



Cayman Islands

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

2024-2045

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

16 APRIL 2024



Cayman Islands
Government



Ministry of Sustainability
& Climate Resiliency
Cayman Islands Government

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 24 July to 31 August 2023, the Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency (MSCR) and Energy Policy Council (EPC) facilitated public consultation on the draft updated National Energy Policy 2023-2050 (NEP) and Implementation Plan.

First approved in 2017, the NEP undergoes a mandatory review every five years to monitor and report on progress, and evaluate targets and implementation plans based on new and emerging technologies.

The five-year review of the NEP began in 2022 with the support of consulting agency The Cadmus Group. To produce the updated Policy and Implementation Plan, the Ministry and EPC undertook a public survey between December 2022 and January 2023, and hosted two days of stakeholder focus groups with private and public sector representatives in February 2023.

The draft updated NEP is the result of the first five-year review. The updated Policy draws upon inputs from Cayman Islands private and public sector stakeholders, and local and foreign experts advising on the current market context of energy sector reform topics, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric vehicles.

The 30-day public consultation period on the draft updated NEP included a virtual townhall meeting and digital survey. The community was also able to provide feedback on the Policy via email.



2. SUMMARY OF KEY COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY

A communications strategy was developed with the overarching goal of supporting the successful update and implementation of the draft updated NEP. The resulting public consultation plan was based on stakeholder mapping using a power/interest matrix and audience insights gleaned from the 2022-2023 public survey undertaken as part of the five-year review process.

Strategies included:

- **Ensuring public sector key players were brought onboard as early as possible in the review process, and provided with updates at project milestones.**

This was achieved through a digital presentation to Chief Officers and a direct email to all relevant stakeholders.

- **Hosting virtual engagement opportunities.**

This was achieved through a virtual townhall meeting, radio announcements, print media, digital media, a virtual presentation to Chief Officers, social media, and other community engagement opportunities identified during the public consultation period.

- **Providing updates to the public at key stages in the project.**

This was achieved through press releases to local news media and social media posts.

- **Developing digital infrastructure to support project delivery.**

This was achieved through the development of a Public Consultation Hub page specific to the draft updated NEP and updates to the NEP website.

The following section details the communications activity that took place during the public consultation period and provides information on reach and engagement where possible.

2.1 VIRTUAL TOWNHALL MEETING

During the public consultation period for the draft National Energy Policy, the Ministry worked with the Department of Communications to trial a virtual townhall format.

Streamed live on 9 August 2023, the virtual townhall meeting included presentations on the draft updated NEP and a panel discussion featuring representatives from MSCR, the EPC, the Utility Regulation and Competition Office of the Cayman Islands (OfReg), and Caribbean Utilities Company Ltd. (CUC). A statement was also provided by Island Energy Limited (formerly Cayman Brac Power & Light).

The recording of the livestream has been viewed more than 600 views on [YouTube](#) and 350 views on [Facebook](#).



2.2 RADIO

Radio PSAs were broadcast on Radio Cayman to publicise the NEP public consultation period and virtual townhall meeting.

2.3 SOCIAL MEDIA

Three sponsored social media ads ran on the NEP Facebook and Instagram accounts during the public consultation period, reaching a combined total of 19,830 views and receiving 243 engagements (clicks, likes, shares, etc.).

2.4 PRINT MEDIA

Print ads to publicise the townhall meetings ran in both the Cayman Compass and Caymanian Times between 24 July and 31 August.

2.5 DIGITAL MEDIA

A digital public consultation hub was established for the NEP on GOV.KY:

- <https://www.gov.ky/nationalenergypolicy>
- Page views - 860
- Press release views - 234
- Draft policy downloads - 156
- Recommendations downloads - 75

DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FROM PROTECT OUR FUTURE

On 22 September, members of the youth activist group Protect Our Future (POF) held a peaceful demonstration on the steps of the Government Administration Building to voice their support of the draft updated NEP and protest fossil fuels.

During the event, POF leaders handed over hundreds of letters from local students to the Ministry's Energy Policy team. These letters - ranging from handwritten notes from primary school students to letters from high school students - express support for the NEP's ambitious renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions goals.



Friday, September 15th, 2023
Dear sir
The ice bergs are melting and the sea levels are going up and the beaches are disappearing, people should use bikes not cars.

Dear Sir,
Climate change is affecting people, nature, animals and their habitats, and the planet something needs to be done. The planet is being destroyed and ruined but simple acts like recycling are helping but we need something more efficient than electric cars. Cut down less trees, recycle, reuse and ride bikes, scooters and skateboards.



3. PUBLIC FEEDBACK

The digital feedback survey administered during the public consultation period received 24 responses at the time of closing. 14 written responses were received as part of the survey and 16 emails were received in response to the public consultation.

Each response received during the public consultation period was considered by the Ministry's policy team, the Energy Policy Council and CADMUS (the technical consultant assisting with the 5 year review).

To view more detailed results from the survey, please see Appendix I. The results contained in this report do not include open-ended responses due to the volume of content and to avoid the unintentional release of any personal data which may be contained in these written responses.

Based on the feedback provided since the release of the draft document for public consultation, and recommendations from the Government and the Energy Policy Council, further amendments were made to the NEP.



4. SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES

The below list summarizes the key changes to the Policy following the public consultation, engagement with key stakeholders and recommendations from Cabinet.

1. Targets changed from 2050 to 2045

The dates of the proposed Policy have changed to align with the new targets.

2. Additional Definitions

Several new definitions were included in the Acronyms and Definitions section. A few definitions to terms that were not mentioned in the document were removed.

3. Additional Responsibilities for the Regulator

Additional responsibilities were added under Section 2.3 for the Regulator to lead the hosting capacity and infusion studies and the Integrated Resource Plan process, in consultation with the utilities. The final report is to be confirmed by Government to ensure its adherence with the NEP.

4. Customer Self-Consumption

The Policy calls for the right for a customer to produce and self-consume up to 20kW AC of solar PV plus battery energy storage.

5. On-Bill Financing

The Regulator and Government will explore options to develop a consumer on-bill financing scheme to assist customers to invest in renewable energy.

6. Goal 2 Name Changed

Goal 2 changes from “Destination of Excellence” to “Innovation”. The new title more accurately captures the purpose of this goal.



7. New Programmes

The Regulator shall develop programs and incentives such as non-grid export and time of use utility rates, Virtual Power Plant's, Microgrids, Agrivoltaics, demand-side management as well as electricity grid reliability and stability, in accordance with the IRP and ensure the roll out of these assets/options is part of the utility's planning processes.

8. Ensure Fair Competition

Utilities may compete in utility scale renewable energy solicitation, defined as systems 5 megawatts (MW) and greater. Utilities cannot compete and leverage monopoly advantaged in distributed generation or consumer financing, thus ensuring fair competition in the market per ESR law.

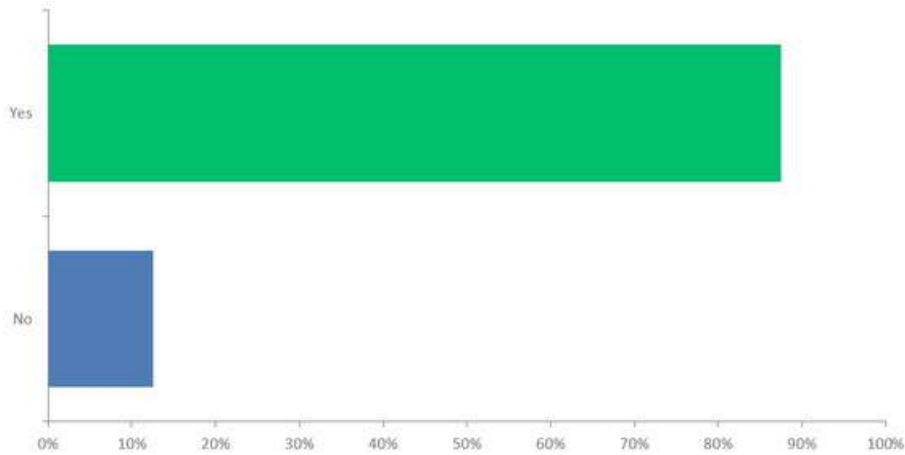
9. Additions to the Implementation Plan

- Develop programmes to incentivize customers to export stored renewable energy during peak hours.
- Explore options to develop and implement an on-bill financing program.
- Develop a "CORE+" programme for agriculture + larger DER solar systems under 5MWs.
- Create policies and standards to allow for zero export solar + storage systems.

APPENDIX I | FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS BASED ON 24 RESPONSES

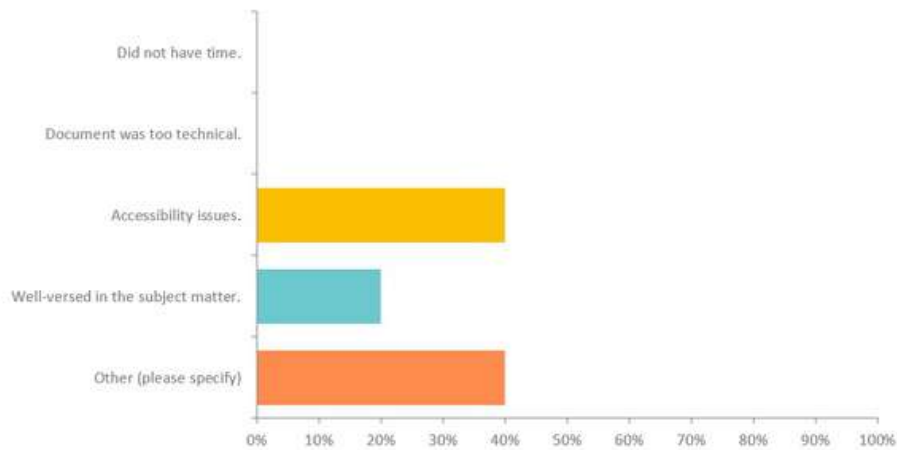
Q1: Have you read the draft updated National Energy Policy 2023-2050?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



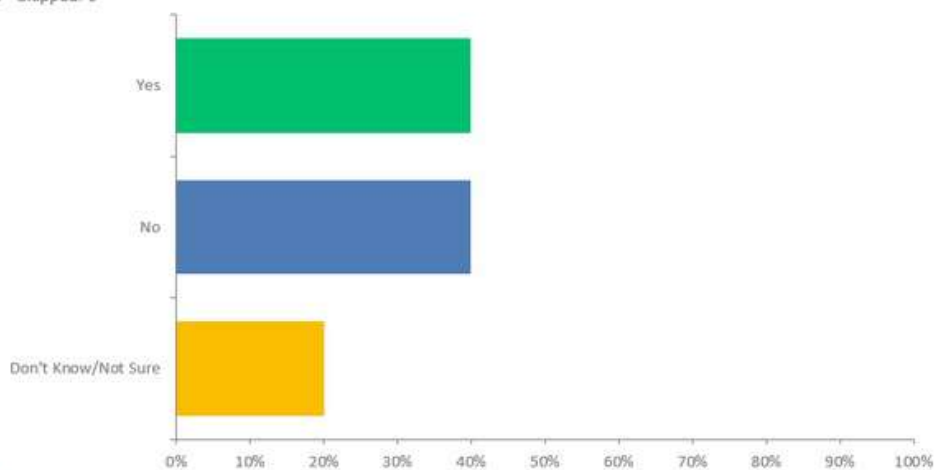
Q2: If not, please let us know why you have not read the draft updated National Energy Policy. Select all you feel apply.

Answered: 5 Skipped: 19



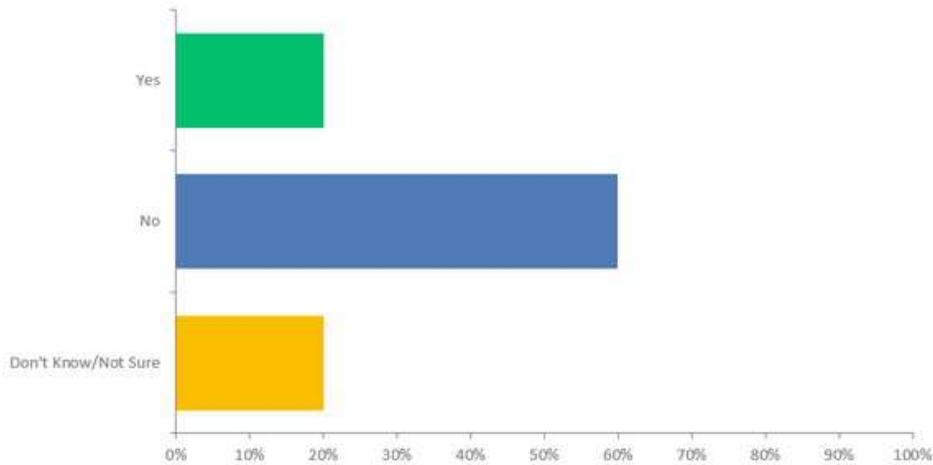
Q4: Goal 1: Knowledge and Education Strategies in this section promote awareness of energy policies, workforce and educational opportunities, and benefits of adopting renewable energy, electric vehicles, etc. Do you believe these strategies are sufficient to achieve this objective?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



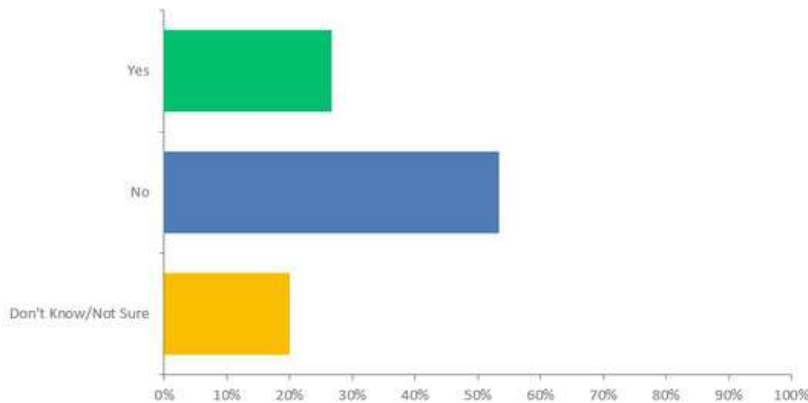
Q6: Goal 2: Destination of Excellence Strategies in this section aim to position Cayman Islands as a leader in innovative, well researched, environmentally sensitive, and sustainable energy opportunities. Do you believe these strategies are sufficient to achieve this objective?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



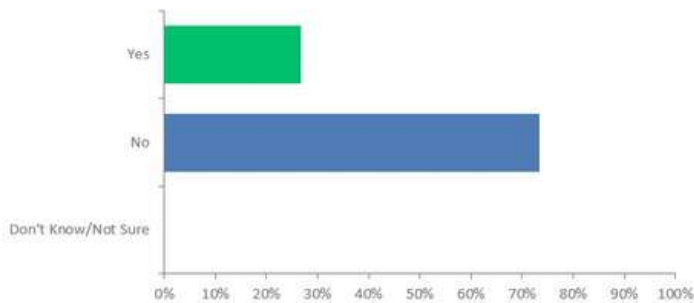
Q8: Goal 3: Energy Security Strategies in this section aim to ensure that energy supplies are produced and distributed competitively, safely, reliably, efficiently and affordably supported by a governance framework of effective and responsive regulation, fuel security, environmental sensitivity and sustainable development. Do you believe these strategies are sufficient to achieve this objective?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



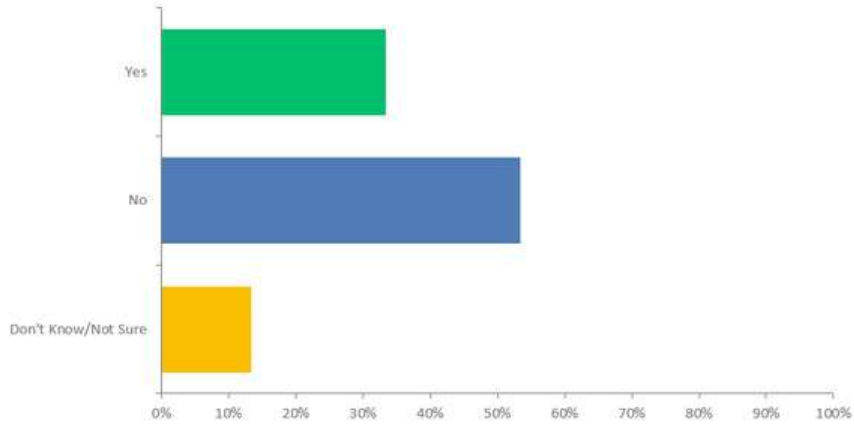
Q10: Goal 4: Socioeconomic and Environmental Sustainability Strategies in this section aim to foster and promote the development and application of existing and new technologies, practices in sustainable energy solutions and the continual development and growth of the sustainable energy industry reflecting its commitment to the socioeconomic wellbeing of its people and to its international and local obligations relating to climate change and environmental sustainability. Do you believe these strategies are sufficient to achieve this objective?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



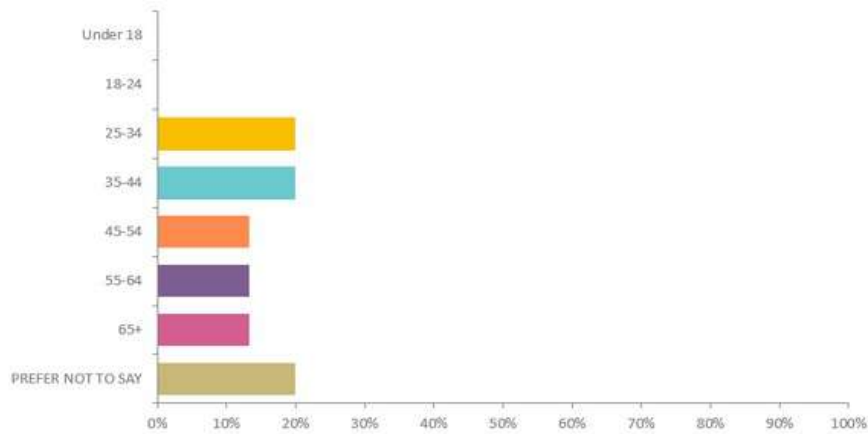
Q12: Do you believe these proposed targets are sufficient to achieving Cayman Islands' energy goals?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



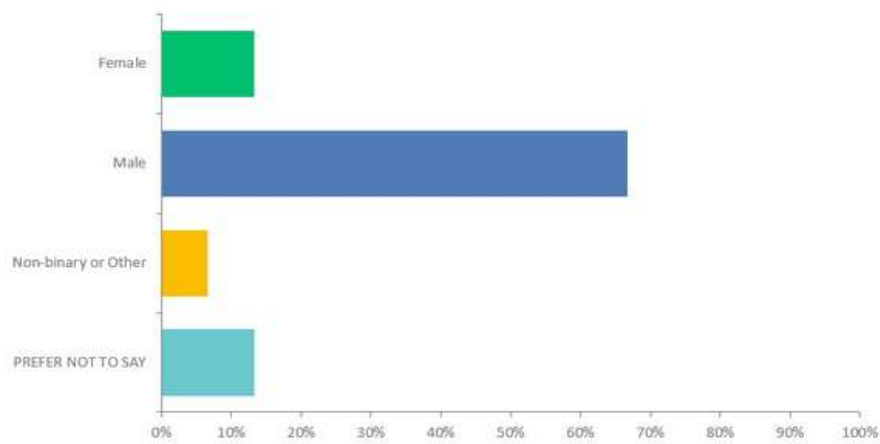
Q15: Which category below includes your age?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



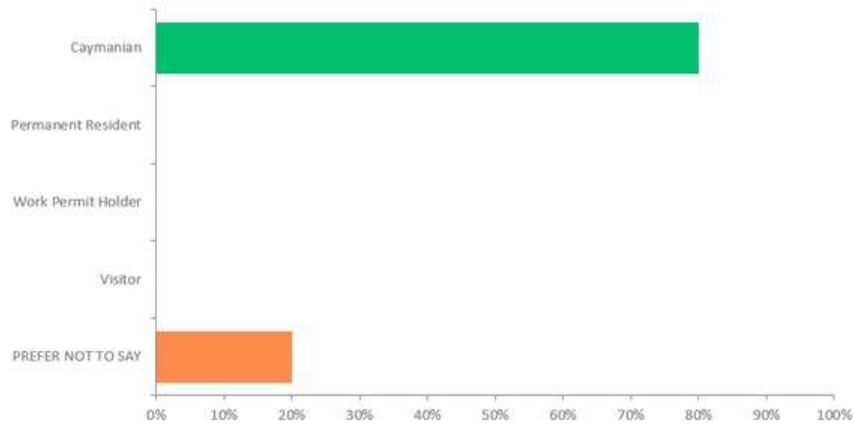
Q16: What gender do you identify as?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



Q17: Which of the following best describes your immigration status in the Cayman Islands?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9



Q18: Which district do you live in?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 9

