

Press release

87% of people in France say the energy transition will influence their vote in 2026

Paris, 10 July 2025 – The words *ecological* and *backlash* may appear side by side more often in today's public debate, but an overwhelming majority of people in France (87%) still see the energy transition as an important factor in the upcoming municipal election. That's the headline from the new section of the Observatoire Idex/Villes de France/Ipsos 2025 survey published today ([here](#)). Collective awareness, it concludes, is stronger than ever despite the ongoing economic headwinds.

THE 4 KEY FIGURES IN THE 2025 SURVEY:

- 87% of people in France see the energy transition as an important factor in how they will vote in the 2026 municipal elections.
- 72% list energy prices as their top concern, linking the transition to purchasing power.
- 59% are unaware of or unconvinced by their municipality's efforts to advance the energy transition, pointing to a decorrelation between local government action and public perception.
- 60% of respondents want to be more involved in local decisions regarding energy.

The energy transition on the agenda for the 2026 municipal elections

The "ecological backlash" narrative may be gaining traction in public debate, but the latest Observatory for the Local Energy Transition survey – carried out by Idex in partnership with Ipsos and endorsed by Villes de France – tells a very different story. Findings in its new general-public section, published at the Villes de France convention in Libourne, reveal that 87% of people in France see the energy transition as one of the key factors in the 2026 municipal elections. This massive support shows that awareness is growing in spite of increasing economic strains.

A dominant concern in the upcoming election, linked to purchasing power

72% of respondent say that energy prices are their main concern – well ahead of environmental considerations. The survey also found that 65% of people in France prefer clean, local energy – at least in principle, i.e. as long as it only costs 5% to 15% more.

"The energy transition relies on strong partnerships between local authorities, citizens and businesses. Our Observatory survey confirms that people in France are showing increasing interest in local energy sources and want to play a part in this transformation. At Idex, we are certain that the local level is the most effective one to drive the energy transition, which is vital for the environment as well as economic sovereignty", points out Idex CEO Benjamin Fremaux.

People in France prefer practical, visible solutions...

The survey also reveals strong support for specific energy-related measures:

- 80% are for renovating public buildings to increase their energy efficiency;
- 77% are for powering public buildings with solar panels;
- 68% are interested in connecting to heating networks, principally due to the prospect of lower energy bills.

"These findings show that citizens support measures that are visible and comprehensible, that make a real difference in their everyday surroundings – and have a tangible positive impact on their finances," Benjamin Fremaux continues.

A disconnect between local action and public perception

The survey also found a significant gap between local government measures and resulting perception: 59% of respondents are unaware of or unconvinced by their municipality's efforts to advance the energy transition.

"Our towns and cities are playing the key role in the energy transition. The people living in them want local, affordable, sustainable solutions. This transition is an opportunity to keep our energy costs under control and create non-relocatable jobs. This will be one of the central issues in the upcoming 2026 municipal elections because it has a direct influence on households' purchasing power as well as an area's appeal," adds Gil Avérous, Mayor of Châteauroux, President of Châteauroux Métropole and President of Villes de France.

... and want to be involved

The survey, lastly, reveals keen interest in taking part in local energy-related projects:

- 60% of respondents want to be more involved in their town's or city's decisions regarding energy;
- 45% are interested in investing in local renewable energy projects.

These figures point to exciting opportunities for municipalities to develop their energy policies together with their constituents, which will enhance their projects' acceptability and expedite their implementation.

"These figures completely debunk the idea of an ecological 'backlash' in France. We're not seeing opposition to the transition but we're seeing high expectations around its implementation: it needs to be more inclusive, socially equitable and economically viable. The message is clear: people in France want to take action," concludes François Gemenne, a political scientist and researcher specialised in international climate governance, a co-author of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report and Chairman of the Observatory's scientific committee.

With months to go until the next municipal election, the Observatoire Idex/Villes de France/Ipsos 2025 shows that local energy transition, sovereignty and independence have become prominent on the electoral agenda.

About Idex:

Founded in France in 1963, the Idex group, with more than 6,300 employees, develops, designs, finances, builds and operates local, low-carbon energy infrastructure assets to supply heat and electricity for buildings, cities and industry.

With revenue of €2.16 billion in 2024, Idex is the only vertically integrated operator on the market today with a presence across the entire local energy value chain. Its activities range from the production of thermal or electrical energy from local, low-carbon energy sources (waste, biomass, geothermal, solar) to the distribution of this energy through heating and cooling networks, and the optimisation of its end use in industrial, residential and commercial buildings.

For more information, visit <https://www.idex.fr/en>

About Villes de France:

Villes de France is a cross-party association of elected officials that represents and works with towns and cities in sub-metropolitan categories, i.e. with populations ranging from 10,000 to 100,000. These cities are the backbone of France's urban network and play an essential role in economic development and the ecological transition. Gil Avérous, Mayor of Châteauroux and President of Châteauroux Métropole, has chaired Villes de France since 2014.

For more information, visit www.villesdefrance.fr

PRESS CONTACTS

- VHM for Villes de France: Jeanne Rousseau / +33 7 85 69 83 94 / jeanne.rousseau@vhmconseil.fr
- DGM Conseil for Idex: Ines Bousquet / +33 6 59 65 95 40 / ines.bousquet@forwardglobal.com