

PRESS RELEASE

CONFRONTED WITH ENERGY CHALLENGES, THE FRENCH ARE ASKING FOR MORE ACTIONS

'The French and hydrogen energy' barometer is an annual initiative of Teréga, carried out in partnership with Harris Interactive, which provides a better understanding of the perception that the French have of energies and particularly of renewable energies. The 2022 edition reveals their fears and aspirations for the energy challenges ahead.

The French are increasingly mobilised on energy issues

The first finding of this barometer is that the subject of energy is even more important to the French than it was in 2021: 75% of them are interested in energy issues, an increase of 10 points. Paradoxically, the perceived level of information does not seem to have changed.

A slight majority of French people (56%) feel well informed, which corresponds to last year's survey. This stagnation should encourage the public authorities and the players in the sector to reflect on how to strengthen education for the general public. As such, 60% of them think that the issue of energy is not discussed enough in the media.

This new edition shows, however, that the French are well informed about renewable energies, particularly solar and hydraulic, while their perception of fossil fuels continues to deteriorate.

A weakened view of the energy sector, its future and its possibilities

One of the major findings of this study is that the French are decreasingly optimistic about the possibility of doing without fossil fuels by 2050, especially for everyday use by individuals.

This ambivalence can be seen in the case of nuclear power - currently at the heart of public debate - which still deeply divides the French, with 51% of positive opinions, even though a large majority considers it indispensable to our energy mix.

In general, the French people's view of the energy sector has clearly deteriorated due to issues related to the independence of production, the balance of the energy mix, and the low development of renewable energies. Two thirds of French people also believe that France is not doing enough to guarantee energy prices for individuals, with price increases being felt almost unanimously: 87% say their energy bill has increased this year.

Hydrogen: a long-awaited energy source

Awareness of hydrogen is higher than in May 2021 (+5 points) and it retains a positive image as a clean, renewable and non-polluting energy. In detail, 58% of French people say they have a good opinion of hydrogen, while 35% feel they do not have enough knowledge to make a decision. Conversely, only 7% have a negative opinion.

Even more than in the previous edition, the development of hydrogen research is perceived as a good thing by the French (90%), and especially by those who say they are familiar with this energy. The majority of them are convinced of its benefits.

The French would like to see its practical use generalised for different types of needs, whether for transportation or for supplying energy to buildings.

Climate challenge at the heart of electoral expectations

With just a few weeks to go, the barometer also provides an unexpected snapshot of the energy landscape in the presidential election. A majority of French people feel that the presidential candidates do not raise energy issues enough, even though 68% of them warn that such issues will play an important role in their choice during the election.

This barometer shows that the French trust Emmanuel Macron, Yannick Jadot, Valérie Pécresse and Marine Le Pen more to invest in the energy issues of tomorrow.

This presidential campaign is therefore a unique opportunity to debate the energy issues that should partly determine the choice of the French when they elect the next President of the Republic.

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For Dominique Mockly, Chairman and CEO of Teréga, *"This barometer gives us the keys to understand the evolution of the French people's perception of the energy transition. The fears and aspirations they express require a strong collective response in favour of the energies of the future, whether in terms of their concrete development or their education. As a player in the hydrogen sector, I am proud that this energy is recognised by my compatriots as a vector for decarbonising human activities. It is now up to us to continue our efforts to ensure that these uses are applied as quickly as possible to the daily lives of the French. "*

About Teréga

Established in South-West France, at the crossroads between major European gas flows, Teréga has exercised exceptional expertise for over 70 years in the development of gas transport and storage infrastructures. Today, it continues to develop innovative solutions to overcome the major energy challenges facing France and Europe. A true accelerator of the energy transition, Teréga operates over 5,000 km of pipelines and 2 underground storage reservoirs representing 16% of the French gas transport network and 24% of national storage capacities. In 2020, the company generated revenues of €460 million and it has more than 660 employees.

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