



Iowa Energy - Statewide Voter Snapshot

January 2026

Iowa Voters Back Locally Controlled Community Energy

A statewide survey of n=400 registered Iowa voters (online) asked about locally controlled, small-scale community energy projects, including urgency, vote impact, and views on project scale and land use.

Overview

Iowa voters see community energy as a practical, local solution with clear support, high urgency, and a measurable political upside for a “yes” vote.

Key Takeaways

- **69%** support allowing locally controlled, small-scale projects; only **7%** oppose
- **69%** say lawmakers need to do more to address rising utility bills
- **67%** say it's urgent for Iowa lawmakers to allow locally controlled community energy projects
- **67%** say smaller, community-scale projects are better than large utility-owned solar farms
- **77%** back a broad energy strategy that includes community energy to help lower bills
- **62%** would be more likely to support a legislator who votes Yes on a community energy bill

Why Voters Support Community Energy

Voters emphasize lower costs and local benefits. The top reasons to allow community energy projects are helping subscribers lower electricity bills (76%), economic growth for small towns and rural areas (55%), and letting local communities decide what fits their area (49%), followed by more options for farmers and landowners (46%) and a clean-energy option without rooftop panels (44%).

Methodology: This statewide survey of n=400 registered Iowa voters was conducted online, January 13–16, 2026. Quotas were set to match the registered-voter population on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, and partisanship. No additional weighting was applied. The margin of error is approximately ±4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level (at p=0.5). Data quality procedures included panel fraud prevention (digital fingerprinting/scoring), attention and logic checks, speed checks, and manual review of flagged cases.