



Canada This Month

Alberta's Renewables Policies

Public Opinion Research
Release Date: March 21, 2024
Field Dates: March 1 to March 11, 2024

Key Findings

1 Most Albertans are familiar with Alberta's new renewable energy planning rules

While 69% say they are familiar with the new plan, only 6% say they are very familiar with the new plan and can explain it to others in detail. 24% say they have not heard about a plan before this survey. Those in small cities/rural areas are more likely to be familiar with the new rules.

2 However, 1-in-3 think it sounds like a good plan

1-in-3 (32%) say this sounds like a good thing while only 16% say this sounds like a bad thing. NET good is higher among Albertan UCP. Just over half remain uncertain, which means if familiarity grows, these numbers could easily change.

3 All initiatives gain support. Some have more support than the other

While many Albertans are uncertain about some policy specifics, Albertans see more good than bad in all the policy specifics tested. More than half (55%) say making developers responsible for reclamation costs via bond or security sounds like a good thing with only 10% saying that it sounds like a bad thing. Requiring public engagement before any changes to Crown land access can be implemented is also said to be a good plan by more than half (53%).

Familiarity: 7-in-10 (69%) say they are familiar with AB's new renewable energy rules; Familiarity is higher in small cities/rural

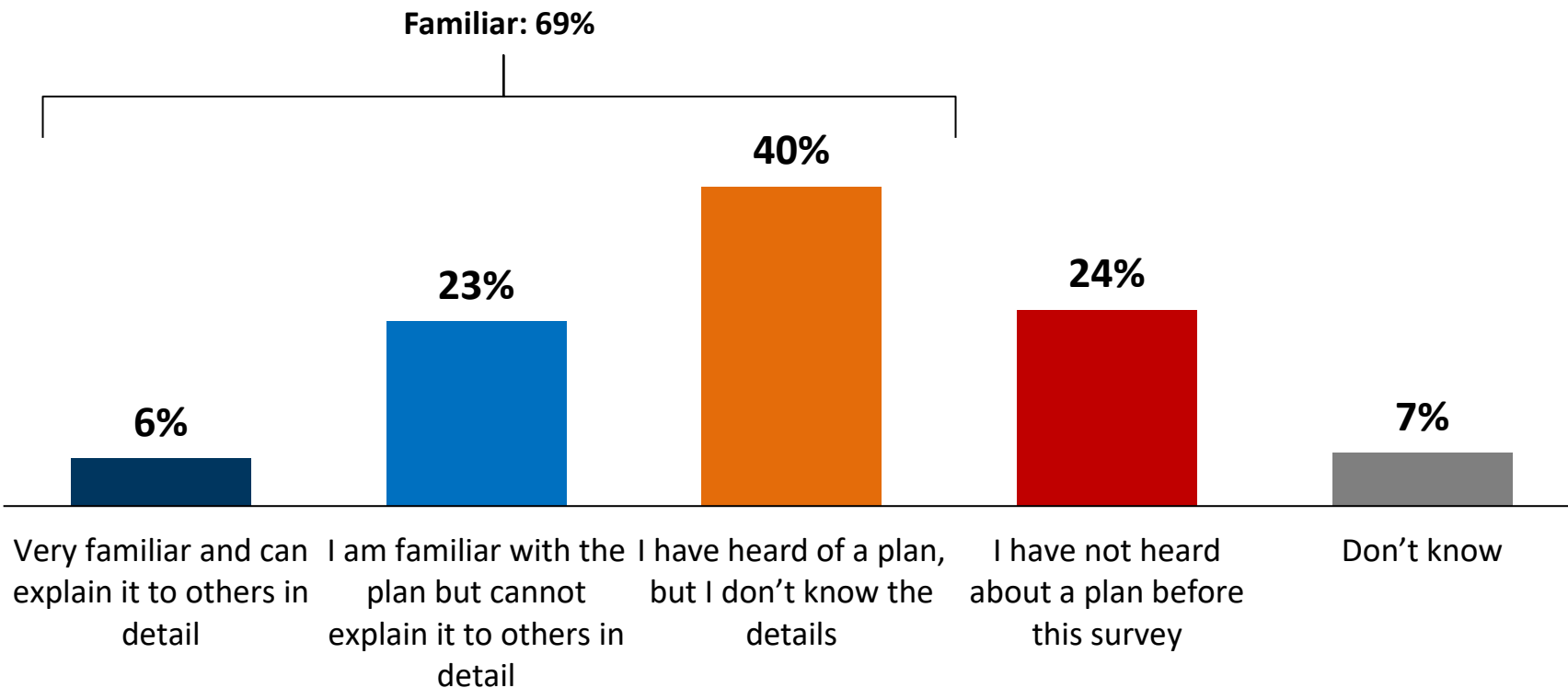


The Alberta government has announced significant changes regarding Alberta's renewable energy planning rules effective March 1. These changes include:

- Banning renewable generation developments on high value farmland (unless the proponent can demonstrate that crops or livestock can exist alongside the power infrastructure on the specified site),
- Making developers provide a bond or other security upfront to cover reclamation costs,
- Establishing 35-kilometer buffer zones around "pristine viewsapes" and banning new wind projects in those areas, and
- Requiring "meaning public engagement" before any changes to Crown land access can be implemented.

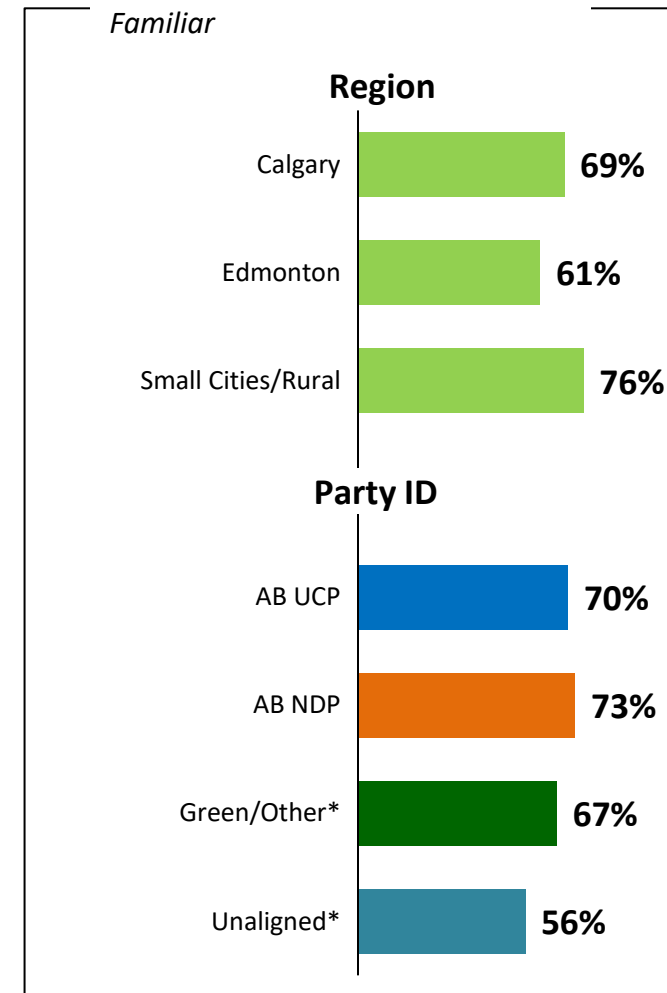
How familiar are you with the Alberta government's new renewable energy planning rules?

[asked of all respondents; n=400]



Segmentation

Familiar

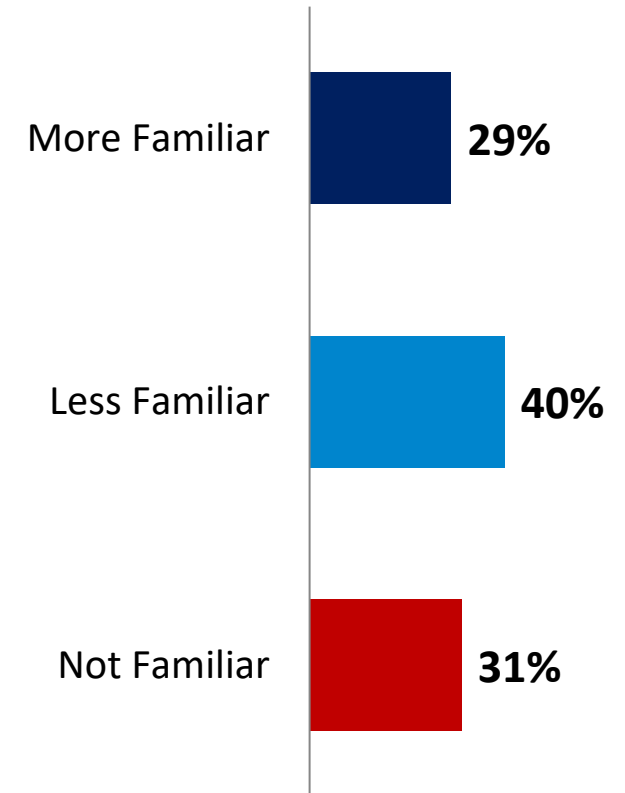


*Note: This indicates an n-size of less than 50. Please treat results with caution.

Familiarity Groups

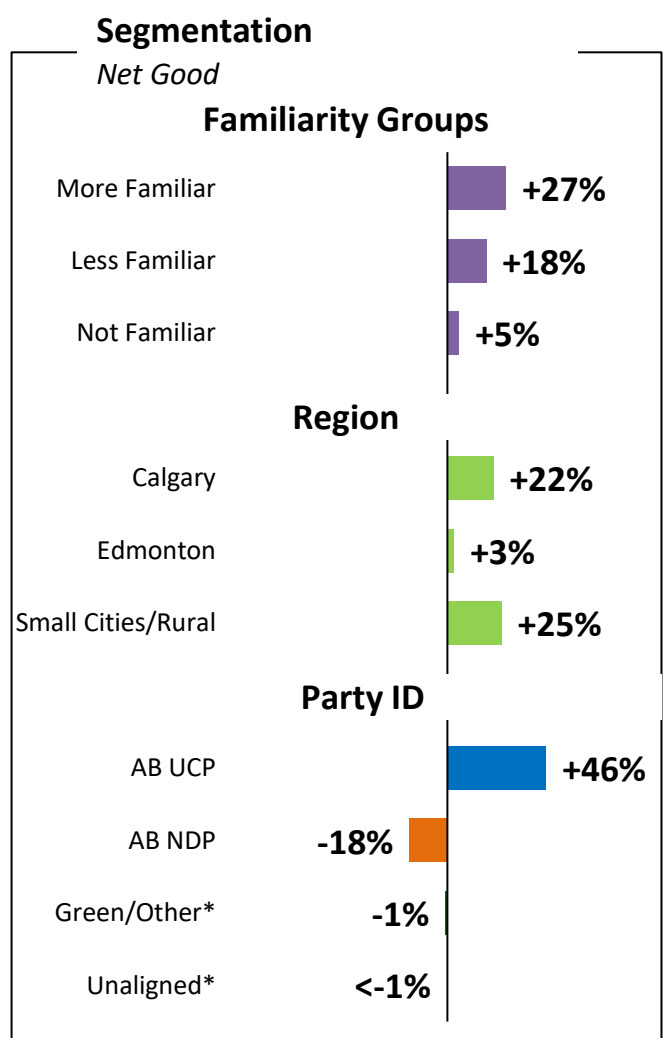
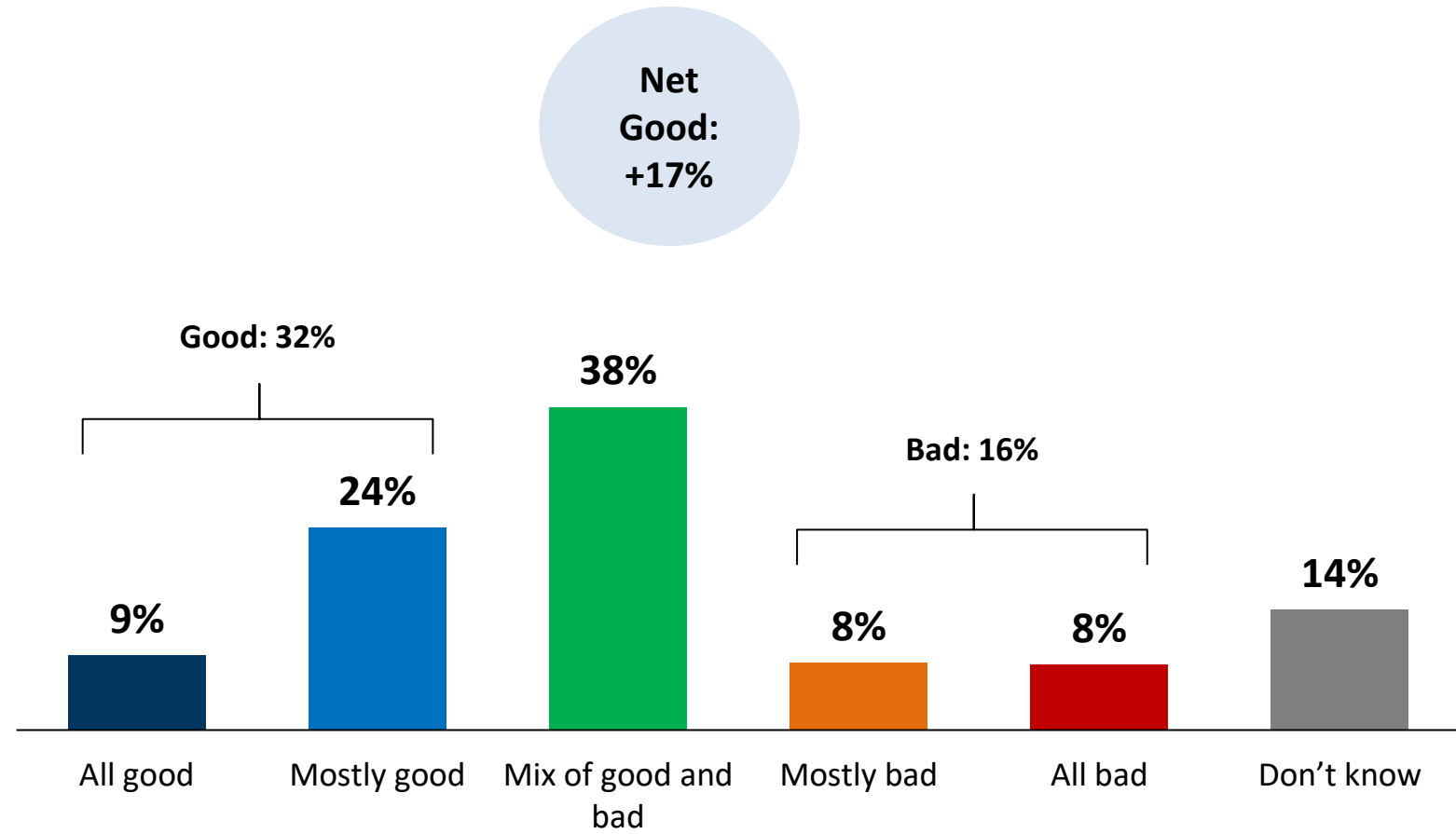
We group people together with similar levels of familiarity to analysis the results of the remaining questions.

Very familiar and can explain it to others in detail	More Familiar
I am familiar with the plan but cannot explain it to others in detail	
I have heard of a plan, but I don't know the details	Less Familiar
I have not heard about a plan before this survey	Not Familiar
Don't know	



First Impression: 1-in-3 say Alberta's plan sounds like a good thing; Net good is higher among AB UCP

Q From what you know or based on your first impression, does Alberta's plan sound like a good thing or a bad thing?
 [asked of all respondents; n=400]

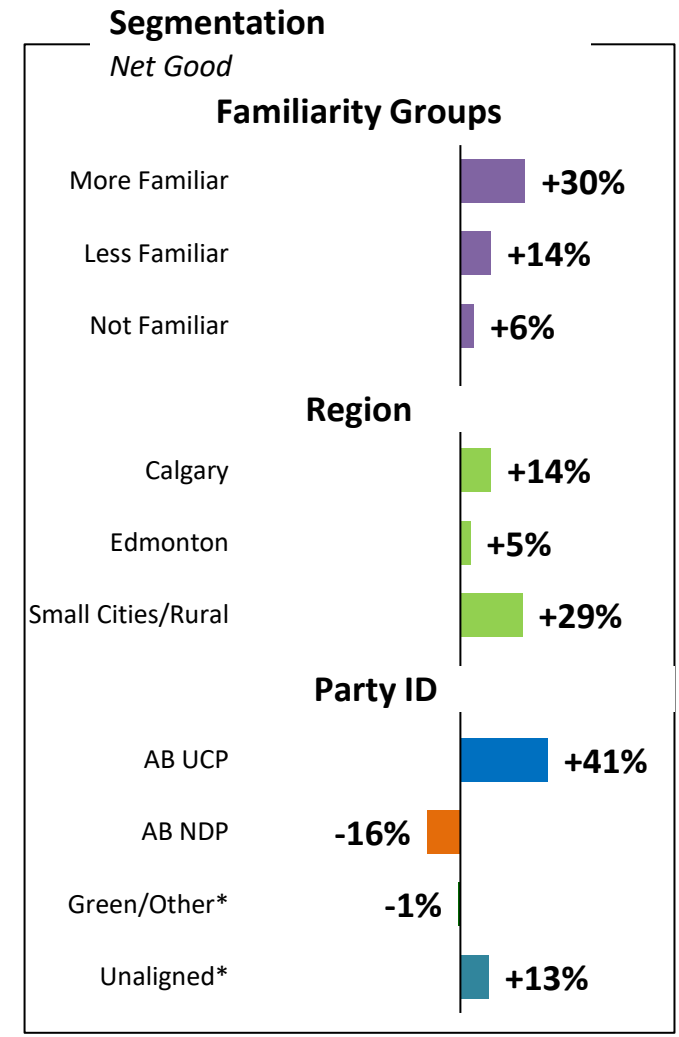
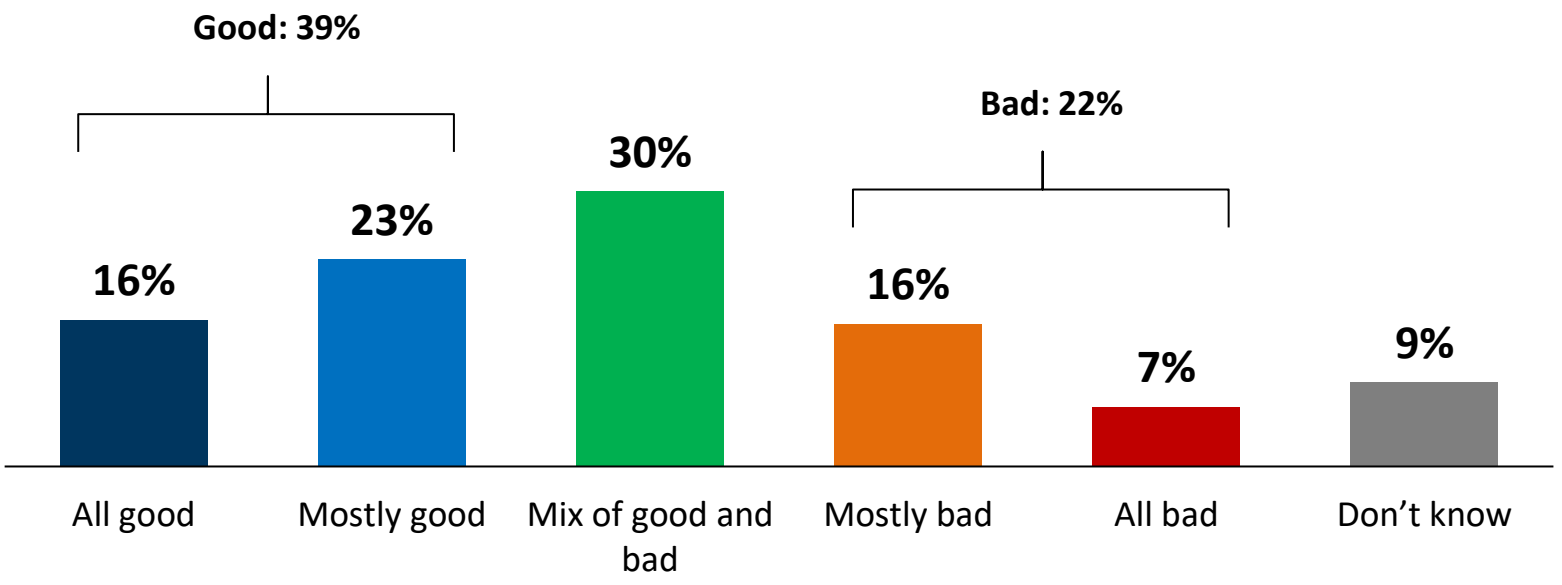


*Note: This indicates an n-size of less than 50. Please treat results with caution.

Banning New Projects: Nearly 2-in-5 say banning new projects on high value farmland sounds like a good thing

Q Alberta will no longer allow new renewable power projects on high value private farmland. However, proponents can proceed if they can demonstrate that crops or livestock can exist alongside the power infrastructure on the specified site. Does banning new projects on high value farmland sound like a good thing or a bad thing? [asked of all respondents; n=400]

Net Good: +17%



*Note: This indicates an n-size of less than 50. Please treat results with caution.

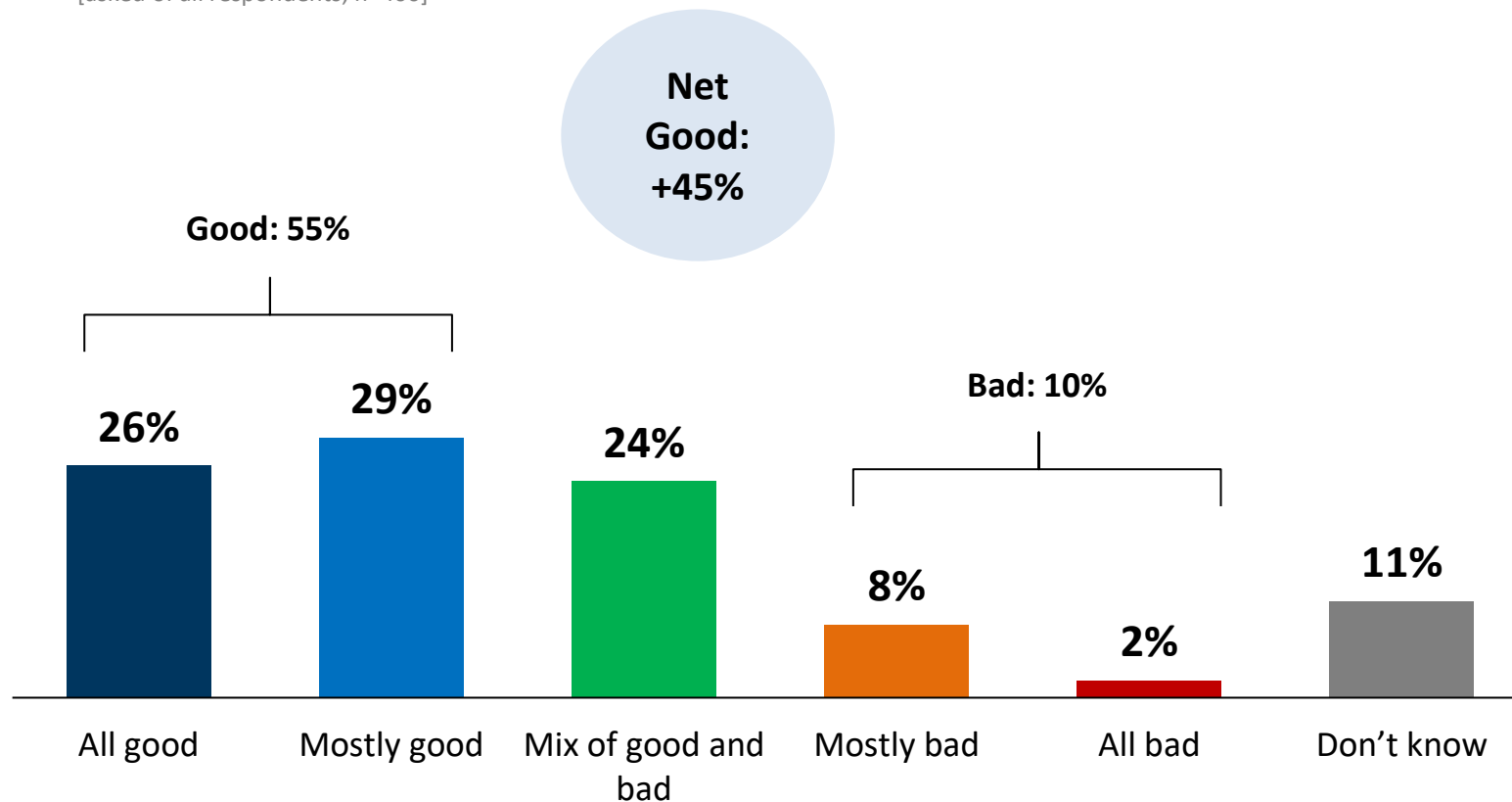
Developers on Reclamation Costs: More than half (55%) say making developers responsible for reclamation costs sounds like a good thing



In the announcement, developers will be required to provide a bond or other security upfront to cover reclamation costs. While project proponents can engage in direct negotiations with landowners regarding reclamation costs, developers must present evidence to the Alberta Utilities Commission for such agreements to be approved.

Does making developers responsible for reclamation costs via bond or security sound like a good thing or a bad thing?

[asked of all respondents; n=400]



Segmentation

Net Good

Familiarity Groups



Region



Party ID

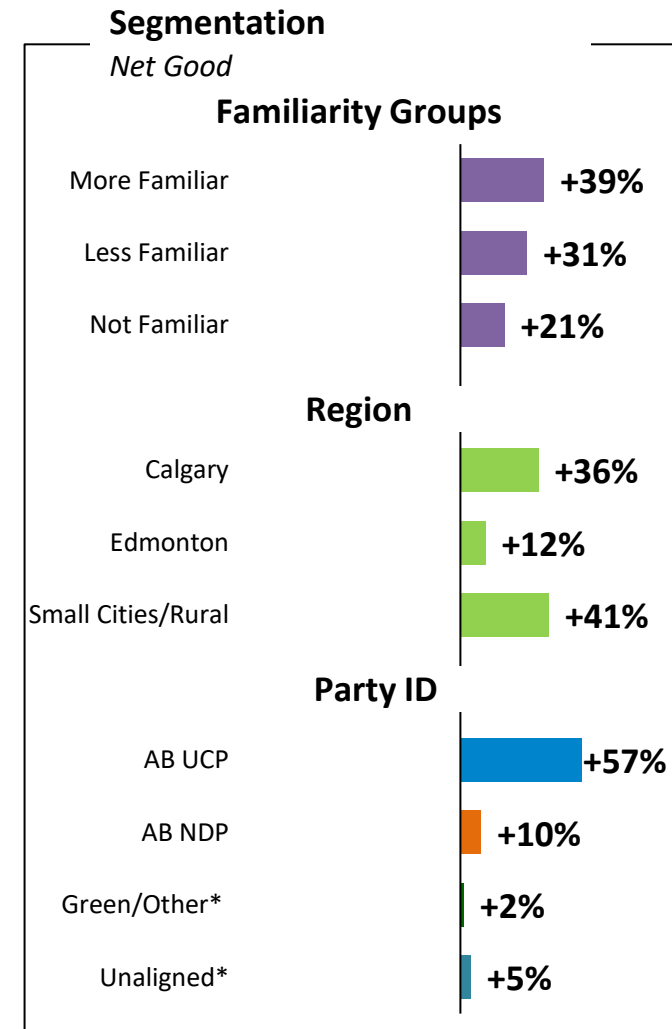
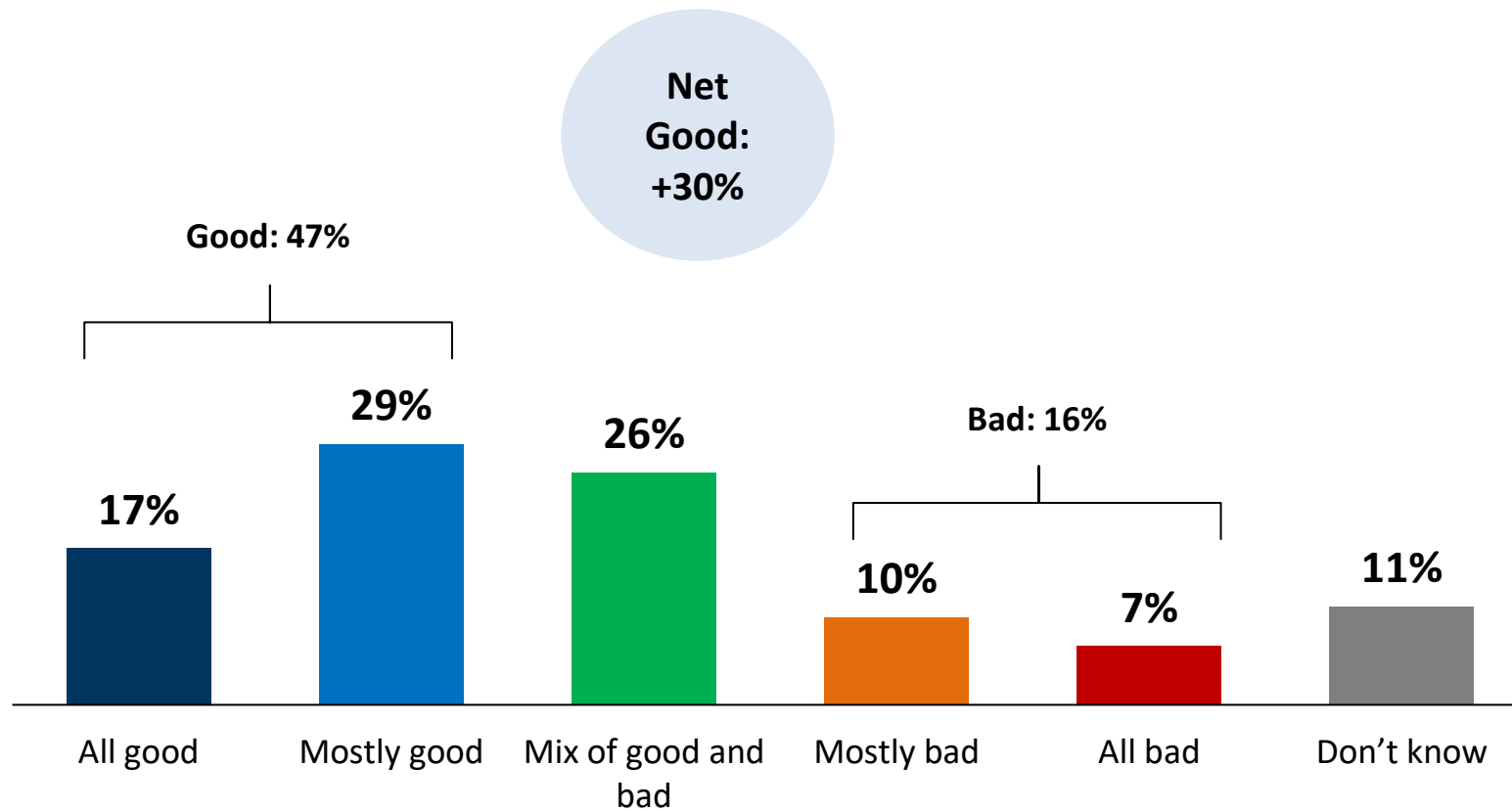


*Note: This indicates an n-size of less than 50. Please treat results with caution.

Buffer Zones: Nearly half (47%) say having buffer zones to ban renewables projects sounds like a good thing

Q The province will establish buffer zones spanning 35 kilometers around areas categorized by the government as “protected areas and other pristine viewscapes.” Within these zones, new wind-power projects will not be allowed, and other types of renewable energy may require "visual impact statements" for approval.

Does having buffer zones to ban renewable energy projects sound like a good thing or a bad thing?
[asked of all respondents; n=400]



*Note: This indicates an n-size of less than 50. Please treat results with caution.

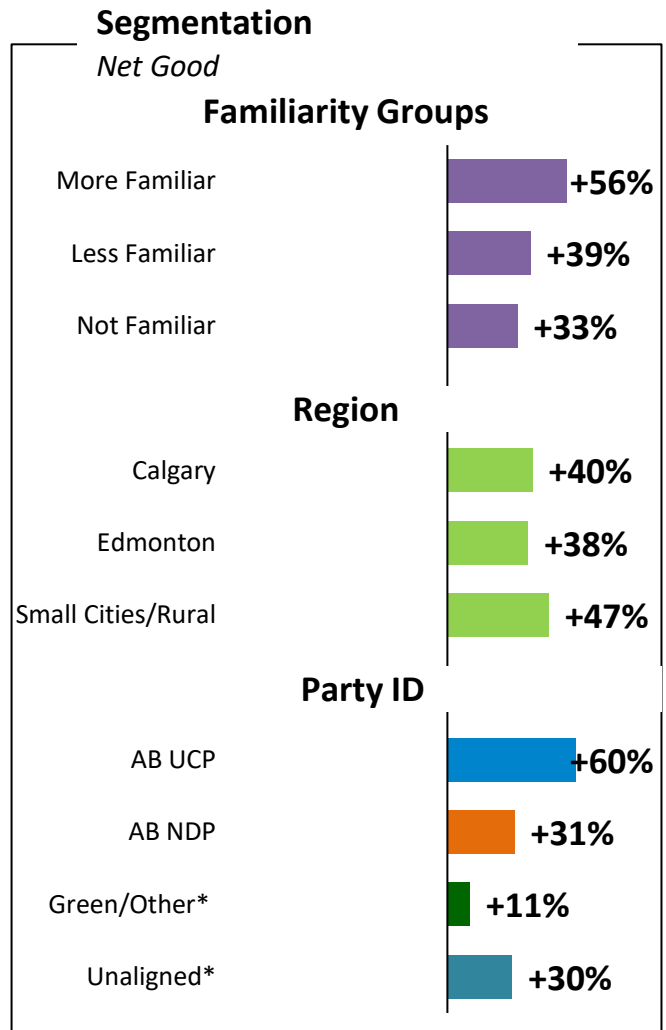
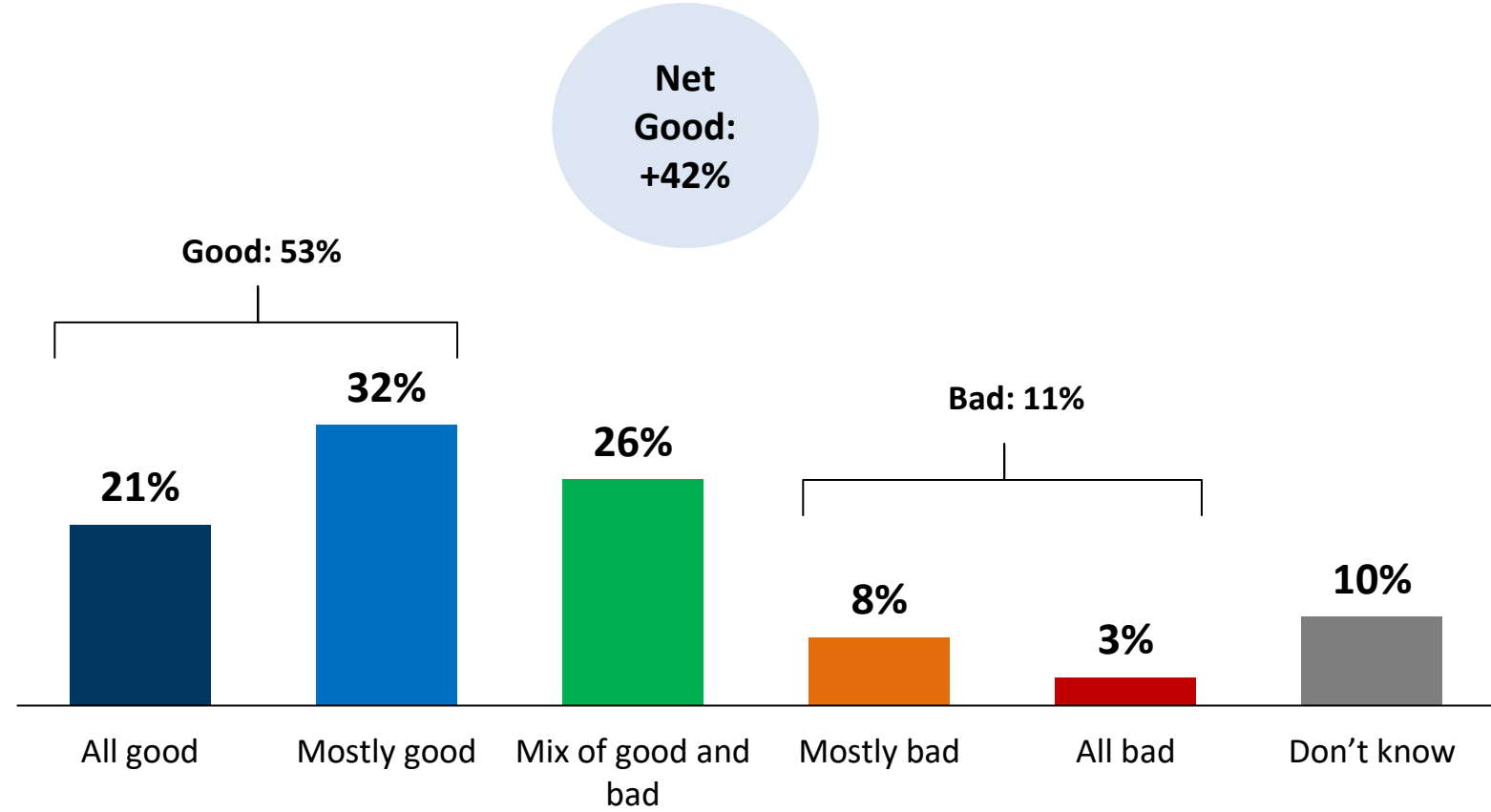
Public Engagement: 53% say requiring public engagement before changes sounds like a good thing; only 11% say otherwise



The province requires “meaningful public engagement” before any policy changes for projects on Crown lands. Any development of renewable development on Crown lands will be on a case-by-case basis.

Does requiring public engagement before any changes to Crown land access can be implemented sound like a good thing or a bad thing?

[asked of all respondents; n=400]



*Note: This indicates an n-size of less than 50. Please treat results with caution.

Methodology

The background of the slide is a solid dark blue color. It features several faint, light blue circles of varying sizes scattered across the surface, creating a subtle pattern.

Methodology

This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online sample. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel and weighted to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. The survey was conducted among 457 Albertans, 18 years of age and older, from March 1st, 2024 to March 11th, 2024.

The AB sample has been weighted (n=400) by age, gender, region, education, and self-reported federal past vote using the latest available Census data to reflect the actual demographic composition of the population.

This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability-based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

AB Weights: Age, gender, and region

Results for AB are weighted by age, gender, region, education, and self-reported federal past vote to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data; in order to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Weighted and unweighted frequencies are reported below.

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
M 18-34	50	11.0%	58	14.5%
M 35-54	74	16.3%	73	18.3%
M 55+	94	20.7%	66	16.7%
W 18-34	52	11.4%	57	14.2%
W 35-54	81	17.8%	73	18.3%
W 55+	104	22.9%	72	18.0%
Calgary	164	35.9%	126	31.6%
Edmonton	142	31.1%	130	32.5%
Small Cities/Rural	151	33.0%	144	35.9%



Building Understanding.

Personalized research to connect you and your audiences.

For more information, please contact:

Greg Lyle

President

(e) glyle@innovativeresearch.ca

Cherry Nguyen

Research Analyst

(e) cnguyen@innovativeresearch.ca