

New York State Builders Association

Key Findings: Statewide Perceptions of the New York State All-Electric Buildings Act

RMS is pleased to present the findings from the 2025 New York State All-Electric Buildings Act Perceptions and Awareness Study, conducted via an online survey. RMS does not take a position for or against the All-Electric Buildings Act. Our role in this study was to analyze the data objectively and present the findings with accuracy and integrity. The insights outlined in this document reflect the perspectives and experiences of respondents and are intended to inform ongoing dialogue and policy discussions.

RMS has also provided the New York State Builders Association with a detailed full report, which includes a question-by-question analysis and a concise Executive PowerPoint presentation. Both documents present visuals and expanded details that complement the high-level overview contained here. RMS encourages all stakeholders to review the full report for additional context and insights gained from this study.

Methodology

A total of 1,238 New York residents completed the survey, producing a ± 2.79 margin of error at the 95% confidence level. Responses were grouped into four regional clusters based on similar characteristics and weighted in two stages: first, to match each region's age, gender, and income profile from U.S. Census data; and second, to reflect each region's share of the state population. This process ensures the findings are both demographically and geographically representative. The full report contains additional details on the methodology used in this study to ensure reliable and validate findings for statewide perceptions.

Key Study Findings

- **Low Support and Awareness:** Support for the all-electric legislation remains low across New York State. Public awareness is limited, and both awareness and attitudes vary significantly by region. Urban residents—particularly renters and those in multifamily dwellings—often express indifference toward the policy, citing limited control over appliances and housing systems.
- **Regional Support Patterns:** Support is highest in Downstate (mean score 3.1), where more residents express favorable attitudes. In contrast, support is weakest in Central and Western NY. Positive sentiment is often tied to environmental and health motivations, safety, infrastructure compatibility, and cost-saving beliefs. Non-supporters commonly cite high costs, lack of homeowner choice, grid concerns, and perceived government overreach.

- **Limited Awareness:** Only 14% of New Yorkers report being moderately or extremely aware of the law, with the lowest awareness in Central NY and the Capital/North regions. Downstate and Western NY show slightly higher awareness but remain low overall.
- **Implementation Concerns:** Across all regions, residents voiced strong concerns about implementation, particularly regarding winter reliability and the need for backup heating systems. Many view electric heat pumps as insufficient for cold climates and emphasize the continued need for fossil fuel alternatives during extreme weather conditions.
- **Energy Use Patterns:** Gas dominates appliance energy use statewide, though strong regional differences exist. Downstate households show higher electric use and more “don’t have” responses, likely reflecting shared or landlord-managed utilities. Gas remains the preferred energy source for most appliances, especially stoves, ovens, and furnaces—though Downstate residents demonstrate more neutrality or openness to electric options.
- **Cost as a Barrier:** Cost remains a significant concern. Respondents frequently expressed apprehension about affording appliance upgrades, particularly if restrictions extend beyond new construction to existing homes. Many fear financial strain or forced changes without adequate support.
- **Nuanced Views on Climate Action:** While some participants supported the legislation for its environmental benefits and urgency in addressing climate change, others saw it as ineffective, overly rigid, or symbolic rather than impactful. Several emphasized that without broader systemic change, the law’s overall effect on emissions would be limited.
- **Impact on Housing Decisions:** The potential for increased home construction costs was cited repeatedly, with some respondents indicating the law would influence their willingness to build or buy a new home. Open-ended responses suggest hesitancy toward future residential development under these conditions.

Conclusion

While many New Yorkers share a desire to address climate change, there is a clear need for greater public engagement, infrastructure readiness, and economic support to ensure policies like the All-Electric Buildings Act are both effective and equitable. Moving forward, thoughtful communication, regional sensitivity, and stakeholder collaboration will be essential in building trust and achieving shared environmental goals. This report provides a foundation for continued dialogue among policymakers, industry leaders, and the public.