new facilities is disruptive
- 1% Expensive
- 1% Against renewables generally

# Other common feedback matches customers' key priorities - protecting the environment, improving energy reliability, and keeping costs down.

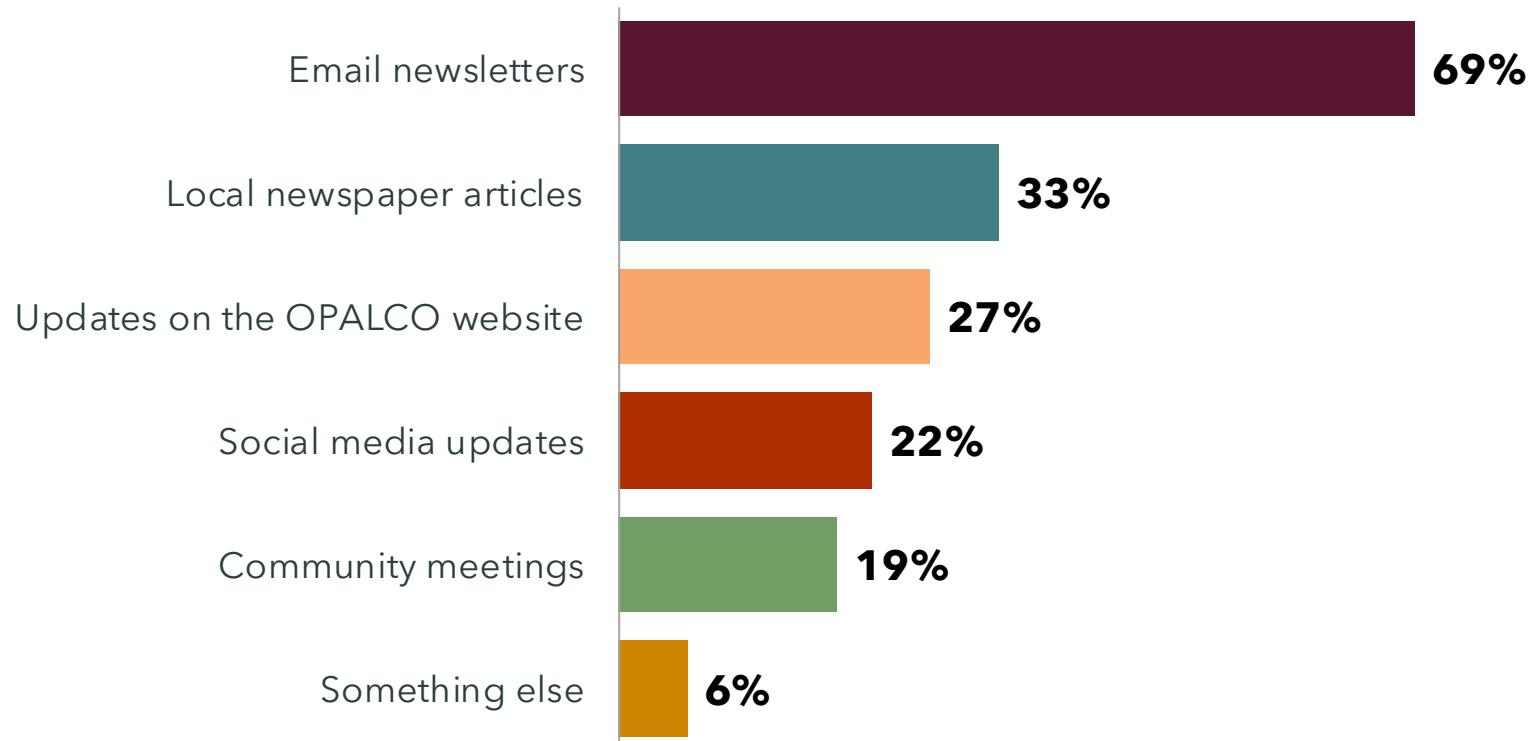
*What final thoughts do you want to share with local leaders about balancing renewable energy development, reliable energy, land-use priorities, and environmental concerns?*

<b>10%</b>	Prioritize protecting the environment/ Addressing climate change
<b>9%</b>	Minimize blackouts/Improve reliability
<b>8%</b>	Keep costs down/Be transparent about costs
<b>7%</b>	Move forward/Produce more energy as soon as possible
<b>7%</b>	Work with people/Get input from community
<b>7%</b>	Renewable energy should be prioritized
<b>4%</b>	Need to ensure the community benefits/Invest in the future
<b>4%</b>	Positive feedback about OPALCO/OPALCO is doing a good job/I trust OPALCO

# Communications

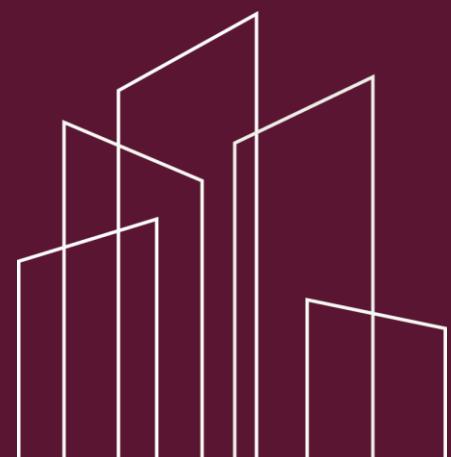


# For updates and communications from OPALCO, about seven in ten customers prefer to receive an email newsletter.



# Community Engagement

*n=989*



# Research purpose

- Assess general perceptions of OPALCO
- Test awareness of and reception to new local renewable project development
- Understand members' priorities for projects, especially environmental and aesthetic impact
- Follow-up to the representative sample survey to increase engagement

# Methodology

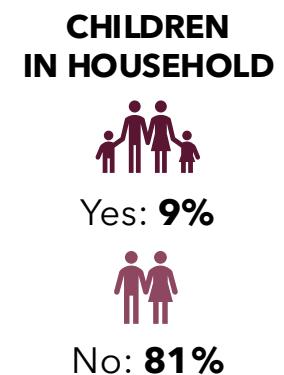
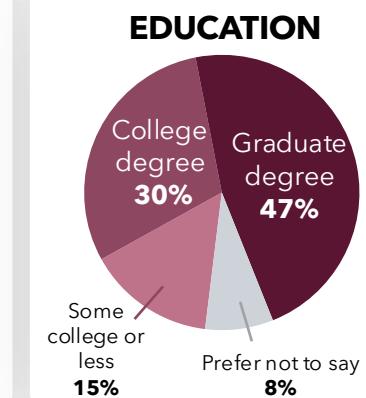
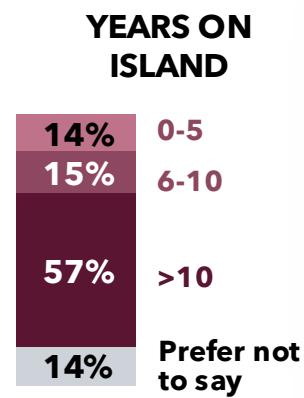
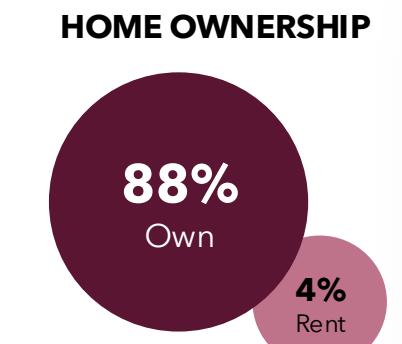
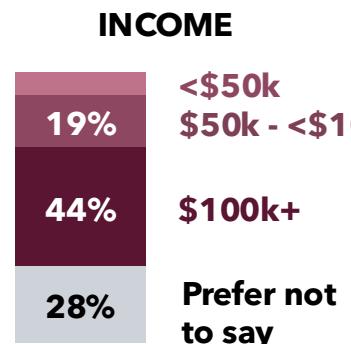
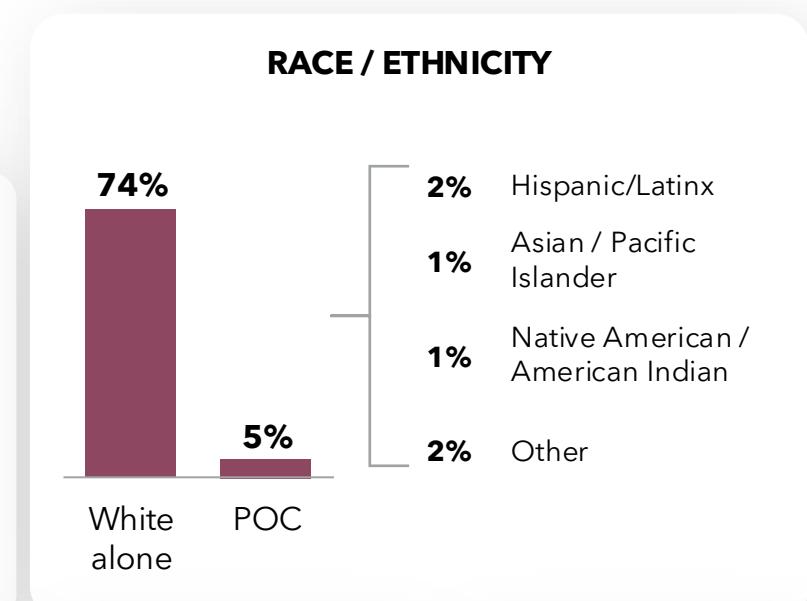
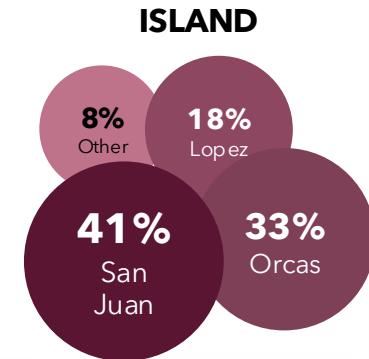
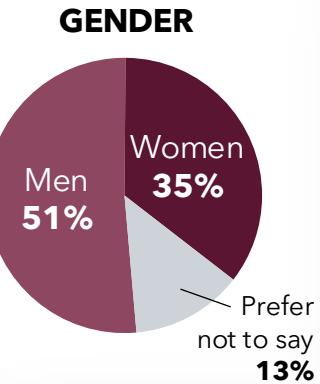
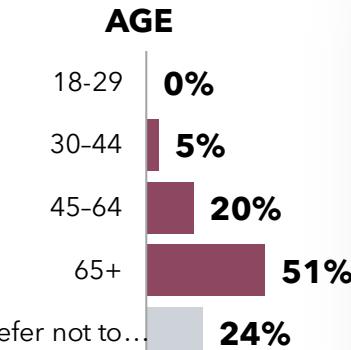
- Online survey of N=989 OPALCO customers
  - Members who had not completed the representative survey were invited to participate in an opt-in community engagement survey via email invitation, social media posts, and other outreach by OPALCO
- Conducted December 1-12, 2025
- Since this portion did not rely on random sampling, data were not weighted and cannot be treated as a representative sample of OPALCO customers
- Due to rounding, some totals may differ by  $\pm 1$  from the sum of separate responses

# Demographics



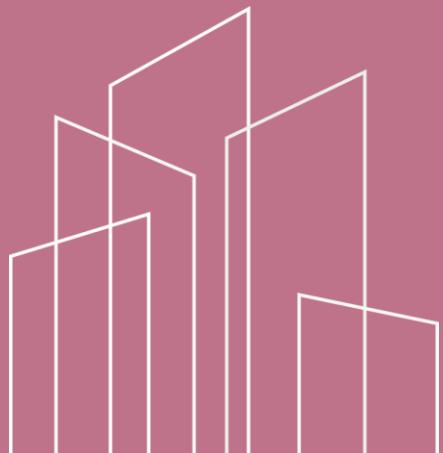
## Demographic breakdown of *community engagement* survey respondents

N=989 OPALCO customers

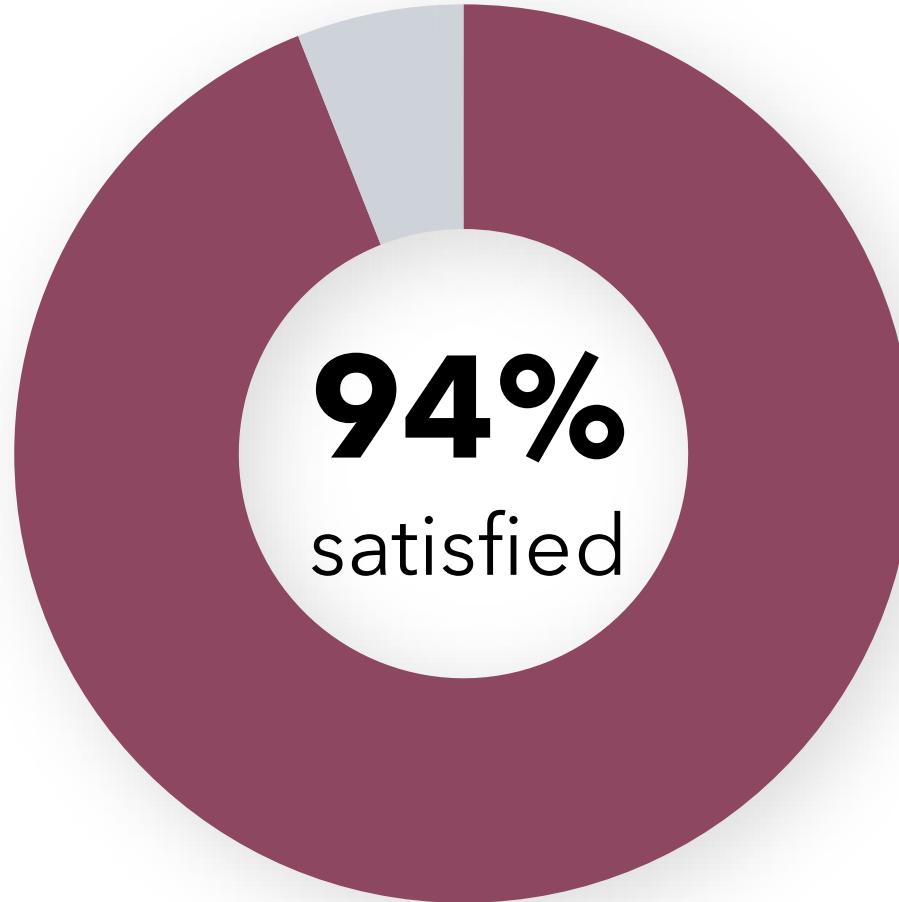


# Key Findings

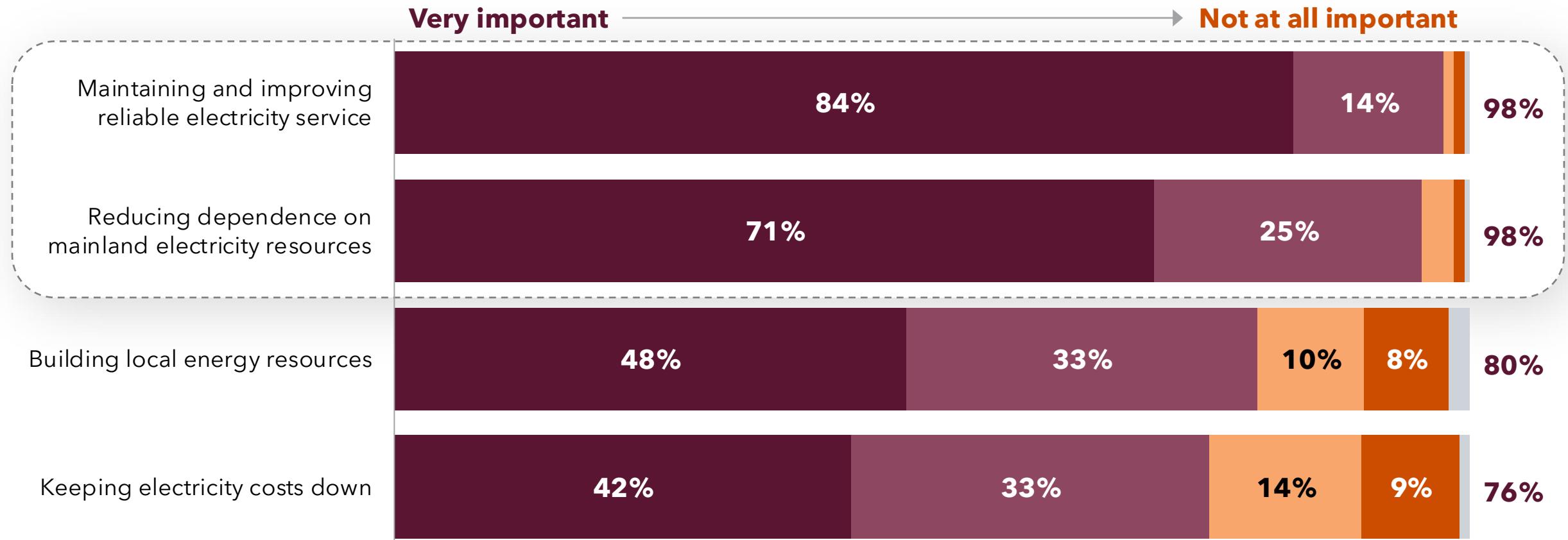
**NOTE: This section does not include visualizations of every question, simply the most key questions. The results mostly match the results from the representative sample survey, and due to the methodology, we cannot compare these datasets.**



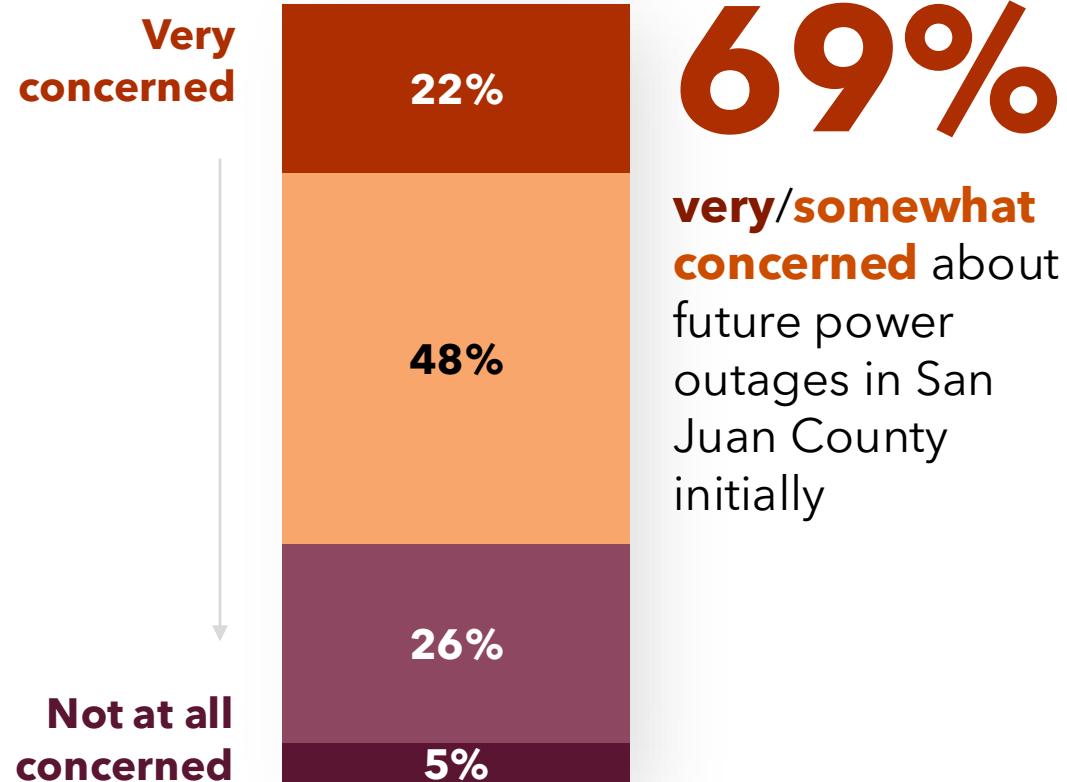
**Nearly all are satisfied with the services they receive from OPALCO.**



# Most rate maintaining and improving reliable service and reducing dependence on mainland energy as important.

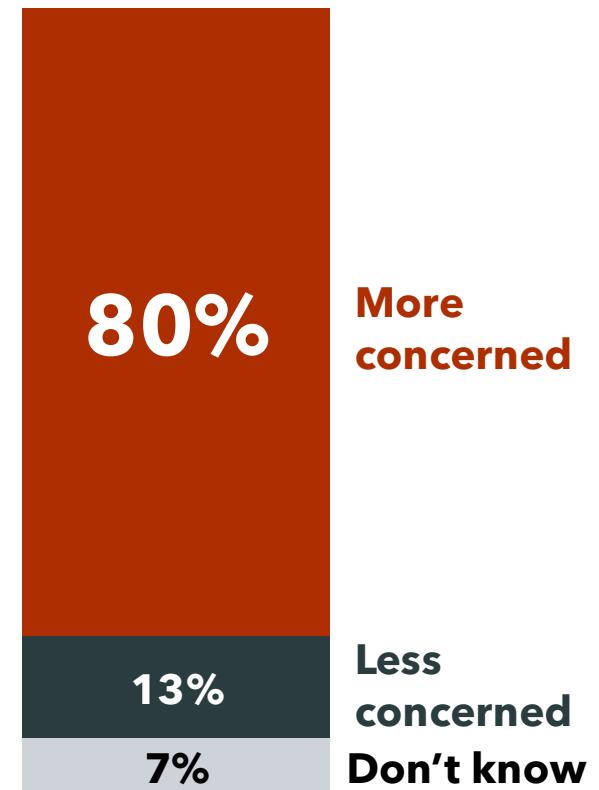


# Over two in three are concerned about future outages in San Juan County. Eight in ten become more concerned after hearing about projected growth.



*Power outages in the county are rare and usually short. However, the county's Comprehensive Plan projects 30% more electrical use primarily due to population growth, and there is no plan for increased electricity need this growth will bring.*

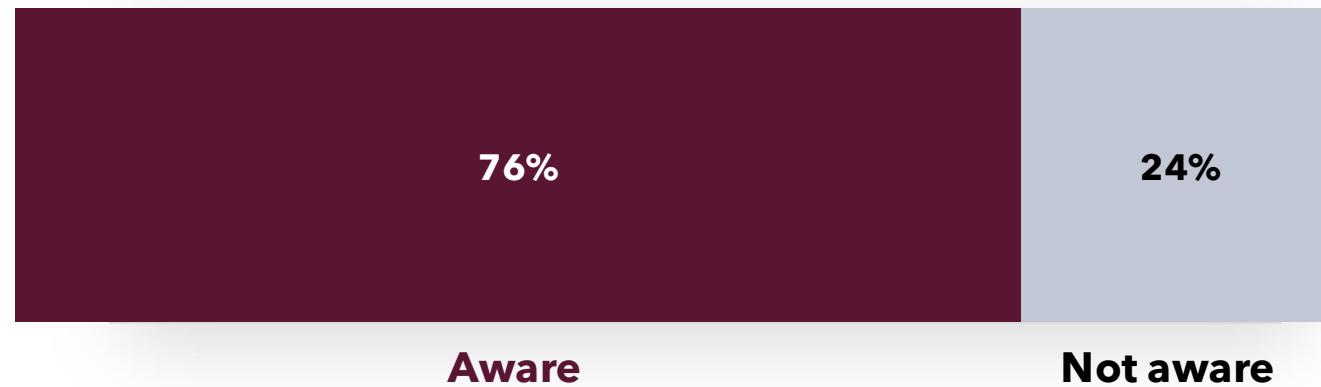
*Knowing this, are you more or less concerned than you were before?*



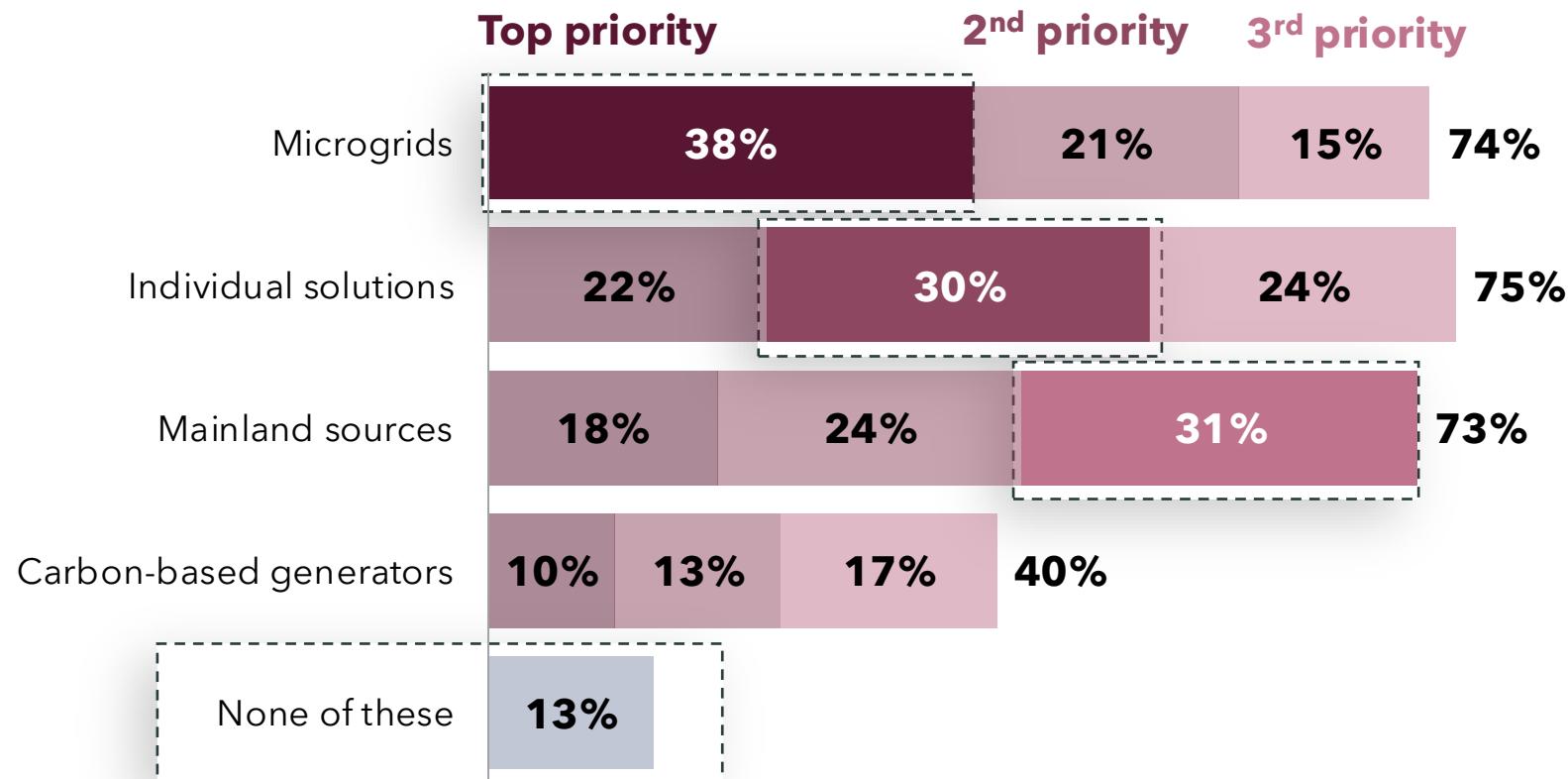
**When it comes to the energy issues in San Juan County, over three in four were already aware prior to taking the survey.**

**76%**

of respondents from the **opt-in** sample  
are **aware of energy issues**



# Microgrids emerge as the most top-ranked project for OPALCO to address energy needs. Individual solar and mainland improvements rank just as highly overall.



# A clear majority favors adjusting permitting and land use policies in the interest of improving electricity service for residents.

We should **streamline the permitting process for essential services**, such as electricity, in the interest of maintaining reliable service for the community.

Current **permitting processes should not be changed or streamlined** regardless of urgency or potential power blackouts.

I support **flexible land use policies** so that OPALCO can improve energy reliability for San Juan County residents.

I prefer to **keep current land use policies**, even if it limits the development of reliable energy sources and may result in occasional blackouts



64%



23%



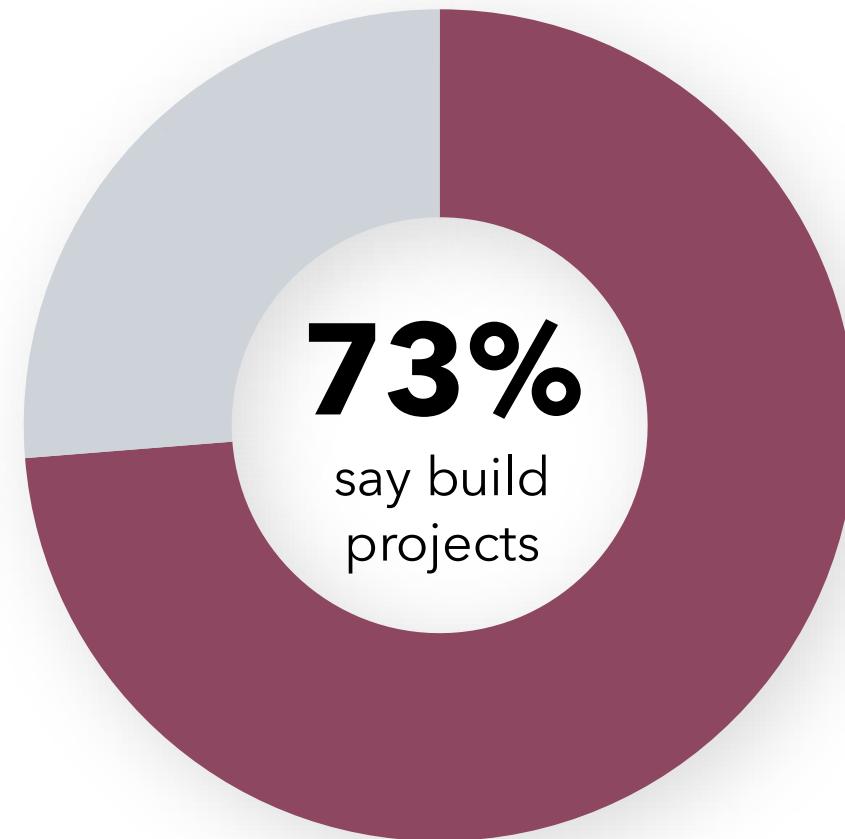
64%



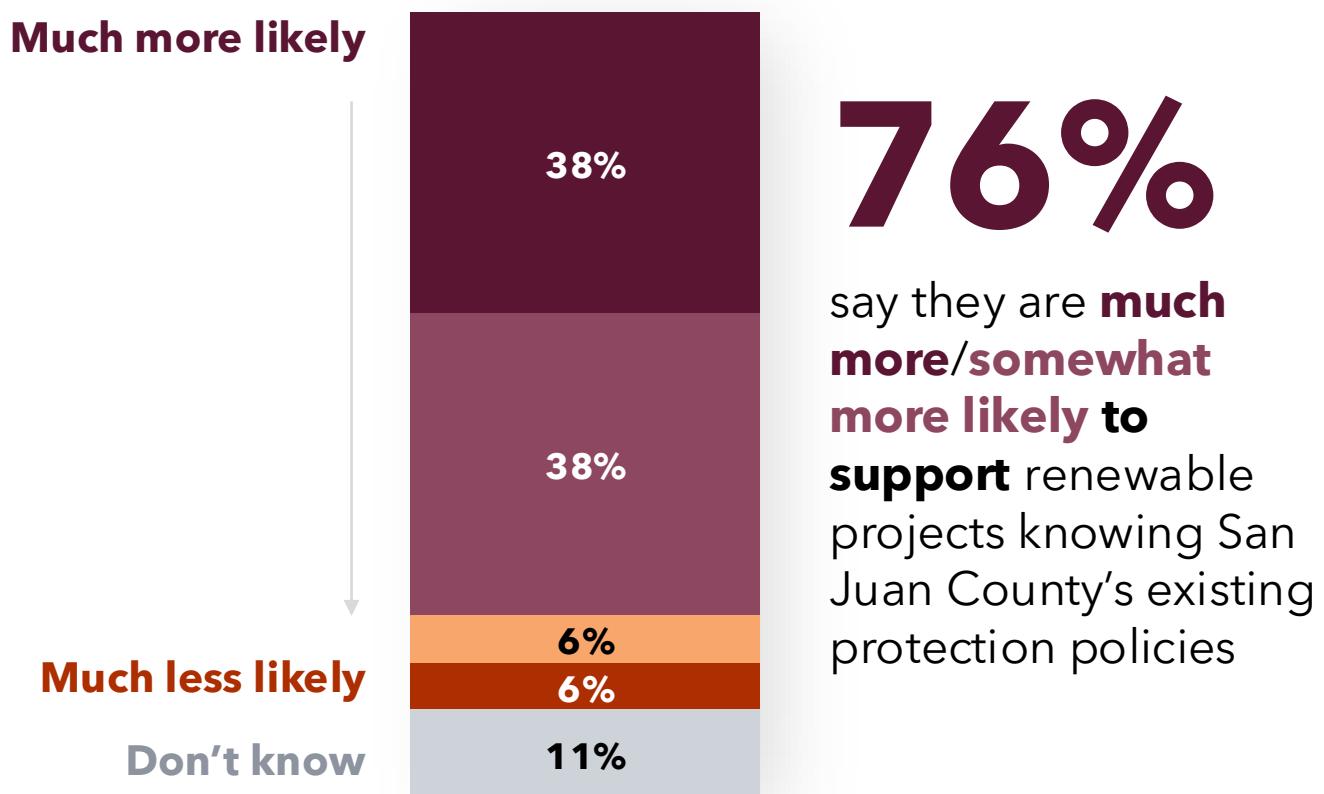
24%

# When asked how OPALCO should treat opposition to new projects from residents, nearly three in four say to proceed with development.

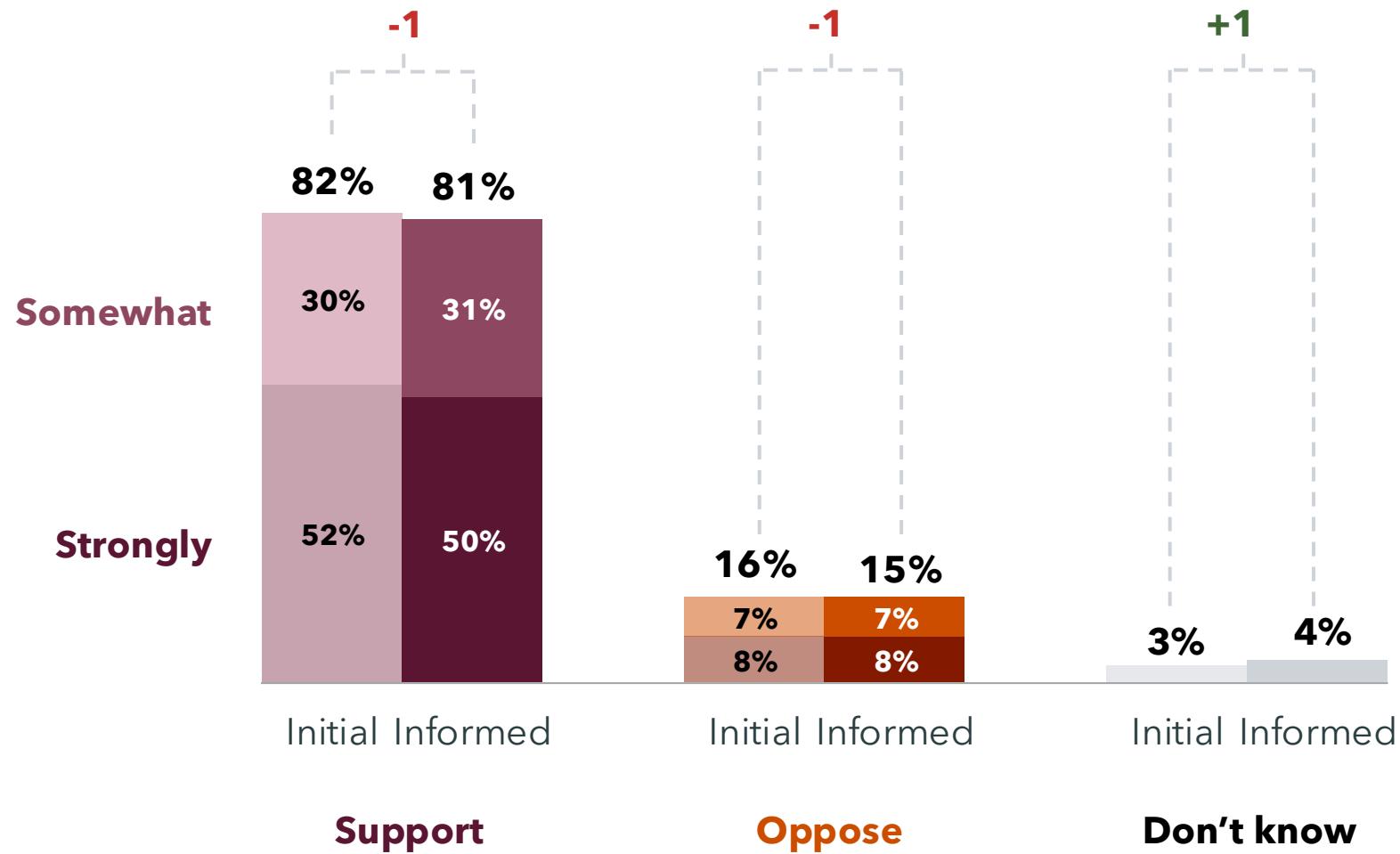
*Most every renewable generation proposed by OPALCO will come with some level of opposition from its adjoining neighbors. **How should OPALCO treat such inevitable opposition?***



# Knowing that environmental protection policies already exist in San Juan County, over three in four say that they are more likely to support new projects.



# Support for renewable development remains high and is mostly unchanged when presented with projects and tradeoffs - about eight in ten support new development.





[dhmresearch.com](http://dhmresearch.com)

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# Summary of Member Verbatim Comments

## Direct Survey Solicitation (Statistically Representative Survey)

### Overview

Comments from the representative member survey reinforce the quantitative findings showing strong overall satisfaction with OPALCO and broad support for improving energy reliability through local renewable energy development. While members express environmental and cost-related concerns, most comments are supportive or conditionally supportive rather than opposed.

### Alignment with Survey Results

#### • Reliability as a Top Priority

Written comments strongly reflect the survey finding that **98% of members say maintaining and improving reliable electric service is important**, and **61% are concerned about future outages**, rising to **74% after learning about projected growth and grid strain**. Many members explicitly reference outages, winter storms, and the risks of relying on aging mainland infrastructure.

#### • Support for Local Renewable Energy

Consistent with survey results showing **80% support for OPALCO's renewable projects**, many comments express agreement that local solar, battery storage, and microgrids are necessary to reduce dependence on mainland power. Members frequently acknowledge that conservation and rooftop solar alone will not meet future demand.

#### • Environmental Protection as a Condition of Support

Written comments closely mirror survey results indicating that **73% of members are more likely to support renewable projects knowing existing environmental protections are in place**. Many respondents emphasize careful siting, mitigation, and protection of wildlife and scenic views, without rejecting renewable development outright.

#### • Land Use and Permitting Tradeoffs

The comments align with survey findings that **60% support flexing land-use policies** and **63% support streamlining permitting processes** when necessary to prevent outages. Members often express concern that current permitting rules delay essential infrastructure even when projects comply with environmental standards.

#### • Cost Sensitivity

Some comments echo the survey's split findings on cost, where **50% are willing to pay more for renewable energy and 45% are not**. These responses typically express caution about rate increases while still supporting reliability improvements.

#### • Opposition to Development

A smaller subset of comments reflects opposition to changes in land-use or permitting policies, consistent with the minority of respondents who oppose renewable development or policy flexibility in the quantitative results.

### Overall Conclusion

The representative sample comments confirm that **most OPALCO members support local renewable energy development**, particularly when framed around reliability and paired with strong environmental safeguards. Opposition exists but is limited and not representative of the majority view.

# Summary of Member Verbatim Comments (Continued)

## Member Initiated Survey Responses - Opt-in

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Please note due to OPALCO's online commenting policies we have removed 5 comments that in violation of our commenting criteria and contain one of the following: insults, threats, harassment, personal attacks, vulgar language, misinformation, or promote violence or illegal activities.

## Representative Verbatim Comments

A hope developing local renewables ultimately leads to lower costs for your customers. Electric bills are already too high.

Address local concerns and keep costs low

All of them

Balance carefully

Balance energy growth with environmental care.

Balance energy responsibly.

Balance renewables with reliability, affordability, and respect for land and environment

Balance sustainability

Balance wisely

Balancing the above.

Be careful about renewable energy project that have failed

Black-outs should be minimized or avoided

Build community trust early and continuously

Build in ways that avoid harming habitats.

Can putting wind or solar projects on current right of ways be considered?

Choose smarter sites like rooftops, brownfields, and disturbed land

Collaborate with farmers

Communicate with the people

Communicate with the people about updates

Consideration should be given to limiting the construction of new high demand facilities (data center) while opals struggles to keep up with demand.

Cost of development should be reasonable

Costs should be kept low

Create adaptive policies that can evolve with technology and market changes.

Create policies that will protect the land

Diligently study it.

Do it

Do not focus on personal gain, work for the best interests of the people

Do not harm wildlife

Do not increase cost

Do not water energy and do not like solar farms

Don'

Don't allow for more population growth. Encourage the use of less energy

Don't damage the environment for the sake of energy.

Don't have any thoughts to share as of now.

Don't kick the can.

Don't mismanage the money

Don't sit on your hands, look to the fury

Ease off on restrictions and speed up the review and permitting process. It is absurdly long and painstaking.

Energy situation will improve

Energy sources being renewable is good in the long-term

Engage communities early in project decisions.

Ensure local benefits from energy projects.

Ensure projects deliver local revenue, jobs, and long-term value.

Ensure reliable electricity while expanding renewables

Ensure that the costs stay low

Fast development is necessary

Firstly, thank you. Next, please involve the public in the process. There needs to be continuing education and public acceptance, consistent with OPALCO mission!

Focus on balance.

Focus on delivery, not generation

Focus on the environmental impacts

Focus on the quality of services

Follow the rules and help protect our beautiful islands.

Gas turbines are a much better solution for backup power than solar and wind farms.

Get it going sick of waiting for it mad that it was blocked mot too long ago

Get more sources of energy renewable and reliable.

Get public input early in project design and continuously.

Go for the best option while maintaining as much of what we currently have in place is my support

Go micro nuclear
Good as long as the prices don't increase
Green energy is not reliable
Green energy projects can be unreliable
Grow thicker skin to the people who are super ignorant towards renewable energy. This will help the environment
Hope that they keep it affordable
How serious is cable deterioration? Also, what is a caprice shock□, as combines with another negative impact in an earlier question? And, what are the personal health risks of options, compared to currently used energy sources?
I am for renewable energy but not in the San Juans. They should be preserved as they are right now and there should be no extensive development but it should be minted as is. It should not be further developed. But renewable energy should go everywhere else.
I am not too sure
I appreciate the opportunity to give some input.
I believe opals is doing an excellent job and trust them to the right thing and thing they do things well
I believe renewables are overall cheaper and more efficient than traditional power sources
I cannot make a decision with little information. If a solution was presented with pros and cons (specifically) I would be more willing to weigh in.
I don't give a darn about the land use they talk about. I'm all for electricity and not have it go out or blackouts or whatever you call it.
I don't have any
I don't have any.
I don't have any. It's fine.
I don't know
I don't know right now
I don't know, some of these renewable, where's the money? I'm not in favor of wind, solar in the summer is great.
I don't see why we need to go through with the project
I don't think its going to work and shouldn't waste our money do it id rather them build a power plant and generate our own power
I don't trust the liberal eco nuts not to tramp on peoples rights to their land
I feel like it will help in many ways
I feel that we need to do more to produce energy on island
I feel very strongly that a Palco is not taking into consideration the environmental damage of placing many solar planet panels overland when there are sufficient rooftops to put solar panels onto that would adequately support all of San Juan county. Particularly the rooftops of for-profit entities could be largely used to power, San Juan county. There is no need to clear land to place these horrible solar panels that are incredibly inefficient. Same goes for the ocean. Please do not start using wave energy technology and killing sea life. Participa
I have nothing to say
I hope you can make it happen. Good luck with the landbank people
I need to know more about the benefits of renewable energy
I realize its a tough situation as isolated as we are and we need to do what we need dot do even if it costs more we need the reliability
I strongly support renewables for reliable, affordable energy, with care for land and environment
I support it should be a high priority
I support president trump's plans for American power generation
I think it is important to have stable power and decrease the amount of blackouts, but it is equally as important to preserve the environment.
I think it should be left in the hands of opals leave it to them
I think it will benefit many
I think its a good idea to be looking forward, the infrastructure needs to be maintained
I think solar over tidal energy generation should be pursued for local renewable energy sources. Solar panels on existing buildings with a tie in to our existing grid would be a good starting point.
I think that this is a great thing for our environment
I think there needs to be a concerted effort by opals to incentivize rental property owners to replace electric resistance heating and other conservation improvements. It benefits both the utility and the renters .
I think they need to really educate the public on what their actual renewable energy implications are on the land.
I think they really, really need to have small gatherings with people so people can get together and understand this. Truthfully, I don't understand any of this, and I'm not stupid. There's an aging population.
I think those questions probably covered it
I think we should work on upgrading the power grid, while still protecting the environment.
I think we've covered it
I trust them with the project
I was initially opposed to the project preposed at Douglas and bailer hill, but have decided it is a good solution.
I would certainly prioritize environmental concerns because I don't want to see the environmental uniqueness ruined
I would like them to stay the way they are now

I would like to see more renewable energy sources on the islands now that the technology is available.
I'll be happy as long as costs are affordable
I'm a senior and need reliable energy but also am concerned that future
Idk
If you can't support local energy production, you need to limit growth
Increase local energy.
Invest in future generations
Investigate the latest in nuclear power. Solar can not compete with it
Involve the public
It is important to balance everything
It is required, if needs are to met properly.
It's a tough balance, but I would support people having power especially in the winter months.
It's good to give this a high priority
Its all about what kind of renewable energy they are going to use people should reduce their usage of electricity
Its important we need to do that . Make the county survivable
Keep costs low and protect use
Keep electricity as cheap as possible
Keep energy costs low even if it's renewable.
Keep energy reliable and affordable, while respecting land use and environment
Keep moving forward with clean power while respecting the islands character
Keep projects local but watch costs closely
Keep reliability strong while protecting the islands natural beauty
Keep the cost of energy low
Keep up the good work
Keeping the environment clean and energy renewable is a priority.
Land should be used respectfully
Land shouldn't be disrupted due to these energy projects
Lead with more environmental impact transparency and research findings.
Let's stop burning fossil fuels and support local energy, especially in cooperation with farmers.
Limit construction of facilities
Limit growth
Listen to your right pair owners, and stop trying to build industrial scale, solar energy facilities in our beautiful san juan islands. Just knock it off. Stop using scare tactics like those in this survey. Build a resilient grid connected to the mainland that has worked for 100 years. Stop being ridiculous.
Maintaining good services should be the priority
Make sure all voices are heard
Make sure costs don't increase
My concern with solar is least days of sunshine and solar is not feasible, we shouldn't sacrifice our farmland and the county won't have a big increase in population
N/a
N/a
N/a
N/a
N/a.
Na
Need to be transparent about costs
Need to communicate with the people
No
No
No
no comment at this time
No concerns
No concerns
No final thoughts
No further thoughts at this time
No green energy bs.
No idea
No real concerns but I think that it is really important to think and continue to work on the environment.
No thoughts

No thoughts
None
None at this time
Not all renewables are the same. farm solar, wind, marine hydro, and residential-based grid-tie are each unique. opals should spend some effort to make these distinctions for customers and the public and diversify.
Not much to say
Not sure
Not sure
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing comes to mind
Nothing else
Nothing to add
Nothing to say
Opalco should expedite fiber connectivity throughout the sji, instead of finding reasons not to do so. It's frustrating that opalco and its contractor rock island, is in charge of bringing island connectivity up to basic current standards.
Palco is doing a good job keep it up
Please don't ruin our home
Please get something built before we exceed the capacity of our undersea cable
Preserve irreplaceable landscapes when planning projects.
Prioritize disturbed land before using prime land.
Prioritize generating sources that work when the sun is not shining like tidal generation project, we need baseload type power capacity to compliment the intermittent ones.
Prioritize reliability while respecting land and nature.
Prioritize reliable local energy.
Prioritize streamlined and functional energy but not at the expense of environmental health.
Prioritize sustainability.
Prioritize sustainable growth.
Protect ecosystems thoughtfully
Protect nature
Protect the environment
Protect water and ecosystems during development.
Protect wildlife
Protects the land
Put on a new cable to mainland
Quit messing with Decatur island
Quit trying to get renewable energy it is not feasible get if from the mainland
Rates should be kept low
Reasonable cost and development
Reduce blackouts.
Reliable energy matters, but it must be developed with respect for out environment and community values
Reliable energy matters, with care for land and environment.
Reliable energy should be the priority
Reliable.
Remove fixed rates. Charge more for actual usage to encourage conservation. Promote and encourage rooftop rooftop solar
Renewable energy is a good investment for the city
Renewable energy is not reliable.
Renewable energy is very important to me. Keeping our island beautiful is also very important!
Renewable energy should be directed to already-disturbed or low-value land first.
Renewable energy sources are great as long as you don't charge me more for them and you adhere to county guidelines for everything.
Renewable energy sources are the future but shouldn't be very costly.
Renewable sources ae really important

Renewable sources at ANY cost are not acceptable. Balance fossil fuels with renewable sources and add in renewable ONLY if they are efficient, cost effective and not harmful to wildlife. I am totally opposed to green energy at any cost. That's idiocy.

Renewables now!

Slow down growth

So I think opals needs to raise its based rates for the big mega houses they are ridiculously cost I have a smaller house and get charged the same for a bigger house. Palco should be not making people pay the same rate and not make people more

Solar is not feasible

Solar panels do not belong in fields and open land, or in my opinion anywhere on the islands unless it's a roof of a business or residential house.

Speed up clean energy while keeping safeguards

Stay flexible as technology and needs change.

Stick with it.

Stop harming the planet

Sunlight is not a sufficient energy source

Support careful growth

Support construction of solar that allows homeowners who do not have sufficient sunlight to participate

Support local energy projects while protecting the environment and community lands.

Support renewables for reliable energy, but balance with environmental safeguards and smart land use

Support renewables while keeping energy reliable.

Talk early, listen often, and share benefits with the community

Thank you for info

Thank you!

Thanks for taking on this controversial but essential issue

That people should support the alternative energy use and build the grid next to offices that never happened we don't have and why not

That we should do more to help the environment and give people around us tips of how to help.

That, you people that are in control of the future of San Juan island need to do your homework and the best you can do that's all you can ask of anybody

The environment is of utmost importance

The environment needs protection

The focus should always be sustainability

The islands are being spoiled for future generations by overdevelopment.

The islands shouldn't be disrupted because of this

The land use

The project will be good for the community

The San Juan islands are beautiful and on lopes heavy on agricultural. I would not build renewable energy, which is extremely ugly on such a small island you say there's going to be a 30% growth they won't be coming if the grid can't handle the homes. Energy is already very expensive in the San Juan islands and the taxes are horrendous. I think that's one of the major problems as you continue to raise the taxes so nobody wants to pay more especially during these uncertain times. The mainland has the space and closer technologies to run the power to

The technology isn't there to help our situation.

There headed in the wrong direction, they could use nuclear energy its more cost effective

There's always people who are going to protest object or complain but I think that projects need to go ahead regardless of that because of the long term benefits are more important than the short term perceived problems

These are tough trade-offs. Transparency about costs, risks and other key issues are key to educating us

They have done a lot of good so far

This is a challenging issue with many constraints. Continue being transparent and over-communicate even the minor details. It feels that many are unaware to the sobering reality of what poor power reliability looks like from quality of life, cost of living/affordability, and deflated property value perspectives. The other reality is the cost of energy production will likely increase with the exponentially growing power requirements (and customer demand) of datacenter compute. Palco may want to consider even more aggressive contingency plans - if the

This is a good way to reduce the amount of black outs that occur

This is not a reliable form of energy

This project should be completed faster

Tidal slow generation and windmill sites that doesn't kill wildlife

To protect local wildlife

Transparent communication and shared benefits

Unsure

Unsure

Use smart siting to place renewables where they fit best.

We are dealing with many constraints

We have to make sure the environment is not impacted by this significantly

We need a variety of energy sources

We need energy that's reliable and doesn't cause blackouts.
We need long-lasting solutions. The county has to quit dragging its feet. The permitting process is ridiculously cumbersome, and the environment must be protected but it must be rational. I almost died in the last great freeze and electricity shutdown, as it happened when I was in the middle of a severe illness. If I could afford to leave the island I would have, but I have nowhere else to go.
We need to be producing more energy
We need to focus on reliable energy sources
We need to make much more use of nuclear fusion. By that I mean the Sun, which is the nuclear fusion reactor that powers all life on earth. Solar power plus battery storage is the way to go.
We need to make sure we still take care of the environment
We need to take care of ourselves as much as possible
We put money to opals to get renewable energy developed here people blocking it absolutely want to see the energy developed
We should not only be looking at renewable sources but other alternative solutions such as a second feed from the mainland. look into small scalable nuclear power plants. Don't put all our efforts into unreliable green energy project that have a limited lifespan and downstream environmental impacts .
We should use our land properly
What about incentives for property owners to create energy capacity or resilience? Would like to hear more.
Whatever is less expensive and rely without effecting views
Why are san.Juan.County energy rates the highest in the state? report more on that
Wildfire is a huge potential danger. Energy projects should be developed to mitigate that danger, whenever possible.
Wildlife should not be harmed
Wind farms - although prob not an option here - look horrible. Solar farms look horrible. Not sure the balance of production and visual
Wind turbines should not be used, they make noise and kill birds and bats. I believe that tidal energy generators are the only reliable source for renewable energy.
Work with bonniville to get nuclear power on the mainland and all the wasted opalco funds should go to additional cable service from the mainland instead of all these wasted systems of solar, water, etc
Work with the people
Worried about the costs but the project sounds good
Worried about wildfires
Would be good to see steady progress without losing what makes the island special.
You are paying 2-4 cents per kwh i believe building out local renewable sources in scale is a boondoggle. The worst place on earth for it is on the islands.

## OPT-IN VERBATIM COMMENTS

30-40% of all electricity is wasted
86% of our power is from hydroelectric which is already a renewable resource. It is wasteful to spend our limited financial resources on unreliable and expensive solar
A little common sense and communication go a very long way. If consumers are aware of impending issues support should meet less resistance
A more aggressive tiered rate structure that forces members to better manage loads. also, raising kwh rates incentivizes renewable energy
A underlying lack of trust in projections and community outreach by utilities because of past foolish decisions such as nuclear power and giant noisy ugly windmills. Emphasis is always on build rather than conserve. Utilities seem always to want a new build project, even if ridiculously poorly planned "ala past skagit valley giant nuclear attempt.Makes it hard to trust utility forecasts and presentations of options now!!
Act now as waiting could put us behind the eight ball as the population grows.
Act now on local renewables
Add new connections to the mainland for capacity. Replace existing.
Affordability
Affordability is main concern. don't facilitate environmentally and economically burdensome population increase.
All of the "concerns" generated in this survey were scare-tactics, irrelevant but valid in their context. They were removed from their relevancy and context and used as a segue to change minds to focus on blame rather than self responsibility.
Free energy is the only answer. And, an EPU is nomenclature to free access without responsibility due to title and privilege.
All renewable infrastructure development should geographically coincide with areas in san juan county of highest electric demand. Start with builds on san juan, orcas, and lopez islands first. Don't dump these onto outer islands until the largest power consuming islands have theirs in place

Among environmental impacts it is important to consider noise and nighttime light pollution. Many eis fail to attend to these effects on habitat, and focus on the wishes/complaints on human inhabitants. In balancing our community's needs vs. Environmental harms, please keep in mind that the energy from mainland is generally quite "green" and the island community is generally independent & rugged enough to withstand most power outages.
Anyone who can't deal with a power outage can install a generator or go to a cooling or heating center. Invest in that. Sji is tiny and not a meaningful contributor to global warming. To trash the landscape and view corridors with solar farms is a terrible idea. utility scale battery farms are not ready for prime time and \$\$. Appreciate Opalco being pro-active with renewable energy goals
Appreciate what you are doing
Are you considering residential wind turbines to produce renewable energy in the winter
Are you thinking we are hawaii? Diesel generation is the way to go? Do we have the sunlight capacity for solar?
As a homeowner i am interested in solar energy on my residence but find the cost prohibitive
As a resident of the oaks on sj island, i'm fully aware that i have a nimby attitude about a solar farm on the curve of douglas road. i support both wind and solar, but not so close to road's edge in a rural residential area.
As an 80 yo starting life on shaw and lopez, watching the change from small farming to retirement folks and tourism the issue is population growth. i would encourage much higher county taxes land taken out of agriculture and forested areas for development.
As an expert in land-use, it is not true that current county regulations truly protect our environment. Therefore, OPALCO must hold itself to the highest "best science available" renewable energy projects that have the least possible impact on land and community.
As islanders, i think the vast majority of us trust in opalco's ability to serve the needs of our islands in an environmentally compatible way.
As power continues to rise, do everything you can to increase power production on the island
Bailer Hill should be approved ASAP. No reason to not put the solar in that spot.
Balance
Balance is the answer.
Balance the above as well as keeping our electricity costs down.
Balanced renewable energy development is needed, make it so
Balancing all this is hard work but it must be done.
Balancing should make economic sense.
Battery storage is essential to any discussion on sustainable energy. The more power we can store in our local grid, the better.
Be accountable, and keep costs as low as possible.
Be as sensitive to the land as possible
Be efficient; make it work.
Be mindful but don't have different rules for the wealthy. They must play by the rules and pay their fair share.
Be practical. Include input from impacted parties. Plan for future predicted needs.
Be proactive
Be responsible to community needs.
Be smart and think of the future power needs of the county while maintaining its environment as best as possible.
Be smart, don't damage the environment with renewable projects.
Be smart. Don't go overboard, you can't do it all at once. People will fight extreme change. But do it. Slow and steady wins the race.
Be thoughtful to all options, relax regulations if necessary to save out energy resources
Becareful with our beautiful corner of the world, please.
Becoming less dependent on mainland power supply and adjusting zoning regulations to allow more local renewable power generation are crucial to sustaining our ability to function. as we rely more on power for work and basic living needs, such as heating, we need to address our present needs, which are becoming strained, and our future needs.
Besides solar and battery, what other renewable energy options have been considered for our location?
Blackout risks are real but it's probably better to put industrial generation facilities on the mainland, or even on floating barges near existing maritime facilities. Land is so scarce on the islands, conservation is such a priority, and there's so much public opposition to new OPALCO projects that it's very difficult to sell locals on the benefits of local generation. Storage would be an easier sell and could be sited within existing developed areas, and would handle short-term blackouts, whereas local renewable generation can only ever provide a
Bpa's dams are the same as batteries. Summer solar production by home based solar increases storage behind dams for winter draw down.
Build baby build
Build for needs while being environmentally sensitive
Build for quick recovery after blackout occurs.
Build the damn solar farm on bailer hill/douglas!
Build where they can't be seen
Building power generation renewable or not in san juan's is more expensive than buying power
Can renewable energy sources provide enough electricity to meet future needs?
Can we further assist residential rooftop solar and battery storage?

Change is inevitable but whatever is decided should be cost effective, with minimal adverse environmental impacts. If we cover the island with solar panels, what's the point of living here?
Combined cycle natural gas-fired turbines are the most reliable and environmentally friendly power generation available (after hydro). Maybe consider small-scale nuclear reactors on the mainland.
Common sense locations - orcas center and firehall are perfect spots as they are screened by buildings.
Common sense should be applied to problem solving
Common sense, not rich people nimby should influence decisions
Complete transparency
Compromise over hard fast positions
Concerned about fire hazards of battery storage. concerned about roof mounted solar due to likelihood of
Consider exploring energy enhancement options before developing a bias towards certain energy types or presuming that blackouts are inevitable.
Consider opting into efsec permitting process.
Consider wind and tidal power generation too
Continue supporting installation of solar panels on appropriate buildings; e.G., southern facing public and private. Submit proposals to your subscribers; i'm assuming you already have a good idea of which buildings/homes are best suited.
Continue to do the research about how best to balance reliable renewable energy paying close attention to environmental concerns.
Control population+ limit county development otherwise all is lost
Control growth
Conversation is mandatory
Cost is a concern.
Cost is a huge factor. Our current situation is unsustainable both cost and supply wise. This issue deserves more research and interest in cutting edge technology, now. Why is this suddenly such a hot button issue that has not been emphasized previously. Throwing money at it and degrading our beautiful islands for this suddenly hopped up problem needs to be looked at and discussed much more carefully. More study, more information, more options please.
Cost is missing from your list.
Cost is too high
Cost of electricity should reflect the need to conserve. Cost of a kWh should go up as one uses more
Cost overruns are a concern -
Cost should have a major role in the decision.
Cost vs reality vs productivity
Costs control is essential
County leaders with input from opalco need to outline a coherent long range energy plan for san juan county. Opalco's choice of "blackout or renewable energy" oversimplifies a complex, long term challenge. We need a comprehensive energy plan that properly considers growth of energy needs in the context of electricity production, purchase and transmission, whether on the mainland or within sjc. Opalco has rightly identified energy security as an issue but has failed to connect the dots as to why utility scale solar is the singular solution. This should
County needs to ease land use restrictions
Cover parking with solar carports, install on roofs, install on farms
Covering our islands in solar panels is not compatible to why people come to the islands in the first place.
Create renewable energy as fast as possible
Curb the amount of tourists serviced by the ferry system
Customers who consume inordinate share of available power should be charged accordingly
Decentralized solutions? Making it easy to replace old heating systems by heat pumps, explore geothermal?
Demand is increasing. let's get going!
Designate orcas power and light as an essential public entity.
Develop energy sources that respect the environment and provide us with less mainland energy
Develop tidal sources. The tide rises and falls at least twice a day, even when the sun doesn't shine.
Developing local, reliable renewable energy sources should be a priority. Opalco should work with the county on land use and siting issues.
Diversification
Do as good as you can
Do as much as you can to keep as many as possible happy.
Do away with constant renewable push. The issue is reliability, so why not use battery, charged from mainland sources allowing for a larger regional support. Maybe wait for more capacity from regional suppliers and stop issuing meters. Sometimes capacity is reached and expansion becomes more important than reliability.
Do it!
Do not add to issues by not addressing the end of life issues with batteries and solar panels!!!
Do not buy from the bpa until they remove the dams in the lower snake.
Do the best you can with what you have to work with.
Do the best you can- preserve nature while reducing excessive permitting processes
Do what you can to lower prices
Do what you have to, so as not to rely on the mainland

Do what's best
Do whatever is necessary without raising rates too much for those of us on fixed incomes.
Does wind power stand a chance? i have used it on sailboats, but it seems best on a larger scale.T at a
Don't allow more growth than what the county infrastructure can handle (power, water, roads, etc.).
Don't burn carbon
Don't do anything that increases our cost of energy. too early for renewable.
Don't encourage more development in bring more people here and the need will be less.
Don't just rely on renewable. fix the cables crossing the sound as well
Don't know what to say. Other than keep costs down.
Don't raise rates too much
Don't use massive battery storage
Don't waist money on projects that don't reduce cost
Don't waste time with san juan county, just build atomic power plant
Educate the public about the issues in public meetings
Educating our community is vital. Preserving the property values of people that occupy their properties here less than half the time is not a healthy priority for the community.
Educating the public and balancing the environment is key
Electrical costs are already high on the islands, this needs to be kept front of mind.
Electricity from opals is already much too expensive, however, I do support renewable energy development, but only if electricity rates remain stable..
Electricity is a societal necessity effecting all income levels.
Electricity is an essential yet short term blackouts can be worked around at the consumer level. Consumer education is critical
Encourage grid tied home solar especially in new construction. placement/orientation of structures-rooflines to do so. provide incentives for to oversize from individual site/home requirements for sharing excess energy into the grid. provide means of using/storing energy for later use.
Encourage private household renewables and be sensitive about placing larger scale renewable projects as much out of sight as possible.
Encourage rooftop solar and batteries and then after that microgrids
Energy availability and reliability is important. epf designation comes with baggage and in my experience can circumvent nepa/sepa analysis
Energy CAN be produced locally, there are great gains to be made simply by user efficiency and conservation, and power production can go hand in hand with encouraging wildlife.
Energy conservation (personal and commercial) must continue to be an active part of our efforts on the islands. Is there an online calculator or game each resident could "play" to find out where they waste electricity and how they can reduce their own demands?
Energy conservation and community stability rather than growth, should be the primary goal. building more electrical infrastructure is encouraging the opposite.
Energy demand will only increase, plan accordingly.
Energy independence from the mainland is important, and so is a continued push towards renewable energy. I would love to see more federal, state and county support to get to a microgrid where every consumer is also a producer; with decentralized or centralized energy storage for county-wide use.
Energy is essential!
Energy isn't getting cheaper. Build it now and get it done with. Build smart, build green and build for the future.
Energy issues are a top priority which should be resolved before it becomes too late
Energy prices are already sky-high--last month's bill was >\$1100 (house construction) and bills are rarely less than \$300/mo. If resiliency can be achieved at lower cost off-island, i'd prefer that option--plus more undergrounding of primary transmission lines.
Energy production and storage is as important to a safe and vibrant community as any other essential need. However, balancing consumer costs and environmental impacts are no less important. Community input is vital. System and development decisions based on should reflect majority community opinions. Surveys and community meetings are necessary for determining needs and opinions. Providing user incentives and suggestions for increasing efficiencies and reducing power consumption should be a priority. Thank you for asking for my opinion.
Energy security is both a local and a national security issue. Renewables are the LCOE cheapest form of power, so investments there have a far better return than other forms of power generation.
Energy security is essential to maintaining a vibrant community in the san juan islands. renewables, conservation and dispersed infrastructure offer the best path forward to maintaining energy security and environmental quality. opalco should continue to strongly support rooftop solar, batteries, and utilization of existing disturbed landscapes including parking lots and buildings for solar/battery installations. opalco should redouble efforts to engage the community with siting and mitigating impacts of converting a portion of rural lands to dis
Environmental and land-use should be priority criteria in what you do.
Environmental concerns are a priority. i strongly oppose tidal generation if it interferes with wildlife including whales.
Environmental concerns are of importance.
Environmentally, friendly, reliable energy is a must.

Equality in the distribution of decision making, benefits and costs is most important. Solving energy requirements should not just be another opportunity for the wealthy and corporations to rip everyone else off.

Every time i selected, "don't know" was because i didn't know enough about the issue.

Everyone wants the latest and greatest but has the attitude

Execute a plan of action with member support

Explore more conservation policies as well

Face reality

Figure it out .

Find a small modular nuclear solution as soon as possible to balance all concerns.

Finding balance is definitely the key

Flexibility and willingness to compromise will be the key attitudes required.

Flexible, mixed use, distributed policies plz

Focus on reliable energy first not renewable energy.

Folks come to the san juan's to enjoy its beauty. Any development, no matter how necessary must hold maintaining the island beauty as a very high priority.

Follow the money and who is behind it - don't be influenced by the interest that will benefit renewables

Full steam ahead on producing local green energy in the san juans. we cannot depend on mainland for energy security.

Future and current cost very important, would support imported

Get going, and try to stay ahead of these problemssooner rather than later,

Get off your butts

Get the county out of the way and let solar projects be built

Give greater priority to renewable energy.

Go for it

Go for the tidal/ocean current, looks minimal impact on all

Go opalco!

Good luck

Good luck

Good luck with the new projects

Good luck. It is a difficult balance.

Green is dead, drill baby drill

Have alternatives prior to dam destruction

Having a solar array on our roof, i'd like the opportunity to capture the power in batteries, and sell the excess power to my neighbors.

Help more residents with solar and give them a better price for energy to the grids.

Here is an idea: how about not having a base rate of nearly \$70 and instead charge a higher rate per kwh. this incentivises conservation. here is another idea: lobby our idiot government to stop trying to force everyone to have electric cars and heat pumps. here is another idea: instead of runing ag fields, how about offering far better incentives for rooftop solar and battery storage? oh look, another idea: how about a tiered system which makes high-use residential properties pay extra for being gluttons? what is this? another idea:

Hmm

Hope to support your efforts

House on fire!

How about interim prepare us with affordable generators for the future power outages.

I suspect that those who complain the loudest about siting alternative energy projects are a minority of the membership and are likely to be the same people who complain the loudest when future brown outs occur and rates inevitably rise due in large part to buying power from outside the county.

I already pay way too much for power. I absolutely oppose doing anything that increases my power bill.

I am against the solar farm at the corner of Douglas and Bailer Hill Rds.

I am all for exploring energy alternatives, but also know that any options will come with outages as they cannot be 100 percent prevented. i have a feeling many on shaw will oppose any efforts to have infrastructure there, as there are many on the island who resist change, even if it were to add one additional stripe to a road that did not exist before. so you have a big uphill battle and a shit show coming your way if you want to get anything done there. otherwise, i wish you the best and would likely support any initiatives to enhance energy av

I am an abundance liberal

I am concerned about the lack of logical thinking displayed by nimby-ists on decatur regarding the solar efforts there. I hear lies and misinformation about the "dangers of solar" and it is frustrating that a few loud voices can control the dialog.

I am concerned with how new projects can be maintained as all projects will need maintenance

I am disappointed with opalco's lack of transparency and deceptive practices in dealings with impacted communities. There has been a pattern of deciding on a course of action without input and using fear, uncertainty, and doubt to block opposition.

I am glad that we are looking forward to try to address these issues

I am hearing conflicting information about whether renewable energy will acually solve our local issues. And the push to put it on decatur when no other island is willing to step up concerns me. fire saftety is also a big concerns. i would like more transparency and data to back up the claims.

I am not current enough on this issue to share any useful information.
I am not qualified as an engineer or planner to comment.
I am strongly against solar farms because of the amounts of materials and land needed to develop/maintain them. I would be for "waste to energy" renewable energy, as it would take care of our landfill issue (or carting waste off-island) and could kill two birds with one stone. <a href="Https://www.Cleanenergywire.Org/factsheets/waste-energy-controversial-power-generation-incineration">Https://www.Cleanenergywire.Org/factsheets/waste-energy-controversial-power-generation-incineration</a> .
I am supportive of balancing renewable energy development and long as there is respect for land use priorities and environmental concerns
I answered these questions with limited understanding of the energy situation in san juan county as well as a limited understanding of the kinds of local solutions and their impact on the islands' habitats. i would like to know more and i feel nervous that i am giving an okay for solutions that feel very vague. i am hoping opalco will do some community education and meetings before going ahead on projects. the survey is well done and i think i might answer some of the questions differently if i had more information and could ask questions about
I appreciate the difficulties, otalco house in citing renewable projects. But they are vital important. Please continue.
I believe community based renewable projects (not individual home projects) are going to be needed to make a dent in the needs and would be more cost effective than repeating individual batteries and panels in individual homes.
I believe that energy independence--to the extent possible--is essential for san juan county, but not at the expense of environmental preservation.
I believe the renewable energy should be developed always with environmental concerns taken into account.
I can barely afford power, much less an increase.
I can't imagine building generators in san juan county that are powered by fossil fuels. i am in favor of many small, widely distributed generating and storage projects rather than fewer large facilities. in europe, roof-top solar panels paired with batteries are everywhere. building codes should require solar panels, and incentives should be given to install panels on existing structures.
I currently support opalco's efforts to better serve our future power needs.
I didn't see any chooses for looking into alternative ways besides changing local policies.
I do not support increasing the fixed costs on billing and reducing kw rates. a slap in the face for those of us who have installed solar panels.
I do not support large solar farms. please invest in new, higher capacity submarine cables.
I don't believe the SJC projections of population increase....just speculation and guessing at this point
I don't have any questions
I don't support renewable energy because it cost more for energy and not reliable. It's not just san juan county but the whole state that has gone down the wrong path of renewable energy and should be abandoned for nuclear and hydro.
I don't think OPALCO is doing a very good job encouraging (and in some case perhaps forcing) energy conservation, and their rate structures actually favor high use. For example, there are huge homes in the county that use a tremendously outsized amount of energy and do not pay their "fair" share for it. They should be disincentivized for such use.
I don't understand the value of solar in the islands versus other potential solutions. I get not wanting to be dependent on the mainland but for what it appears that we gain, the eyesore, the choice of decatur, a small island compared to the islands who are big users and have more open land, makes this whole project reek of something political. It can impact our home values, where on some islands, no one would ever even see them. We don't have island fire protection. There are lots of reasons this particular project doesn't make sense, even though i
I don't understand why san juan county residents are under the impression it's acceptable for them to make use of energy generated elsewhere and transmitted from afar in ways that disrupt other communities in the region - but believe that they shouldn't even need to see evidence of electrical infrastructure. It's elitist, it's unsustainable, and they are heading for a day of reckoning due to this unrealistic expectation.
I don't want the beauty and the forests/ wildlife damaged to meet these goals
I don't want to see the large acreage at the end of roche harbor rd - where it t's to the right into the residential neighborhoods, and t's to the left to go down to the resort and right into the neighborhoods- i do not want this acreage - view corridor if you wish - to be turned into an energy generating zone - someone told me that was part of the plan - ick, no, do not want
I feel like opalco already has a solution in mind and this questionnaire led me down a path. i would have just read an article about the need and the choices and don't feel the questionnaire was necessary
I found this survey extremely biased, self serving and inappropriate.
I fully support development of renewable energy, but only as long as it doesn't involve clear cutting forests to install solar panels! there are enough areas already cleared where panels can be installed rather than cutting down our forests! i will never support clear cutting to install make way for solar panels!
I have been blessed with over 40 years of island life. The county is growing at quite the pace making energy a top priority. I support the need but it must protect the awesome beauty, i have solar panels and they are beneficial but only when the sun shines
I have been happy with our service.
I have been satisfied with services
I have no final thoughts
I have no issue with seeing solar farms
I have none.

I have put in sizeable solar panels. one thing i don't understand and maybe you could explain to me is why, when there is a power outage, it is set up that i can not use my solar power? this seems counter productive and will force me to run my carbon burning generator, even in the middle of a sunny day.

I have serious doubts that solar energy in the San Juans is the right answer, given the low winter solar angles and propensity of cloudy skies. Tide water power generation is unproven and suffers from extraordinary maintenance costs and environmental issues. OPALCO

I hope your explanation of tidal generation continues and proves to be feasible for a portion of our future needs.

I know we have great leaders in opalco and they will make the right decisions to help all of us

I know we need to upgrade and repair but i would like it if the cost was not to expensive on the opalco consumer . O

I like my solar panels. I'm in the process of adding batteries. Putting a field of solar panels at douglas and bair hill, was a poor idea. If the airport wants solar backup put it at the airport.

I like the solar grant that the presbyterian church got and the panels at Market place.

I make an assumption that opalco commissioners are also islanders who have come here with similar commitments to the values of environmental responsibility and economic viability for a diverse community.

I presently have solar panels, battery, and have a heat pump system at my house in California. i support using renewable energy.

I really don't like this being called a survey when it was an attempt to change someone's mind, and one that would have taken quite a while and some skill to build. That disguised expensive advertising makes me less likely to support anything an associated business is making a priority

I really don't understand why the solar farm off of bair hill and douglas roads didn't go through... I strongly believe this should be built. i also wish solar power and battery storage were accessible and affordable for property/landowners. I would love to have solar power and a backup battery on my house but it is not in my budget. If more homes had solar and back up batteries, much of the power generated would lower homeowner power costs and provide power for other residents.

I really like the micro grid that was just put up next-door to me at the orcas center! Keep up the good work and thanks for never letting outages last very long. I appreciate you guys putting out the survey.

I respectfully submit to the board that opalco should strive to hold more public hearings with the public and announce them. Do not make multiple choice surveys. Opalco has repeatedly ignored requests from environmental groups in the San Juans to come to the table with other options to identify suitable lands for renewable energy projects, and also reviewing those to ensure sensitive habitat is not destroyed, that no clear-cutting happens, then old-growth forest are not destroyed. When these overtures are ignored, it tells me opalco is more concerned

I strongly support renewable energy development, however, the PNW is poorly situated for siting of solar fields. to play a significant role in the seasons when outages are most likely to occur, more sun exposure is required. Amenable sites are much, much more plentiful on the mainland.

I support a tiered billing scheme which charges a higher rate for higher usage.

I support developing local backup and renewable energy sources. Is private property eligible for consideration for development?

I support generation methods that do not include costly solar, wind or batteries. I support gas powered turbines!

I support local renewable energy

I support programs to aid individuals in conservation of energy use to build new or retrofit into existing structures, devices and home components like insulation, windows, etc. I support incentive programs to install solar on individual land and homes. Make it as easy and low cost for individuals to negotiate the steps to do this. Also, consider individual and community wind generation. And what about tidal power? We must protect the marine ecosystem and land, especially bird habitat but also encourage individual conservation and generation

I support renewable energy projects as long as the protected areas stay protected.

I support renewable energy.

I support renewables as long as it is a long term solution.

I support the development of local, renewable energy so long as it adheres to county zoning regulations and is environmentally conscious.

I support utility scale projects, but am disappointed that opalco is disincentivizing home solar projects by paying less for energy generated at home than it costs to pay for energy from opalco. I believe opalco should commit funding for site remediation after the life of a utility scale facility is over.

I think combined cycle generation on the mainland coupled with redundant cables to the San Juan Islands should be investigated

I think it is a good idea, to be working for the future generation, it's fundamental.

I think it is very important for San Juan County to be as self-sufficient as possible. VK

I think land owners should co-op with opalco to provide solar energy. To be stored. And they should be compensated by the amount they produce.

I think opalco does a great job and we all should support their efforts.

I think renewable, independent power sources on the island are a top priority

I think the county needs to revise its zoning rules to allow solar and wind production as well as storage on a large number of land use types. I appreciate that opalco is looking into alternatives to renewable energy than wind and solar, such as tidal power. I also think storage will be very important would like opalco to look into alternative energy storage options in addition to batteries.

I think the initiative for renewable energy is valid however i honestly believe we need to consider capping energy use and the ability to build new homes. I believe the overconsumption needs to be addressed. Speaking as a resident of orcas island, the land can only provide so much.
I think the key word here is balance. You missed a word in your final thoughts "cost". We need to balance all of that with the cost trade offs.
I think these should be balanced for the best outcome. Renewable energy sources are necessary for the future of our county.
I think using fossil fuels is not as bad as people think, it takes massive amounts of fossil fuels to create renewableable infrastructure and that infrastructure has limited life span, what we call renewable isn't really renewable or cost effective. That may change or might turn out like recycling plastic, we grew up separating plastics and to "recycle" it only to find out it isn't recycled because is not cost effective.
I think utilizing existing infrastructure to build solar facilities is a great idea. I am less supportive of utilizing ag land unless they are mixed use, such as grazing.
I think we definitely need to build renewable energy and storage facilities in san juan county
I think you should consider working with people that already have rooftop solar to increase capacity. For example with exiting solar infrastructure that have land to put more panels on.
I totally TRUST you to make the best decisions regarding this subject. Don't disappoint me.
I trust the OPALCO leadership to do the right thing.
I understand that providing electricity in these islands is more complex and costly than in other areas. That said, opalco needs to do a better job of distributing those costs more equitably. High power users should pay a lot more than low power users and buildings with higher power capacity should pay higher base fees.
I want affordable solar for my own home.
I want opalco to consider changing how the base infrastructure cost is allocated. instead of a fixed monthly cost, blend it into electrical rates like private utilities.
I want solar on my property.
I woul like every house and business to have solar panels then let's talk about changes
I would be happy to help with land use strategy. I'm a homeowner on orcas and an architect. I actively work on complex land use and zoning projects in sjc. My work email is leah@allied8.Com
I would like the leaders to get involved with conversion to green energy
I would like to see battery and microgrid options presented seperately. solar is very ineffective. batteries can be much mor eeffective.
I would like to see renewable energy in the san juan islands
I would like to see the county policy align more with local people than receiving kick backs for passing harmful issues
I would love for their to be increased transparency and communication around renewable energy proposals and how environmental concerns will be addressed. With proposed projects like the solar panels along bailer hill road and the tidal turbine in rosario strait, it's been incredibly difficult to find accurate information on environmental assessments, etc. And misinformation seems to run rampant among the community.
I would offer my private land and roof for renewable energy like solar but cannot afford the upfront costs.
I would support renewable energy projects if they can be built on previously-disturbed or industrial-use land, ideally in less-traveled more remote areas of the island.
I. Ant say enough about how you people are not to be trusted, and only have your bottom line as your main concern
I'd like a comparative analysis run on both tidal energy generation, and "fracked" underground energy storage, using pumped working fluids in just the same way pumped hydro provides energy storage, but vertically, in-ground, and invisible.
I'd like to see utilities in general prioritize areas zoned for industrial use or disused commercial areas, though the islands have limited space like this.
I'm a firm believer in building out more solar, wind and other renewable energy sources to replace existing carbon based sources. i'm willing to live with occasional outages and fewer creature comforts to be on the islands.
I'm all for saving money each month. However, keeping the power on is more important.
I'm concerned that in one of the first questions that you stataed that growth could happen up to 30% but you have no plan to service the increase.
I'm glad you are seeking input. i'm concerned these survey questions seem leading and maybe not generating valid data
I'm just upset that i generate far more energy than i use and still have to pay a decent electricity bill every month. I generate a lot of power out to the grid, and it's taken and used for free. solar is a huge investment for me and i don't think i should be paying monthly for electricity when i make more than i use.
I'm not sure what caused the cease work in the bailer hill solar farm, and i'm not sure what opalco proposed for the design of the farm, but i feel if more emphasis was placed on the intention to screen the farm from the road and neighbors with shrubbery or something maybe it wouldn't have gotten as much push back. And same with the proposal for the tidal generator as well. Orcas will swim where they please no matter where the generator is placed- if opalco can show a solid plan of having this equipment in place and not effect the orcas then i don't
I'm not waiting. i've installed solar panels and a battery already
I'm opposed to weakening environmental protections and opposed to siting of battery storage facilities given the risk of fires and potential contamination of large land areas with extremely toxic chemicals, e.G. The moss landing battery fires in california and in other locations around the world

I'm skeptical that local renewable energy generation is sufficient to address a 30% increase in demand. More attention should be spent on increasing and replacing mainland power delivery infrastructure.

I'm still unsure of the cost to build and maintain vs the costs that we are currently paying that continue to increase

I'm totally in favor of the bailer hill micro grid project. Right at that corner you're driving by it in less than 20 seconds. I drive it almost daily and it's not a great place to call a "heritage view".

I'm uncomfortable with the design of your survey because it very clearly aims for specific outcomes. I'm excited that OPALCO is addressing energy threats seriously, but the survey is unclear and needs hard examples to be more useful.

I've lived here for 30 years, if people want to be more energy independent, they can build their own systems. Keep cost down, continue to use hydro which is non-polluting, and keep costs down. If you can't live with power outages, consider living elsewhere. I am used to it.

I've watched your lobbying and outreach efforts and was not impressed. You seem to be changing your game now. Keep it up. You should be the good guys but it often doesn't appear that way.

If renewable energy projects negatively effect the local environment and cost more than carbon production that is a lose/lose situation.

If rooftop solar were inexpensive we could do that. we are in our 80's and have a perfect spot.

If the county feels they cannot support opalco they need to stop giving building permits

If the organization could eliminate its substantial focus in areas that don't solve energy issues (website features, app development, community events, newsletters, the rock island conflict of interest, etc.) then it will be in a much better position to solve energy issues. Right now, fair or not, the impression is that costs have skyrocketed at the same time that all these other interests have increased.

If we are going to have reliable energy, especially in the winter time, we will need to balance community needs vs. Individual desires, always keeping in mind those who may not be able to handle increased cost.

If we cannot achieve a better balance of relying on local power and mainland power, we will face increasing costs and more power outages as mainland vendors outbid us for available power.

If we don't deal with this issue now, we will find ourselves in deep trouble in the very near future

If we're going to lean into power investments on the mainland, we should consider the helion fusion plant that might come online in the 2030s.

If you have to build something build it nice and not ugly, and if you have to put a fence around it, do that as well.

If you would just have the project surrounded by trees it would be great!!!

If you're going to build a solar site, build in an area that's not an eyesore for everyone driving by. I'm talking about bailer hill and Douglas.

Im retired on a limited income so this is currently my major bill although my house is less than 1000sq. Ft. I cannot pay a whole lot more for electricity although I certainly need it.

Imho, since san juan co. Lives at the end of an extension cord it will only take one failure for the people to realize what needs to be looked at. In the age of dependence on electricity it will come with a hard awakening. There will be some go straight to the power company and demand to know why they did not prepare for such a thing.

In addition to energy use on land, please advocate for battery hybrid ferries that use renewable energy sources and are friendlier for the environment (southern resident orcas)

In my experience renewable energy is almost always more expensive than original estimates and implementation extremely delayed.

In the research literature, the issues can be framed as an adaptive problem without easy answers. the most important question is whether you have consulted the relevant constituencies and

In these times and with our government in the state that it's in, i would like to deal with less costs, learn to live without all the upgrades right now. Not everything has to be improved tomorrow. One of the things i like about living here is that it's simple! Let's keep it simple for awhile longer.

Inceased energy generation is necessary to maintain quality of life in the islands.

Incentives for homeowners and business owners to implement rooftop or land solar and possible energy storage on their properties

Incentivize neighborhood microgrids

Increase renewable energy availability safely; efficiently and cleanly!

Increased support for roof top solar

Increasing need for renewable energy development

Information and transparency for the citizens is critical

Instead of constantly being an impediment (like has been the case with douglas rd microgrid), get with the program and support energy resilience and dependability for the future. Let's not wait until it becomes a crisis.

Interested in residential solar

Invest to increase local power generation while sustaining current levels of power generated off islands

Is it even possible for sj county to be self sufficient without having mountains of batteries laying around the landscape? Not to mention that batteries are toxic and age/need replacing. Perhaps we need to promote conserving resources versus trying to keep up with growing demand. Motivating users to conserve potentially with monetary incentives could help us curb usage.

Islanders should have access to affordable fiber optics internet but that has not happened. It raises concern about affordability of planning for the future to meet energy needs. And how real the efforts will be to protect the land and water ecosystems.

It is clear that increased electricity generation is key for the future of the islands. as one who is passionate about sustainability

It is important that a single area/island does not bear the brunt of the infrastructure.
It is important to remember that an important part of the energy equation is conservation. investing in ways to reduce energy needs helps slow the rise in demand. I for one am grateful for opal Co's efforts and encourage further development of programs designed to help homeowners and businesses assess and upgrade systems that lower energy needs. thank you for those services and incentives.
It is my impression that opalco is not committed to preserving our aquifers. Also, utility scale solar + batteries still has the winter capacity problems when demand is highest. A firm source of power, such as the next generation geothermal located outside san juan county, is needed.
It will be very destructive to the economy and daily lives of islanders if we do not have sufficient affordable electricity available.
It would be great if internet came with these improvements
It's a balancing act, we must weigh the costs and select the best balance.
It's a difficult challenge, but necessary. Pay attention to all of the above.
It's a difficult task and i am ignorant of most issues affecting development of renewable energy
It's a tough problem-good luck!
It's difficult to balance all the priorities. You're doing good work.
It's going to be a bit of a tightrope to balance environment, peoples wishes and costs, but it's important to try.
it's none of the government's business how we use our land as long as it doesn't negatively affect our neighbors
It's possible to have renewable energy that doesn't harm the environment installed properly and promptly if we all work together.
It's obvious that energy prices are rising because of AI demands and more. We need to be more self reliant now.
Just keep communicating. Thank you!
Just make rational and careful decisions.
Keep cost down
Keep incentivizing household and business micro renewable projects. Less impact and more resilient than centralized utilities. Micro households are an important complement to central utilities and should be the highest priority
Keep information and progress available through local mediums - newsletters, emails, meetings,
Keep installing solar and battery energy sources.
Keep our environment in mind
Keep people informed
Keep the costs down
Keep the public informed and involved
Keep up maintenance of what we have, don't go bonkers with projections and new fangled inventions
keep up the good work
Keep up the good work
Keep up the good work and develop lots of renewable energy resources!
Keep up the good work!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE COSTS.
Keep us informed of these issues via timely emails.
Keeping affordable energy needs to be a priority!
Keeping costs down.
Keeping costs from increasing is a priority
Keeping power bills down
Key word = balance
Key word is balance. The county should work toward being more self-sufficient, no doubt. But we live in a real world of inter-dependability and if renewable energy sources are expanded regionally while still utilizing current supply, it will have an
Land use regulations should be eased to make way for opalco to build reliable energy infrastructure.
Large scale local renewable energy projects are never going to get off the ground here with all the nimby resistance, so the only realistic path forward is to directly subsidize current property owners to install their own systems.
Less is more. Conservation is key - we need to consume less electrical energy. Our base rate seems high compared to other rural communities - is that still from the rock island purchase?
Less talk and more action
Let market forces work
Let solar residential projects "bank" solar credits
Let's get lots of our parking lots covered with solar arrays and battery storage
Let's get these projects done. Solar and battery is essential
Let's get together and figure it out
Let's move on
Let's try to get as many solar panels on roofs and other inconspicuous places before putting them out in the open.
Let's work towards energy independence
Lets start the process while its not a crisis
Limit development to mitigate increasing population
Limit electric vehicles in san juan county

Limit population increase on the island since that is the factor you said would result in increased energy needs.
Local grids using modern technology such as fuel cells and nuclear units (fusion) need to be explored more fully
Look at long term affects to such a small area and how other communities are dealing with negative impacts
Look into agrivoltaics. Build renewable facilities if possible on the smaller islands, out of sight from boat traffic. Connect them via cables to the larger islands.
Looking for sustainable low carbon based solutions is incredible important. Identifying areas of inequity that are present that allow temporary visitors to use more resources with little benefit to the community should be identified and limited or charged to support a sustainable resilient and diverse community. Massive energy consumption by a few, subsidized by the many should not be the priority. We installed more solar on our rooftop than we needed to add to the community â«â bucketâ » i'd like to see that supported more and high usage c
Lots of unbiased community inout and fact based scenarios
Low costs, environmentaly sound renewable energy projects should have precedence. minor holes in the system to provide reliable energy is ok.
Lowering power cost is vital to keeping working class islanders here
Mainland power is fine
Maintain current land use policies.
Maintain electric reliability while keeping costs and environmental disruptions low.
Maintain our quality of life
Maintaining out current energy from the mainland is essential. there will be times when power goes out. we live on an island. many of us use wood stoves and generators in winter when most of the power outages occurs. Solor and batteries will be of no use during this time so priority should not be those.
Make good choices
Make home solar panels more affordable the household would need a touch less energy thereby lessening electricity demand
Make progress
Make sure that the "renewable energy" doesn't become a maintenance nightmare.
Many of the options in this survey are âœpie-in-the-skyâ as the technology isn't ready.
Many of us came here because of the scenic beauty and rural character. Sullying that to help us grow in population seems self-defeating.
Many thanks for the support for heat pumps, solar etc
March on !
Maybe higher energy prices will help slow the growth of san juan county
Maybe read "abundance" or recognize that we have a climate crisis and need to adapt... And that doing so will take some political will power. and upsetting some rich landowners. who are part of the class that are causing most of the problem anyway.
Meet with roche harbor home owners
More focus needs to be given to using commercial and residential development to generate renewable energy versus using agricultural land.
More help for low income older people trying to stay here!
More information on locally developed energy projects and their cost.
More study is needed before wind turbines are allowed in the sahalish sea. Resident orcas are extremely vulnerable to environmental impacts.
More transparency and independent research
More use of nuclear energy
Most of the counties power outages are local, so local power generation wouldn't seem to help. renewable energy is not cost effective, and is not yet efficient, or reliable enough to replace hydro, fossil or nuclear options.
Most of us live here because of the remoteness and natural beauty. We understand that there will be inconveniences that result, including the occasional power outage due to weather.
Move ahead carefully but expediently and sustainably!
Move forward with renewable energy development with caution and well thought out plans.
Move the county out of your way and get started with solar
My biggest concern is costs to consumers. I am low income, and it is hard enough to pay my bill as it is.
My concern is the cost of electricity also putting solar panels in the middle of fields looks awful and is dangerous to birds
My cost is my main concern. otherwise i strongly support renewables.
My final thought is that our community needs a practical balance between expanding renewable energy and protecting the environment we value. Renewable projects should meet strong environmental standards, but the county also needs a more efficient and timely approval process. Long delays add cost and discourage responsible development. By setting clear, science-based guidelines and improving the speed and transparency of permitting, we can support clean, reliable energy while preserving land-use priorities and natural habitats.
My main concern with all of this is the cost to each of us.
My problem is that I have observed how Opalco does business and I have learned to not trust them. They barage the public with their urgent call to action and don't regard the view of those who oppose their views.
N-a
N/a

N/a
Na
Need adequate population to island use payment structure (not fair to ask co-op members to pay for a new cable to spieden/private islands that only help few people)
Need comprehensive multi-county plan with options to present to opalco members tp
Need cost benefit analysis
Need dense (high output for land area) resources that serve winter load
Need to be more upfront with members.
New tidal resources
Nice survey. Glad you're working on this. helping balance human needs against the natural environment is the key
Nimby won't keep your home livable in during a power outage.
No
No additional comments
No additional thoughts at this time
No additional thoughts to share at this time.
No comment
No comments, need to become more educated on this topic.
No convinced that opalco has done enough to incentivise solar roofing (business & residential); focus on reduction of electrical demand; establish tiered / sliding scale pricing levels, where high use consumers pay proportionally more per kwh
No easy solutions and ai becoming huge energy consumer
No extra thoughts
No final thoughts to share
No mention is made of the \$/kw impact on current bills to implement projects. i.E. What is the cost of an additional cable from the mainland vs. The "green" projects. Very little mention is made of the potential impact environmentally, aesthetically. Etc.. i find it difficult to give a green light, without knowing a lot more.
No opinion
No question, but i will research whats happening locally
No thoughts
No to clear cutting for solar. solar is not a valid solution.
Nobody trusts opalco. earn the people's trust back. then we will talk.
Nobody wants intrusive solar panels on their island. Decatur isn't the best choice for a pilot program. It's small and non-commercial. Build a small test platform on a more developed island without needing to cut down perfectly good woods. This survey coaches the user to an answer that opalco wants and that's pretty uncool. This is a tough subject but manipulation tactics shouldn't be used. Figure out a way to make battery backup small, and look nice. Fix aging cables and figure out how to stop outages with your current setup. Overall, i'm happy the
Non fossil fuel energy is critical, especially if we are to transition to an all electrical society..





Nothing at this time
Nothing at this time.
Nothing further to add
Nothing in particular
Nothing more
Nothing more
Nothing more
Nothing to add
Nothing.
Nuclear is clean and productive. perhaps working with the mainland is the best long term solution.
Nuclear power is the only practical answer, and should be standardized instead of ground up design for each plant.
Nunya
Of course we need to handle energy development fairly and sensibly.
Okay with relaxing nimby regulations to solve these problems. we're in this together.
On no account should opalco projects be classified as efps. We need renewable energy, and we need to site it carefully and respect our island environment while also developing ways to reduce our energy use.
Once the environment is compromised, it cannot go back to its natural state easily
One aspect missing is focusing on energy efficiency, i.E. Using less instead of finding ways to generate more in a (somewhat) low impact and low carbon process. living smaller, higher density, energy efficient appliances, better insulation, etc. the answer to population growth (on a local, and a global level) is not finding ways to generate more energy, it is to reduce our overall energy needs.
Only proven renewable energy.
Opalco already is charging too much for energy.
Opalco has a history of not respecting views of land owners and neighbors.
Opalco is doing a great job.
OPALCO must understand the land use issues neighbors to their projects
Opalco needs to take a new approach to siting its facilities and managing the lines. The values people have for environmental protection and islands aesthetics matter. this survey is very leading and you should consider a social science professional to do one that is actually valid. sorry, but I'm disappointed to see how opalco tried to approach and influence the outcome of the survey with the leading questions.
Opalco provides good service but the rates are very, very high. While i support developing green energy solutions, opalco must find a way to provide power without forcing islanders to move to the mainland because of high utility costs.
Opalco really showed the community who they are and what they care about when they cut down those thousands of trees last year along rocharbor road. That was really short-sighted and silly and shows that you all don't really care about trees. You just care about money. That was a huge bummer and you lost a lot of faith with a lot of people. You have a lot of repair work to do with your image in the community. Many people including myself. See you as clear cutters. You can't be afraid to raise prices. You have to do the right thing and charge more fo
Opalco should also consider small wind turbines in addition to battery and solar facilities.
Opalco should be more transparent about all current and future renewable energy projects.
Opalco should do all it can to generate and store as much power as possible locally. No one asked me if i wanted to pay ever increasing power rates to support the out of control building of data centers in support of ai. Is there a way opalco or individula opalco members can "opt out " of supporting this rampant development?
Opalco should push back against zoning that allows 30% growth. limited water, electricity and garbage service are real constraints on islands.
Opalco was started by farmers and working-class folk. Support the working class. I support affordable worker housing, reducing our dependence on the mainland for energy and food, and increasing reliable clean public transit for locals.
Opalco's current policies discourage home-based renewable energy. Paying home-based producers at wholesale rather than net, and charging a huge monthly fee for the privilege of having a meter is exactly the opposite approach to encouraging local power production
OPALCO's Decatur project should be stopped
Other town use farm land for renewable energy with cooperation with the farmer.
Our electricity rates are now very high look for ways to produce electricity and lower rates
Our present rate of power consumption is exceeding production & grid capacity more frequently. without upgrades & improvements, power failures & misha
Participate in small nuclear reactor development
Partnerships between landowners and opalco for developing renewables on smaller acreage as an addition to larger renewable projects.
People are way too opposed to infrastructure projects.
Perhaps ad in a campaign to teach people the importance of conserving energy and some "how to's".
Perhaps more consideration for a balance of off island energy and on island renewable energy. The current infrastructure needs replacement regardless as we will not become energy independent
Perhaps the county should regulate growth based upon capacity of infrastructure requirements (water, power, etc...)
Planning for a future at least a decade ahead requires sacrifice. We will increasingly put our backs against the wall if we don't make outcomes easier and regulation more flexible. Finally, it isn't all up to opalco. Consumers have to play a part

in conservation of energy, thoughtful carbon restriction and a restriction on excess. It's time that households unwilling to conserve pay more for the privilege of thoughtless wealth.

Please be strategic about energy and costs to build infrastructure. Do not just build it and charge more for it.

Please build more local renewal energy supply & storage as soon as possible! As a community, we need to be willing to accept reasonable tradeoffs in order to promote a safe, sustainable, and productive life on the islands in the years to come.

Please conserve our public lands. Do not build on them!

Please consider costs for low income people

Please do not allow a few misinformed naysayers' what about the sheep? shrieks on social media convince you there is a groundswell of opposition to larger scale projects like larger scale solar development.

Please don't cut forests for solar panels. Find clear land that no one is using and put solar there.

Please involve community in the conversation early and often

Please keep an eye on the development of small stand alone nuclear reactors such as those that will be essential for powering ai facilities. Powering

Please keep us informed and continue to describe the options you face.

Please keep working with the community and the county to expand our own renewable energy development so that we are less dependant on mainland sources and more resilent.

Please move forward with bair hill project

Please no windmills or solar panels

Please permit solar panels on docks

Please please stop wasting our money on ruralite!!! Just send us a newsletter with opalco specific information

Please prioritize the environment before economic and population growth.Growth

Please start exploring the new generation of small nuclear reactors - one small one could serve the entire county.

Please use commn sense!

Please use the old dump site as it is well screened and the land cannot be used for anything else vs tainting sj valley. Your questions were difficult to answer in that they are either for or against solar power not the importance of location. I thought it was already made very clear to you how protective this island is about sj valley. Please respect the layers of protection that have been placed on it and look elsewhere -- use the old dump site for your experimental solar farm. I know that denise kulseth with the town of fh is very supportive of t

Poor survey, clearly constructed to change opinions rather than survey them.

Posing questions without context does not make a valid survey.

Possible future blackouts necessitate moving ahead with renewable energy development.

Power outages are a great concern.

Pre written answers in this survey give the false choice that not building local generation will lead to blackouts.

Present reasonable and balanced surveys as this one is not.

Preserving San Juan County's pristine environment is the most important objective.

Prioritize renewable energy development

Prioritize renewable energy sources.

Prioritize rooftop and over-parking areas solar. Try to avoid using pristine land.

Priority is energy independence

Proceed but be cognizant of reasonable individual concerns

Proceed diligently with caution

Projects that lower costs should be prioritized

Promoting elec vehicles and heat pumps and digital lifestyle has led to way more electricity use. scale down, insulate, use less, adapt, put on a sweater, less screen time.

Protect our fragile environment at all costs!

Protecting the environment is a top priority

Provide government subsidies that allow home owners to install solar on their properties

Provide less expensive energy

Providing funding/loans for people to make their impact on the grid is critical, consider view (including reflection) of solar arrays, consider incentives or lower monthly fees for low usage properties, or higher costs for high usage ones. Make any site something the community can use! Walking trails, sculpture, farming, eco restoration etc.

Providing more opportunities for residents to receive solar power assistance subsidies

Providing reliable inexpensive energy is critical to maintaining safety and quality of life. there will need to be trade offs involving renewable energy, available technology, costs, and reliability.

Puchase of mainland property for energy production. such as ft collins did for wind farm in another state.

Push hard to make the county solve these problems!

Raise prices to reduce demand. emphasize energy conservation.

Realize the potential shortcomings in our power supply and put plans in place to alleviate these.

Really biased survey. Hardly any opportunity to opine, rather cajoled and constrained to support a narrow set of technological options. You can do better.

Reduce or balance population & discourage additional building first

Reducing dependence on mainland energy sources will only become a more critical need so get started.

Reducing energy use and restricting use to what is available needs to be a huge part of the decision. Why are we paying to be ready for a 30% population increase that very few residents want?

Relax building codes to allow waterfront home owners to construct ground-mounted solar and micro-wind. Currently too restrictive.
Reliability is important
Reliable energy
Reliable energy is key.
Reliable energy needs to be prioritized
Reliable power is essential to reasonable growth and a healthy community.
Reliable power is very very important
renewable is unreliable
Renewable development and battery storage should not be sold off to the highest bidder. Storage should be put back the grid evenly to provide power to all. Allow and subsidize homeowner to have their own storage and solar for use.
Renewable energy (solar/battery/wind) are proving unreliable overall; performing inconsistent outputs at critical times of need; the negative environmental impact downstream is overall too expensive.
Renewable energy definitely needs attention and completion.
Renewable energy development is important if mindful of environmental impacts and maintaining the character/non-commercialism of the islands.
Renewable energy development should be a top priority for our local leaders. It is possible to balance environmental concerns and renewable energy needs on island. This is much more appropriate than relying on carbon based energy and the mainland.
Renewable energy development should not change the environment for wildlife and our scenic landscape
Renewable energy facilities are a strong priority to me, the key to local acceptance in ensuring compatibility with neighborhood compatibility: views, noise, maintenance and protecting environmental sensitive areas. It's all about design and compatibility.
Renewable energy is a priority but hope it can be accomplished without encroaching on the beauty of the islands and the livelihood of the farmers.
Renewable energy is better for the environment overall. Local negative impacts are more than offset with energy independence. Data from south australia shows energy costs go down with solar plus batteries.
Renewable energy is great in theory but not practical in our environment. Spend money on what makes sense!
Renewable energy is important especially moving away from carbon based fuels that increase the climate crisis but environmental degradation is also not reversible. These things need to be balanced.
Renewable energy is intermittent, unreliable and expensive
Renewable energy is necessary and we need to make it a priority i think we have fallen behind where we should be at this point
Renewable energy is necessary our planet is in jeopardy
Renewable energy is not always the answer for "today's" problems/issues.
Renewable energy projects are important not only to make san juan county less reliant on energy from the mainland but reducing the county's contributions to climate change.
Renewable energy projects should be in areas where population density is highest
Renewable energy should be a priority.
Renewable energy sources and energy independence from the mainland are paramount to the future of the islands
Renewable energy sources like solar panels in agricultural land will not be harmful and will be a notice of our ability to be self sufficient.
Renewable, land use, and environmental concerns over reliability
Renewable, non-carbon based energy is a proven method to lessen the dependency on our mainland cables. If 30% growth is anticipated and we're not planning for a comparable increase in energy consumption, we're not doing due diligence.
Renewables are a must. We need to get away from fossil fuel dependency. At the same time renewable projects must be engaged thoughtfully, with co-equal community and environmental flourishing as priority.
Renewables are important
Renewables are not in themselves a panacea. We're an island with no major generation. Renewables will never be a replacement option for mainland based generation but can mitigate outages.
Renewables can be prioritized while also meeting the interests of most of the sji community i believe. it will take innovation and socializing. investing in outreach will pay dividends down the road.
Renewables on san juan island are not economically practical, build a carbon based power plant or develop a wave generation power plant
Renewal energy developement has to happen. bring it on!
Renewal energy should be left to individuals to take care of themselves. opalco has done a good job at warning us of future vulnerabilities and individuals can plan ahead accordingly. the residents of sj county have voted in tons of environmental protections and land use prohibitions. let the voters reap what they sow.
Renewable energy inevitably incurs unforeseen costs, negatively impacts the environment, affects real estate values, and is unreliable. i do not favor going down that road at this point in its development.
Residential battery systems and ev connected back up sources
Resiliency and reliability goals are needed - aim before firing; know the costs; leverage government funding
Respect property owners
Rockisland should put fiber down all public roads, not just select roads where county council members live.

Rooftop solar/ or solar arrays may be a good option in the summer, but small scale wind turbines could be considered as an option to provide generation in the darker months.

San juan county needs to change some of its policies

San juan county needs to lower the ken

San juan county officials should approach our energy needs from a "whatever it takes" approach to secure our energy reliability and independence.

San juan county should move as quickly as possible to install solar and other green technologies.

Save the trees.

See previous thoughts. I got cut off before finished and couldn't go back but you get my thoughts anyway! Thanks for the opportunity!

Seek the general good over special interests.

Seems to me that there are plenty of areas that are already in industrial. That would make a better location for a solar farm, then pristine farmland that feeds directly into false bay, marine sanctuary.

Self reliance of infrastructure and economy are a high priority

Sensible fold of renewable energy into present grid without knee jerk reaction that would likely compromise future of the environment and island aesthetics.

Seriously address uncontrolled population growth especially for non resident home owners. curtail owning multiple dwellings which are used strictly to increase the wealth of the owner!

Should look at upgrading mainland cables. Didn't see that as an option.

Sjc dcd sucks.

Small sacrifices need to be made at times to assure proper sustained development of our power.

Solar and batteries don't have enough energy. We need nuclear energy.

Solar does not work on the islands. We have too much cloud cover. Batteries for now are much to expensive. A fossil fuel generator or small nuclear generator where we supply our own energy might be the solution.

Solar energy if put up needs to be where it's less impact on the environment around it. Also, all the money that's been put into the fiber optic i think could've been put into generators like we used to have. I'd be certainly in favor of that and be placed around the island.

Solar in industrial areas

Solar is fine if it isn't located in one of the most beautiful spots on the island. Please find a more discreet location.

Solar on developed land with battery backup seems to be the most sensible for san juan county. Green renewable energy from the mainland is not a bad thing. Marine turbine energy is expensive and ridiculous for a county our size. Hydro from the lower snake river dams is more expensive than renewable solar and wind. Opalco should be pro-dam breaching to keep down our costs, and recover critically endangered southern resident orcas and wild salmon. Opalco should encourage bpa to improve its transmission grid and join caiso, rather than spp+.

Solar panels don't work with opalco services. There is hardly any noticeable price difference. I have 27 solar panels on my house that were installed in october 2021 and cost me \$27,000. The only year i saw a discount in electricity costs was the first year after that the rates changed and the electricity discounts disappeared, which was very disappointing. I would never promote solar panels for opalco. It was a complete waste of \$27,000.

Solar projects in other states have shown to not be viable and impact nature far more than you all let on. I have close friends living on decatur and they filled us in on the issues they experience with the microgrid over there. Let's not pave over paradise! I am okay with solar panels in already existing "paved over" areas, like parking lots, large rooftops, residential rooftops, etc. I am not okay with fields and fields of solar panels. I am also strongly opposed to tidal generators, the impact on our beloved marine wildlife would be simply to big

Solar solar solar

Some of the questions are a tad offensive in that they assume that nobody knew anything before reading this text.

Some of these questions seem biased to the answer you want.

Some people are never satisfied with any kind of change. Maybe they'll be happy when we have to go back to cooking with wood-burning stoves and reading by the light of a kerosene lamp at night because they couldn't bear to put solar panels on a piece of unused land. Idiots.

Some solar panels can exist over farming.

Some streamlining regulation to move renewable projects forward more quickly, but only if safeguards are in place to protect what is special about the san juans.

Spend my money on replacing the mainland cable and lobbying against server farm subsidies.

Start going renewable

Start very conservatively

Steamroll these nimbys to get bailer hill microgrid going and also revamp the specs on it as powin is out of business and you can now fit 2.5mw/5mwh in a 20' container!

Stop adding procedures and staff that increase the base fee please.

Stop creating roadblocks to siting renewable energy projects

Stop ignoring and doing work arounds. it's not a farm. solar only works when the sun shines and we need power most in winter and where we live ver little sunshine and battery technology is not adequit to support needs. i have had solar for 30 years both here and arizona. stop charging extra to people who have solar, stop discouraging conserving of electricity by customers.

Stop lying and follow the same rules as the rest of us for land use, it's not a farm. and solar is only when the sun shines. seriously where do you think we live and when do you think we need power most? also, stop pushing all electric if there is a shortage. and why isn't a hydro electric dam renewable?

Stop sending the magazines. Save the money.

Stop the plan to clear cut on decatur island! There is no benefit and deforestation of such a small island is unacceptable!

Stop trying to invade our space

Stop wasting member money on this and concentrate on maintaining existing grid, and stop ruining trees for your so-called wildfire prevention

Stop wasting time! get on it!

Streamline process and engage the public on the decision criteria. I think the decatur opposition was largely from impacting a rural island with minimal demand compared to the developed islands.

Stramline the permitting process. How do new developments (ie roche harbor land use for 140 new homes) contribute to t

Study this and get advice from other communities

Support land and house owners to install their own systems

Support private development of renewables on private property!

Support roof top installs with tax breaks

Support should be given to those projects that do not contribute to global warming.

Support the installation of solar panels and wind generation for individual households to help them with energy independence.

T

Take advantage of the clearing that was done under power lines in appropriate places for renewable energy projects palces

Tell them to put their development where their mouths are.

Thank you for considering all of these concerns - especially renewable energy and environmental concerns.

Thank you

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of rate payers. the survey is a bit suggestive, but that is okay as it served its essential purpose.

Thank you for doing this! I know there is a lot of opposition to these projects e.G. The bailer hill micro grid. I think the opposition is stupid and i hope people come around

Thank you for educating us.

Thank you for explaining your needs and requirements

Thank you for keeping us informed

Thank you for sharing .

Thank you for sharing our experience

Thank you for soliciting user opinions

Thank you for the work you are doing to build concenus.

Thank you for the work you do!

Thank you for thinking ahead!

Thank you for this educational survey

Thank you for working on these issues.

Thank you for your foresight and for making this a priority.

Thank you for your forward-looking perspectives and sensitivity to community values. I appreciate your balancing all the variables!

Thank you for your leadership in the renewable energy field.

Thank you for your service and advocating for san juan county's growth, health and resources

Thank you.

Thanks

Thanks for all your work on this challenge.

Thanks for caring and acting on an issue that could change dramatically the island life.

Thanks for the good job you are doing

Thanks for the information. I think i understand much more than before.

Thanks for the survey opportunity.

Thanks for this survey.

Thanks for working hard in this!

The big power companies (including boneville power) are not going to be concerned about a small co-op like opalco. we need to be as responsible for ourselves as possible, so when our contract comes up in a few years (2028), we can bargain from a position of strength.

The concern about the aesthetic impact of solar panels sort of seems to ignore the aesthetic impact of ancient windmills. people like ancient windmills, for the most part

The cost of power, like the cost of water is ridiculous already. adding expensive projects isn't going to reduce how much my power costs. once the costs go up, they never come down.

The costs of power are debilitating to so many families.

The county government needs to decide to set renewable energy projects as a top priority.

The county needs to be more flexible and responsive to our energy needs.

The county should allow all forms of renewable energy to be considered, including small-scale residential wind turbines for property owners. Also, existing solar customers are paying large monthly fees to be grid-tied. These fees need to be reduced by spreading the costs of renewable energy systems to a larger customer base.

The County should not cow tow to OPALCO

The cutting of trees that you've done recently shows how little you care about the environment nor the input of the cooperative members.

The environs must be protected before any energy development is approved.

The fact that you are sending out a survey which is biased like this one is wrong.

The fastest path to more power is utilizing the power we already have through ders and vpps. Opalco needs to raise the rate they pay back to homeowners for overproduced solar power in order to encourage more rooftop solar. And opalco should update it's bylaws to allow them to own infrastructure on private land. Let a homeonwer rent their feild or rooftop to opalco for solar and batteries.

The focus needs to be on conservation first, and additional energy production (a not very close) second. we could require homes to be more efficient than state energy code, or incentivize it. zoning could be a tool as well - encouraging multi-family construction in villages over single family construction.

The greater good needs renewable energy

The less we can rely on mainland power generation the better. With that in mind, local renewable energy development makes total sense.

The mania for switching cloud computing from low draw cpu's to high draw gpu's, combined with the banning of ic vehicles in favor of bev's are poor policy damaging the reliability of the grid. Data centers and their owners should not be allowed to engage in trading and speculation in energy and should have lowest priority in times of high demand.

The more you can help the low income to put in solar, the more you would have coming back to the system.

The most environmentally conscious action anyone can take is not to have children.

The number of kilowatt hours that residential to some degree, commercial enterprises should be prioritized as â€œwhat and or whom should be given access to electricity for 'vital' energy needs.

The path forward isn't about choosing between clean energy, reliable power, or environmental protectionâ€"it's about balancing them together. Leaders who embrace innovation will set the foundation for the future of our community.

The power supply should be secure before allowing more population growth.

The questionnaire pretty much covered all aspects.

The recent change in rates to make them more "fair" for everyone is actually a disincentive for solar - and a bummer to have happen soon after we installed solar

The san juan islands are not the place for solar panel fields. There is not enough sunlight and open land. Solar and wind should be built where there is sun and wind and where there can be a greater roi.

The san juan islands consist of an aging population, energy can mean the difference between life and death so i find it to be very important. finding a way to become more self sufficient by balancing renewable energy with land-use priorities and environment concerns seems like a smart way to go about this.

The scenic beauty and rural character of san juan islands are more important to me than energy security

The sj co environment is one of its greatest assets & must be protected.

The solar field on Bailer Hill needs to protect the big snag the eagles use, and needs to be surrounded by a gorgeous fence that's covered with plant life. If there's a chainlink fence inside that, it needs to be invisible. Don't let it look like the airport, which is a complete eyesore. Make it pretty and natural looking and it'll get support.

The solar project for decatur is as likely to succeed in productivity as a pineapple farm - wrong latitude & cloudy climate! it would be poor managment of our co-op's funds . More importantly is the unnecessary destruction of forests impacting wildlife habitat. Residents of decatur would also suffer while receiving no benefits . Please manage our money, our natural resources, and our island residences' needs better. Thank you.

The solution is simple: conservation of power. That includes banning electric vehicles from our grid. Start planning on paying for a replacement undersea cable. It's ok to continue to get our energy from the mainland. Waldron doesn't need you. Maybe we don't either!

The solution lies with nuclear and/or fission reactors most likely located off island. use of fossil fuels like natural gas is excellent for demand surges and as backup power.

The survey assumes that blackouts are comingâ€!

The survey covered my concerns

The survey questions and potential answers are loaded to make you want to answer the questions in a favorable manner to building micro gridser

The term "balance" is appropriate here. Landowners and environmentalists will not be happy with many energy development proposals, so the crucial test will be finding renewable energy development that respects land-use priorities and environmental concerns. i hope that local leaders and elected officials will do a good job of balancing these concerns. Ultimately the region cannot survive without adequate energy resources, but every effort should be made to balance those needs against protection of the environment and the health of the people who

The time is approaching where continued population growth is no longer sustainable. We need to face that real truth!

The time to stop talking and studying this issue is near. we need to get going on solving this impending problem now.

The use of appropiate technolgy is critical to succesful intergration of local generation in places such as san jaun county. large wind tubines as an exc ample are a figment of an outmoded central generation model and us industrial policy. Our county would benefit from a plethora of quiet micro generation options for individual home owners.

Alterastions to shoreline use for micr hyadro or wave genration is one such possibility among many. Adoption of european technologies such as vertical as opposed to horizontal wind generators should be prioritiz

The was this survey was worded was extremely biased; it also didn't allow for input on each question, and didn't mention alternatives. Opalco tends to come across as a bully.

The wording of this survey could have been better the options are very slanted in a way that i find gives me pause and want to further securitize your motives

There are quite a few agricultural sites that would be great solar sites as they are out of the view corridors that so many citizens seem to think would be ruined by a solar installation. those sites should be considered even though they may be a bit farther from the needed connections to the current power line infrastructure.

There has no mention of tidal energy.

There is no mention of propane usage as a backup and to reduce electric demand nor are home generators mentioned although many homes already have such. Also what are Opalcos conservation efforts and outreach?If unavoidable solar should be placed on county owned property, use land bank property. Stay off of private land.

There is no question that as our county population continues to grow, it's imperative to develop creative and environmentally respectful local energy solutions.

There is plenty of roof space for individuals to install solar on their homes. With a modest battery investment they will have backup power. No need to take more land from wildlife for greedy humans.

These are difficult issues that opalco board must navigate.

These are islands and people who live or move here should be somewhat self sufficient.

These issues are so complicated there must be time set aside for negotiation. The answer can't come down from the big guy to the little guy as an order, it has to be a mutual decision. There is room for both renewable energy and responsible land use.

They shold meet middle road solutions

Think out of the box!!

Think outside the box. More than solar.

This "survey" is worded in such a way as to pursue your agenda. Am more against these initiatives having to wade through your manipulative presentation of "questions."

This is a complex and complicated topic. I found it difficult to answer this survey because, for most questions, none of the provided answer's accurately reflected my comments. For instance, for multiple questions i was asked to make a choice between locally built renewable energy projects or a future with guaranteed power outages. We all know there are many more viable alternatives. This survey appears to built to steer responses based on creating fear of a dystopian energy future.

This is a totally biased survey. The questions are framed to collect the predetermined desired response

This is a tricky situation. There is a need for reliable energy, but increasing cost also impacts our communities. Cost of living, property taxes, and wages (fixed income or lower income) all impact people's ability to stay in the county. If it gets too expensive, the working class will not be able to stay. Families that have been in the islands for generations could face real hardship. Offering affordable options for people to invest in there property with renewable energy, having income subsidies, and supporting local communities is crucial.

This is a voluntary questionare - nothing is mandatory

This is an important issue and needs to be addressed with the utmost of care as it will have long-lasting implications for years to come.

This is an unfair survey, due to the choices allowed

This is hardly an objective survey. The structure is clearly biased and meant to raise alarms. It does not raise my confidence in the willingness of opalco to be self serving.

This is our planet's future we're talking about. Renewable is a non-negotiable requirement

This is so important. I hope we can make this happen in the most environmentally sensitive way possible. (also, for the survey creators, a couple of your questions could have had "no difference"-type responses when being presented with information didn't change my opinion.)

This is tough, but i think that during a tough economic time, i'd like to see lower costs. Energy is seen an inelastic pricing to most people, so any real changes need to come from opalco rather than use modifications (wrt pricing). Good luck, i'm sure you are getting a lot of concerned people speaking out - it's tough to seek consensus on this topic.

This question is also the answer. The way forward is to balance renewable energy development, reliable energy, land use and the environment. One doesn't have to be at the expense of the other. It would also be helpful to share models from other progressive countries in the world that have found unique and successful solutions to all these considerations.

This question probably shouldn't be required. I support renewable energy and affordability, but you already knew that from my form answers :)

This questions in this survey often felt biased. That does not help trust.

This should not be an opalco-led concern, nor should san juan county be reactive to opalco's narrative. Independent third-party expertise, retained by a public committee with full transparency, is the appropriate path forward.

This survey forced answers to align with author bias- not valid results.

This survey is a crock of shit.... Carefully worded and designed to steer respondents toward the answers you want. Many questions had only two realistic options: responsibel citizen answer, or troglodyte caveman answer. When this became apparent, i always chose the caveman answer. I have long had a positive view of opalco, but if your leaders cannot grow up and produce better material than this garbage, that will change. As for utility scale energy, stay off our beautiful landscape and use buildings, of which there are plenty.

This survey is poorly written and clearly has an agenda. It uses scare tactics and does not allow for options such as looking at several diversified options from geothermal to building design and retrofit. You want solar, put it on existing

roof tops where applicable, make covered parking - do not destroy our agricultural lands for a short term solution. Agriculture is critical for self sufficiency - if you cover grass with solar panels it will not grow, nor can it be harvested.
This survey is so patently biased towards getting customers to agree to large scale renewable projects, it's unbelievable. Opalco has no business covering land with solar panels and disrupting wildlife. Of course people who are near to these proposals obect. Opalco should work with bpa and other regional sources to expand its supply if necessary. Everybody should have roof top panels. The notion that this is only good in the summer is weak. Every question and the order of the question is geared toward your desired response. Not good.
This survey seemed entirely focused on building local generation. it's not clear why increasing transmission capacity and longer term supply agreements from the mainland is not an option.
This survey seems designed to arrive at predefined conclusions. it does not provide any information on the costs and risks of upgrading mainland connections, eliminating that option even from consideration.
This survey was a barely hidden attempt to sway opinios
This survey was mostly about renewable energy yet your pricing policy for businesses who put in renewables is grossly unfair. Opalco is penalizing business who install solar without the same penalty for residential solar. i am a small business and only after i installed solar did i find out my demand charge has risen from the minimum \$7.50 to a fee of \$35 to \$50 each month. this is based on the maximum usage in a fifteen minute period each day. residential is not charged that fee yet my highest usage occurs in the residential use of my business w
This survey was poorly drafted and is very biased toward creating a sense of guilt if people do not support the proposed changes to county regs to allow large solar arrays within productive farmland and view corridors. If adequate power can not be provide to serve the projected populations growth then both opalco and the county need to take a closer look at what population level is sustainable w/o building solar arrays over farmland. I believe opalco should look closer at where solar panels can be located existing on existing structures and existing
This survey was too long and the questions felt like they were heavyhanded
This survey was worded in a very biased way to skew the responses toward accepting, embracing, and willing to finance renewable energy projects. energy costs are strangling many households, and resources cannot be diverted (and rates raised to pay) for extensive future projects.
This survey, the wording of the questions and choices seems biased and simplified.
This was a ridiculous and incredibly biased survey. I am embarrassed that it has reached this point and that fear-mongering married to paranoia has taken over the narrative. please return to being a power company and not a propaganda machine.
This was a very bizarre survey. The questions were leading, there was no option for "other" for most of them. It is unlikely that you will get much useable information out of this survey unless the purpose was to collect some "data" to lobby the county with. The questions should have included options for "investing" in costs for replacement of the critical mainland cables, is opalco ensuring there are sufficient capital reserves for this because if they are aging like is stated this should be a priority to ensuring energy stabilization. We will no
Those consuming more power should be paying the full cost of the increased need for infrastructure. The consistent use of the threat of blackouts" is misleading the public, and fear mongering. Clear-cutting 180 plus acres of on multiple islands, for utility scale solar, especially when coupled with promoting "forest health" is akin to "paving paradise to put up a parking lot"! In the words of e.F. Schumacher, "small is beautiful ". Do what green mountain power does in vt, providing as many homes as possible with rooftop solar and battery storage. T
Those on the larger and higher population islands should shoulder the greatest burden of land use projects.
Thumbs up
Tidal current energy generation possible? we must develop environmentally sensitive yet reliable sources of energy locally for the long-term. I support solar farms with grazing and crops underneath.
Tidal generation seems to be a good option; not dependent on wind nor sunshine. i would like to see the pilot project take place.
Tidal generation!
Time to move forward on this
To back opposition to the San Juan valley siting, reference was made to a 1990's era Comprehensive Plan. As the population of the islands is much different today, the conclusions of that plan should no longer be considered as representative of today's population.
To encourage homeowner renewable energy projects a reduction in the monthly service fee for homes with solar systems should be instituted.
Transparency about who, what, where, why, secret profiteers
Transparency is essential
Transperancy is important at every stage.
Try to stay away from high density housing areas
Try to tick off as few people as possible
Trying to keep up with residential and commercial energy demand is very challenging and expensive. What about helping residents and others to become more energy efficient, less wasteful and resilient. I know this was in one of the choices but it doesn't need to be either/or. we need to do everything. The rates for mega mansion usage over a certain level needs attention for fairness.
Use a balanced approach to maintain energy generation.
Use as small a footprint as you can when developing sites.
Use common sense

Use existing agri/res/indus land for renewable energy projects and expedite permitting while continuing to protect sensitive areas and wildlife
Use the land bank's pool of land. we must have energy independence from bonneville and the snake river dams.
Use wind power, forget the batteries. Solar is too hard on the environment to produce solar panels.
Utility scale renewable is a nonstarter on the islands, it has to be on the mainland as that is where the highest numbers of meters are; upgrade/improve submarine cables; reroute cables to reduce points-of-failure and to bring power from different locales; tourists dont come to the islands to see a field of solar panels or a windmill farm; households and business should be strongly encouraged to install an emergency generator for the few times it might be necessary
Waste to energy: <a href="https://www.Asme.Org/topics-resources/content/clean-power-from-burning-trash">https://www.Asme.Org/topics-resources/content/clean-power-from-burning-trash</a> this solves our trash to landfill problem also tides to energy, not nearly refined and proven as waste to energy but a far better source of energy especially in a place like san juan county.
We are fortunate to have the opalco board engaged in our problems
We believe that renewable energy implementation can and should be done right and respecting community input and environmental protection is essential to do so.
We can not remain dependent on an aging and stressed electrical grid.
We have already witnessed and felt the repercussions of opalco gambling with our cooperative dollars and betting everyone would use rock island fiber (news flash, it's only a small portion of full time islanders that can afford the multiple thousands of dollars required to obtain rock island fiber on their own) â€œit's shocking that more isn't spoken about this. A big public apology and explanation might help with trust for future projects. big investments in â€œcutting edgeâ€ technology aren't what we needâ€;we need not experiment
we have energy producing hydro power, natural gas, oil, coal and atomic energy that is plentiful and cost effective. Solar,wind and batteries are not cost effective and cannot produce even a small percentage of energy needs.
We have to act now to secure our energy future
We have to prioritize our environment first
We have wanted to install a ground-loop heat pump on our property for several years but have not been able to get anyone to come to Shaw to install--long waiting list, lack of willingness to come to smaller islands (particularly because of poor ferry service)
We hope that opalco will continue to finance members installing renewable energy such as solar panels even if federal funds are not available
We literally can't develop enough renewables here in san juan county. It should be one of the counties highest priorities. Long term storage other than chemical batteries should be explored as well.
We live in a world where reliable energy (and internet) has become necessary, it seems important that we devote some time considering how to implement more local energy sources while balancing other concerns like environment and health considerations.
We love the island and must ensure we find a way to balance all issues. yes, we accept that power outages are to be expected, we simply cannot continue to rely on the mainland
We must have a balance between environmental concerns and our need for electricity.
We must make energy resiliency a priority.
We must plan for the forecasted growth or plan to restrict growth
We need action on this. None of your other goals will work if we don't have sufficient electricity!
We need electrical independence from the mainland!
We need it sooner than later. Solar farms and tide energy please!
We need more local clean energy. Period.
We need more renewable energy
We need renewable energy development.
We need to act now to secure our future. please support renewable energy development.
We need to balance the the importance of building renewable energy options in san juan county since we are headed for a collision course if we don't regarding electricity consumption and potentially much higher rates.
We need to expand rooftop battery storage and conservation of electricity via switch it up programs as well as to develop community solar in appropriate locations
We need to generate more local power
We need to get going in this! If we, one of the more progressive counties, cannot get our tenewabke ducks in a row, how can we hope to solve these problems
We need to make hard trade offs now to give ourselves time to establish new energy sources. Be proactive.
We need to move ahead and develop plan alternative energy
We need to stop delaying. The day the cable fails we lose power-internet-all electronic transactions for many months. Total disasater..
We need to take the issue of renewable energy development seriously, while ensuring we continue to preserve and protect san juan county's natural resources that make this place awesome!
We should be looking at scalable solutions. If the power from mainland is not sufficient how do we support that. The problem with solar/battery is the amount of space required on a finite amount of island space. The developments are extremely invasive.
We should explore shit2power plants use on the islands
We should not designate opalco as essential public services and give up community input and envitomenta review!

We should not make decisions based upon emotional, feel-good environmental and renewable goals. there is little sunshine here for many months of the year, and the wind is unreliable. traditional means of generating electricity, regionally, including fossil fuel generating plants, dams, and eventually nuclear are what is needed.
We should not subsidize residential solar and focus on more cost effective utility scale
We support local renewables with guardrails to protect the environment
We support more local renewable projects in the san juan islands while maintaining a balance of protected areas. We know we can't have it all and understand there will likely need to be clearing of certain areas.
We support tidal power generation
We would love to see progress on tidal energy generation
We'll always have nimby voices, especially here in san juan county, but the hard reality is that electrical demand will go up significantly and we need greater production and less dependency on bonneville. We need to make sure that the nimby and inflexible environmentalist voices are heard, but unless they have better solutions, they cannot hold the entire county hostage to their preferences.
What about incentivizing homeowners to build "off-grid" renewable energy and battery systems to take the pressure off opalco
What about tidal generation?
What are the costs
What brought most of us here is quality of life, proximity to natural lands and nature, and peace and quiet. The idea of using land already designated as commercial/industrial seems the best course with the least resistance. You won't please everyone, but at least you won't make enemies of everyone.
What's the plan to fix/improve the mainland transmission lines? easiest fix
When you ask homeowners to take out loans on solar projects, you should provide monthly accounting for what they receiving in credit. The system as it stands is rather opaque.
Where is the conservation focus? Why are we not discussing reducing energy consumption? Why are we always assuming that more is better? Maybe residents of the san juans need to treat electricity like water - we have a lot in the summer when the sun shines, and less in winter when it doesn't. What essential needs must be met by electricity? How can people reduce their consumption of electricity, just like water? It might not be palatable to the modern household with its watt-thirsty appliances and lifestyle, but it is our reality. In no way does buil
Whoever wrote this survey, skewed it towards opalco's goals.
Why did you decide to run fiber optics all over the island when talking to the people installing it they say it's outdated before we even put it in the ditch.Why did you decide to run fiber optics all over the island when talking to the people installing it they say it's outdated before we even put it in the ditch.
Why is replacing the cable to the mainland not one of the options to consider? Am guessing cost, but would be nice to know..
Will support options that allow with renewable energy with minimal impact on our environment
Wind does not even cover carbon cost, solar works in texas,arizona...San juan's could use salt water tide and currents...And it's proven in use and return on investment pencils out
Wish you luck with this challenging issue
With climate change and increasing demand for electrical power the status quo is not sustainable.
With local property taxes increasing, balancing the plus of progress and defining the most available 'bang for the buck'
With objective to be energy resilient, independent we should explore all alternatives, implement those which meet a threshold criteria, and always plan and build for resilience within reasonable mutual agreeable policies. Our personal experiment is solar, battery, grid in that order for 2/3 of the year, how do reduce dependency in the 1/3 when solar is not producing, like tidal, biomass today, and possibly fusion in the near future.
Work harder to find ways to utilize residential rooftop solar for the island communities -- some sort of communal storage? Also, work on other forms (e.G., tidal). This is framed as either we build large projects or we have high costs and outages - maybe that's true but i'd like to see more evidence of seriously thinking through other options.
Work together
Would harnessing tidal waters to produce power feasible for our waters?
Would like private solar billing to be more transparent
Would like to see more support for individual homeowners and business owners to install and maintain energy-efficient equipment
Yes, let's actually balance the priorities.
Yes, some worry about our mainland feeds being disrupted for prolonged periods, and age of grid.
You have been VERY negligent with considering the neighbors of your solar project on Douglas Rd. If this is the lack of community respect you will use in future projects, I will oppose them. We have never been assured that. you will landscape the Douglas Rd site to conceal the solar equipment. This should be an easy fix, and you have not communicated a positive answer to the neighbors.
Your survey has inadequate response options and is fraught with survey bias. the survey should have included more centered questions, not just "black" or "white" answers. there should always be an option for gray answers.