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# Understanding the Extent to which the Policy and Regulatory Environment Supports and/or Restricts Self-Power Generation by Hotels and Tourism-Related Enterprises

- Findings from Research Undertaken by CHTA and CAST with National Hotel and Tourism Associations throughout the Caribbean

April 22, 2025



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Following are the aggregated results of research undertaken with Caribbean jurisdictions by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association and the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism to ascertain the extent to which jurisdictional policies and regulations support and/or impede the installation and use of renewable energy resources to reduce operating costs and the dependency on costly and environmentally damaging fossil fuel emissions

Participating Jurisdictions in the research include:

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Turks and Caicos, U.S. Virgin Islands



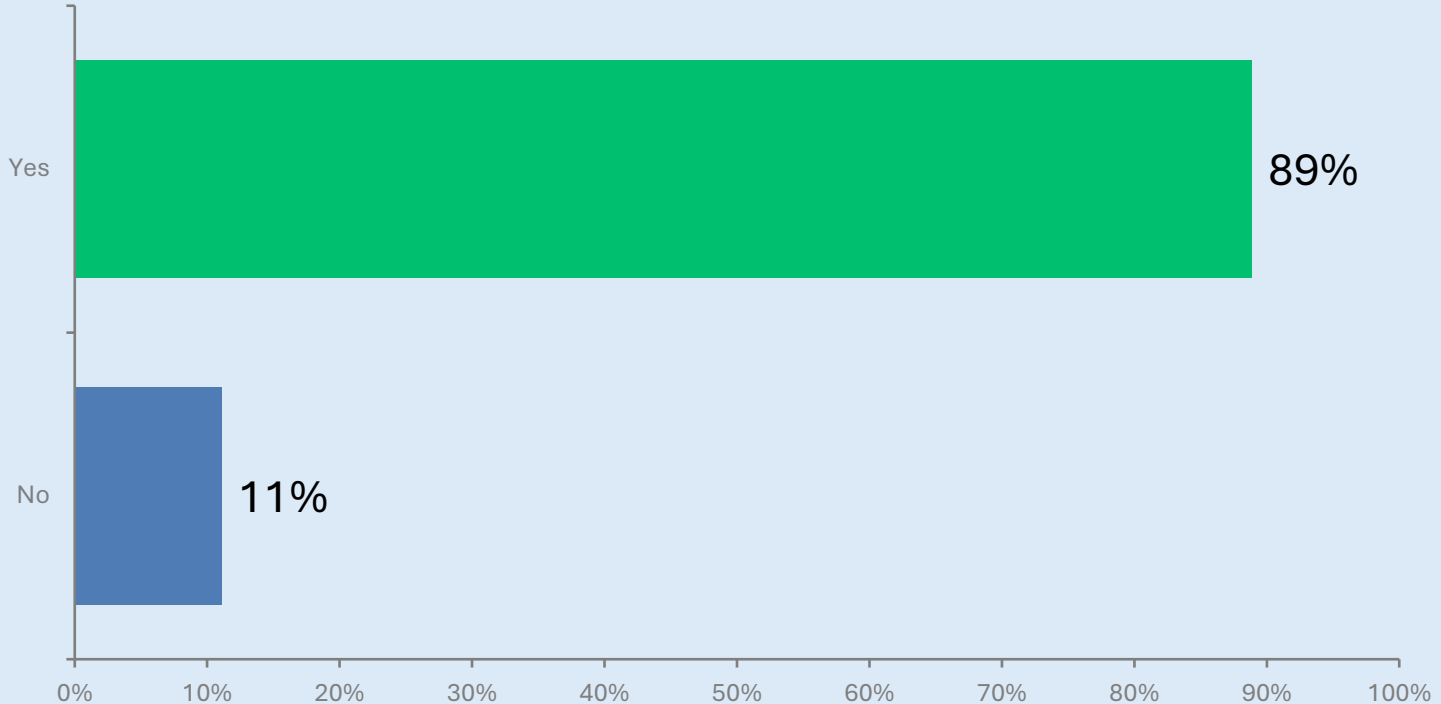
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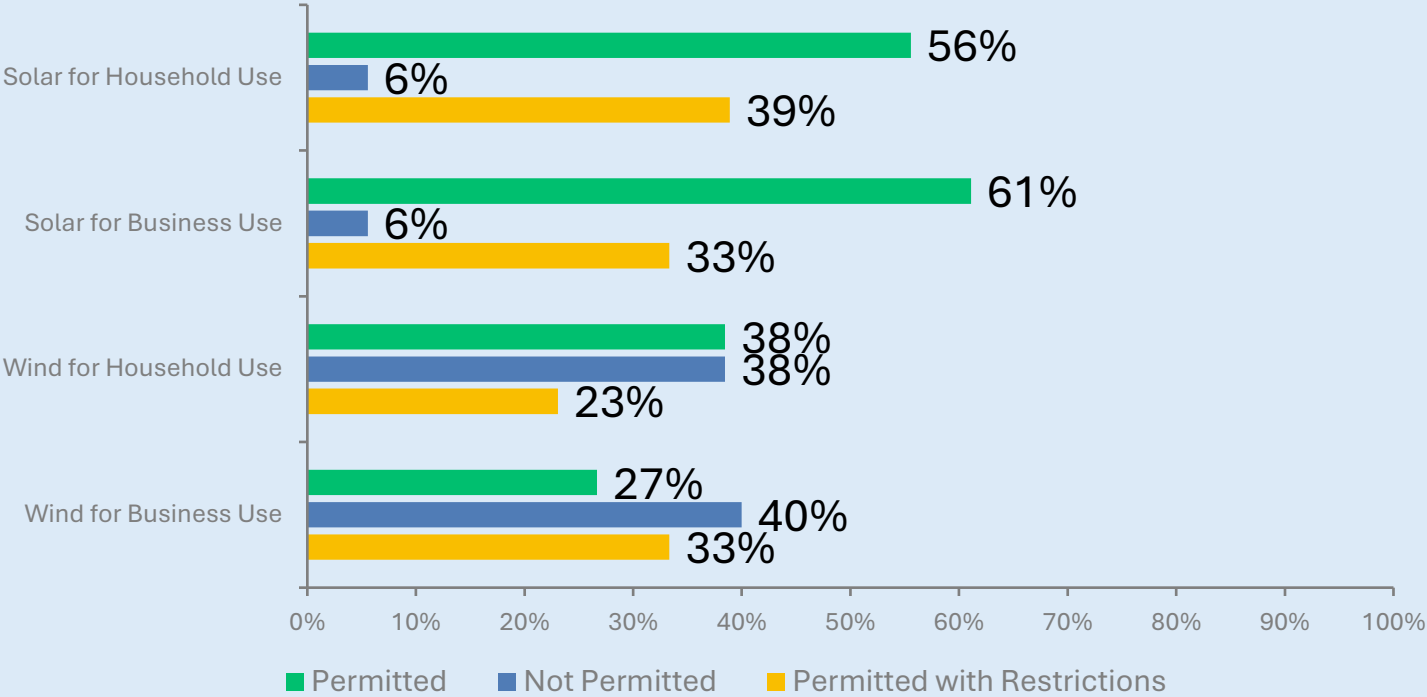
## Key Findings and Areas for Consideration in Improving the Policy/Regulatory Environment:

- Most jurisdictions (89%) permit renewable energy installations and power generation by businesses. However, restrictions and approval hurdles are hampering business investments in renewables in many jurisdictions.
- Nearly four out of ten (30%) of jurisdictions point to the need for greater clarity regarding requirements for permitting renewable energy systems in place.
- The shortage of a qualified local workforce to support installation and servicing of renewable energy systems is cited by 31% of Caribbean jurisdictions.
- Obtaining low-cost financing by businesses for renewable investments is a barrier to such investments.
- Investment incentives to stimulate purchases of renewable equipment and battery storage systems are non-existent for unattractive in many jurisdictions.
- Buy-back programs by utility companies do not exist in 47% of the jurisdictions and where they do exist the credits are generally substantially lower than rates charged by the utilities

# Most Jurisdictions permit renewable energy installations and power generation by businesses?



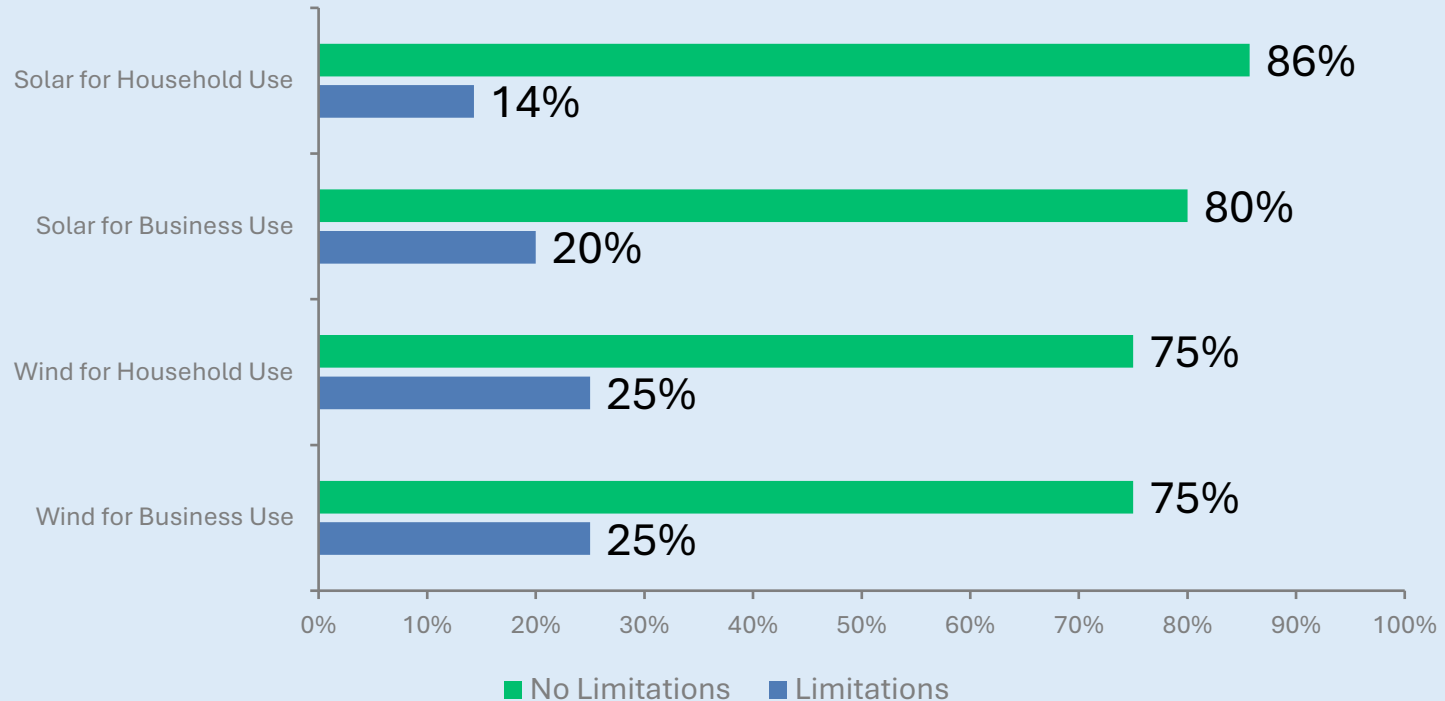
# Types of self-generating renewable power generation technologies permitted for business or household use in your country?



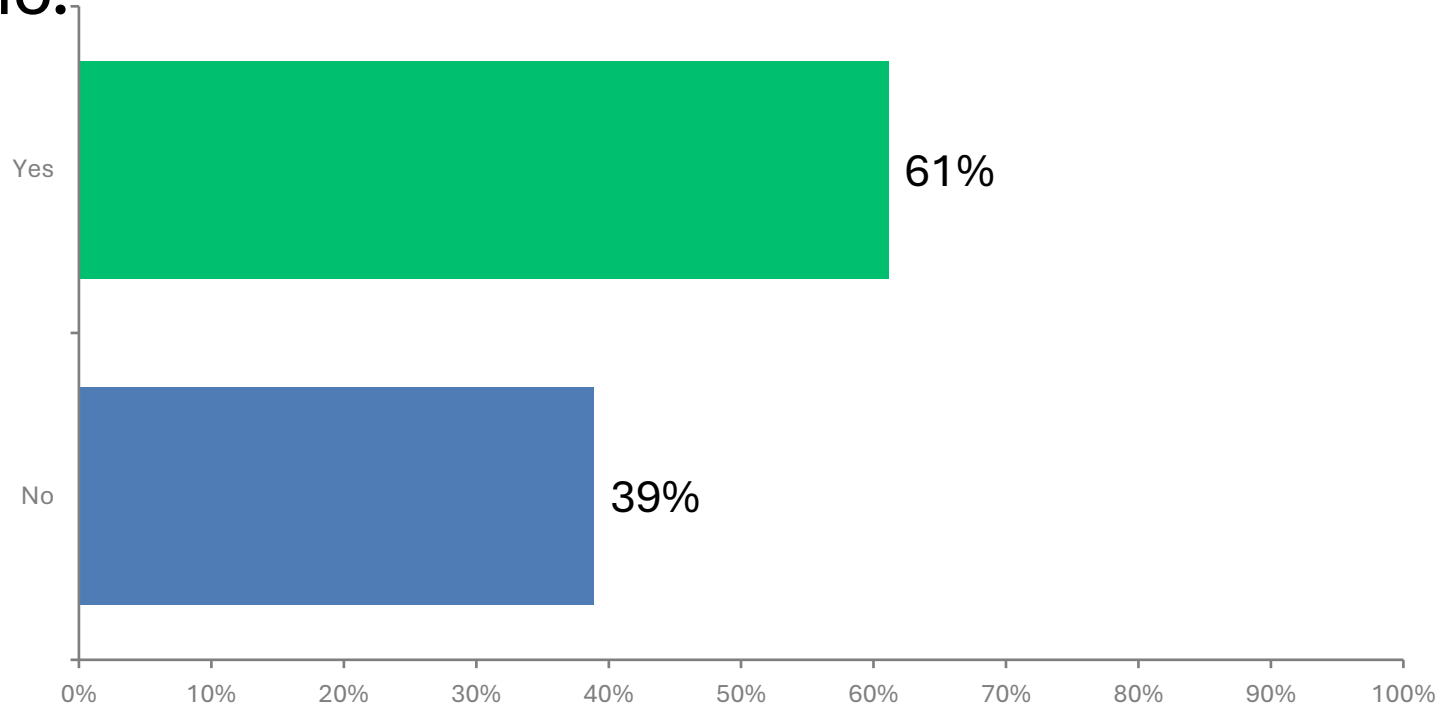
# Types of Restrictions to Self-generating Renewable Power Generation Technologies when Permitted for Business or Household Use:

- Behind the grid installations need to apply and receive approval for installations. Also, there are limits to the scope of self-generation, depending on your scale and business category. Also if one gets denied they can apply and appeal for reconsideration
- All generators must have a permit of the national electric Authority
- There are some exceptions that must be approved at the Public Utilities Authority that has a monopoly on supplying electricity to homes and businesses.
- Maximum limit of power self generated is set by legislation and is restrictive.
- Businesses must obtain the requisite planning approvals in order to install solar panels as an alternate and to compliment existing fossil fuel-based electricity supplies.

# Most jurisdictions report that there are no limitations regarding how much self-power-generation is permitted for household or commercial use?

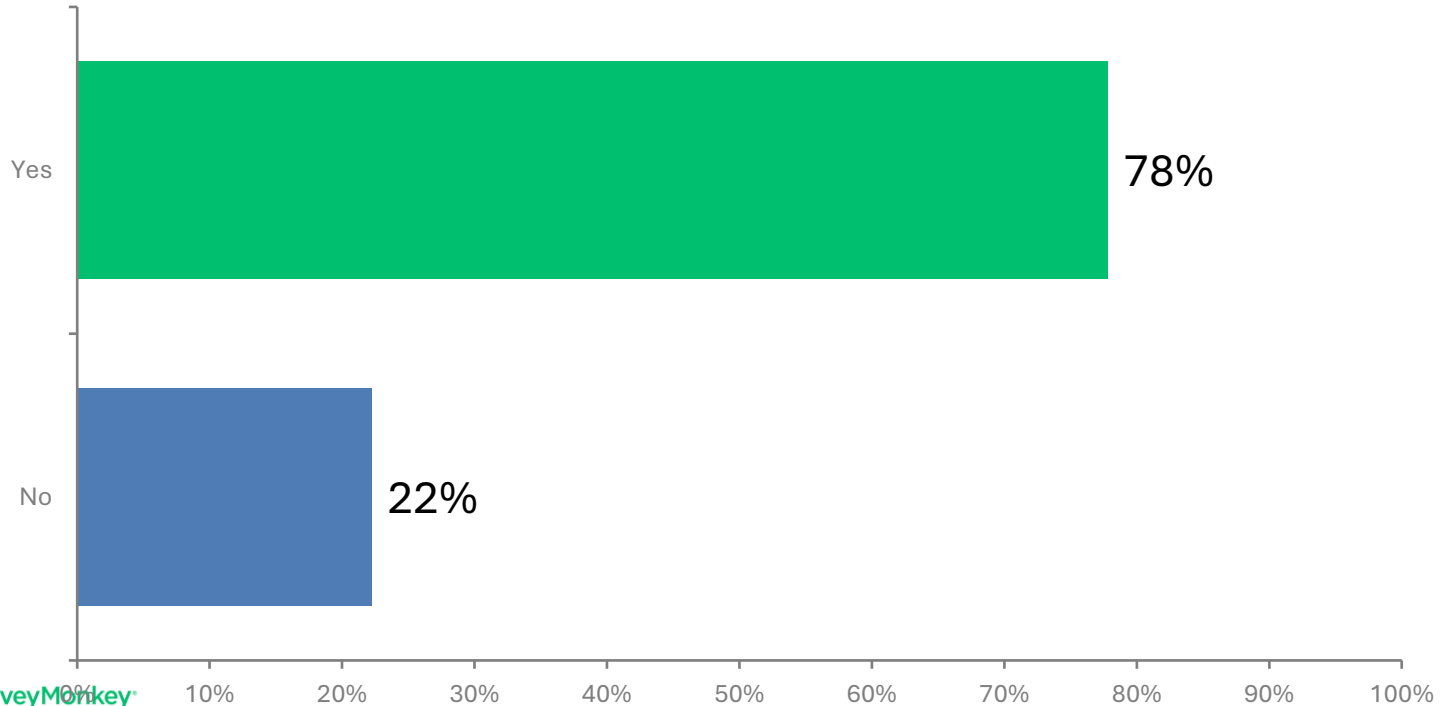


When asked if there a clear process for permitting renewable energy systems to be put in place, 39% said no.

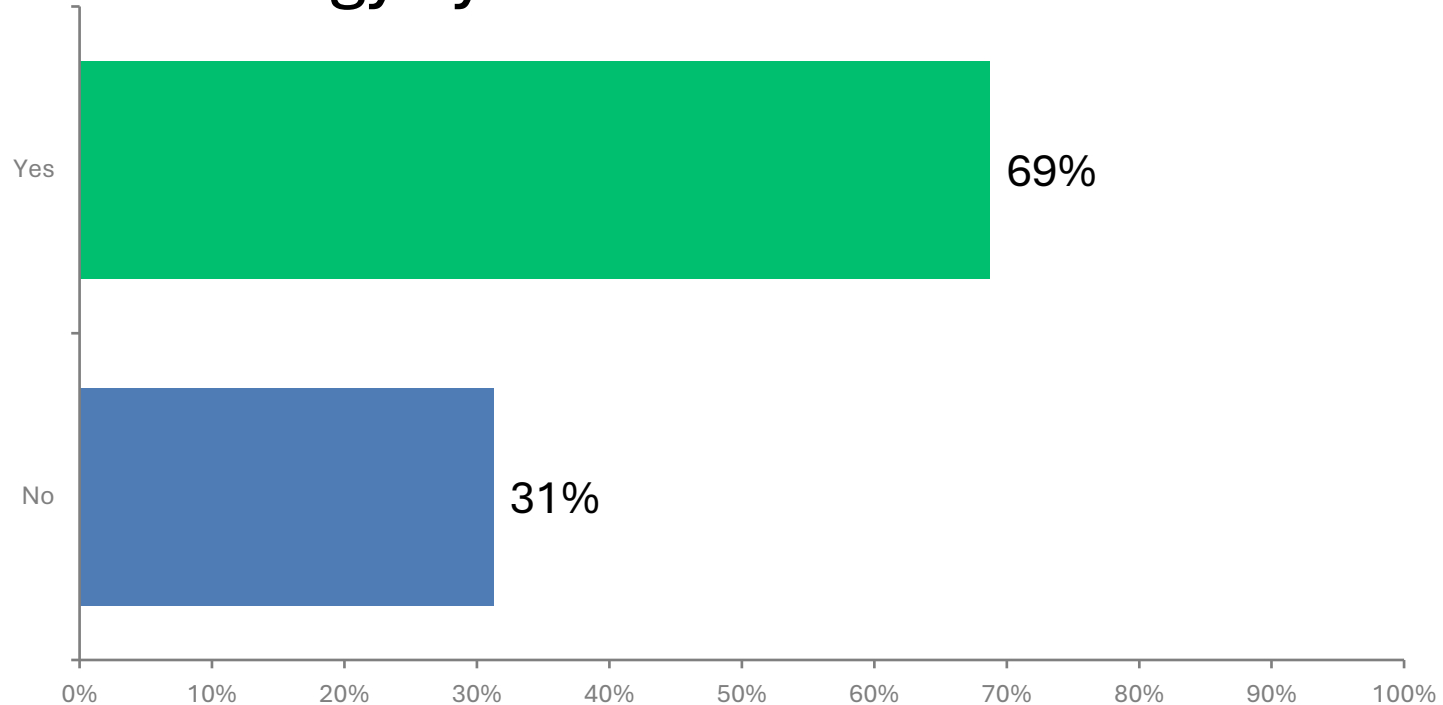




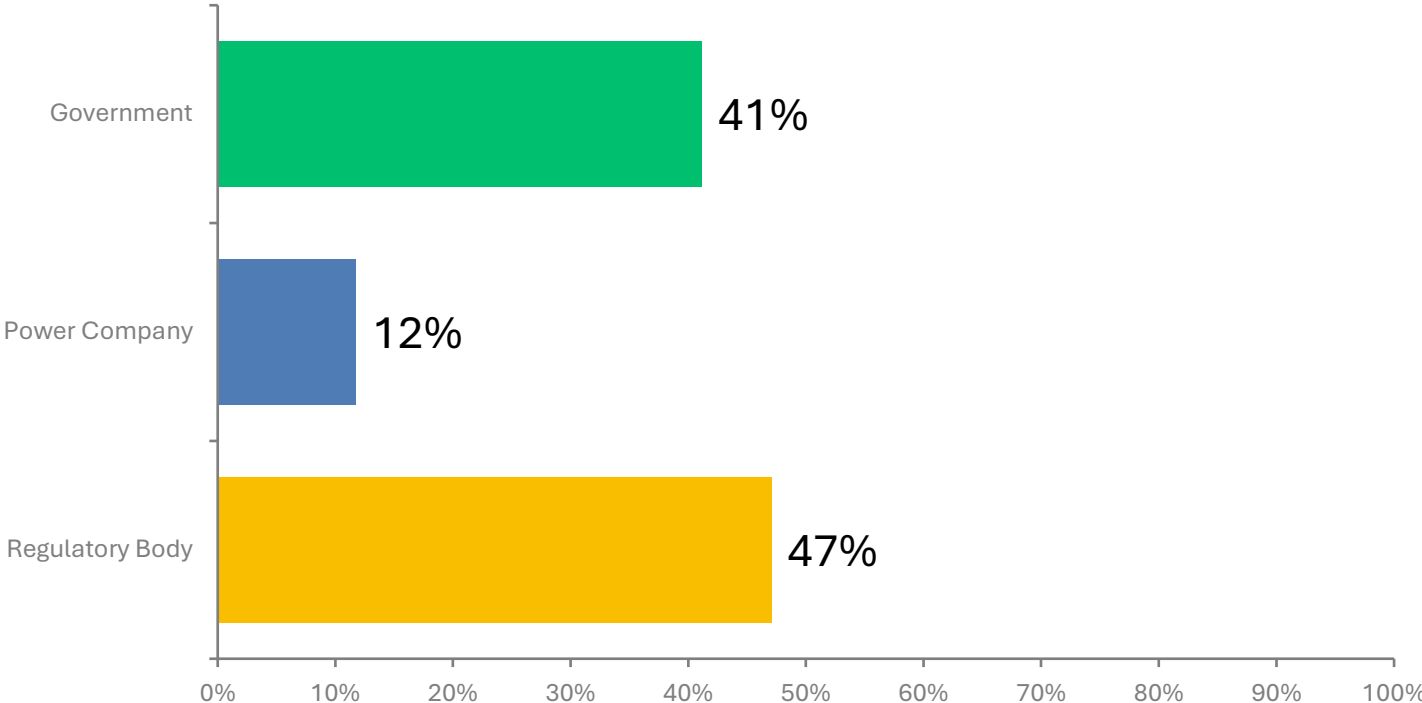
# Most jurisdictions allow energy storage systems tied to self-generated power (i.e. solar, wind) to be used by businesses:



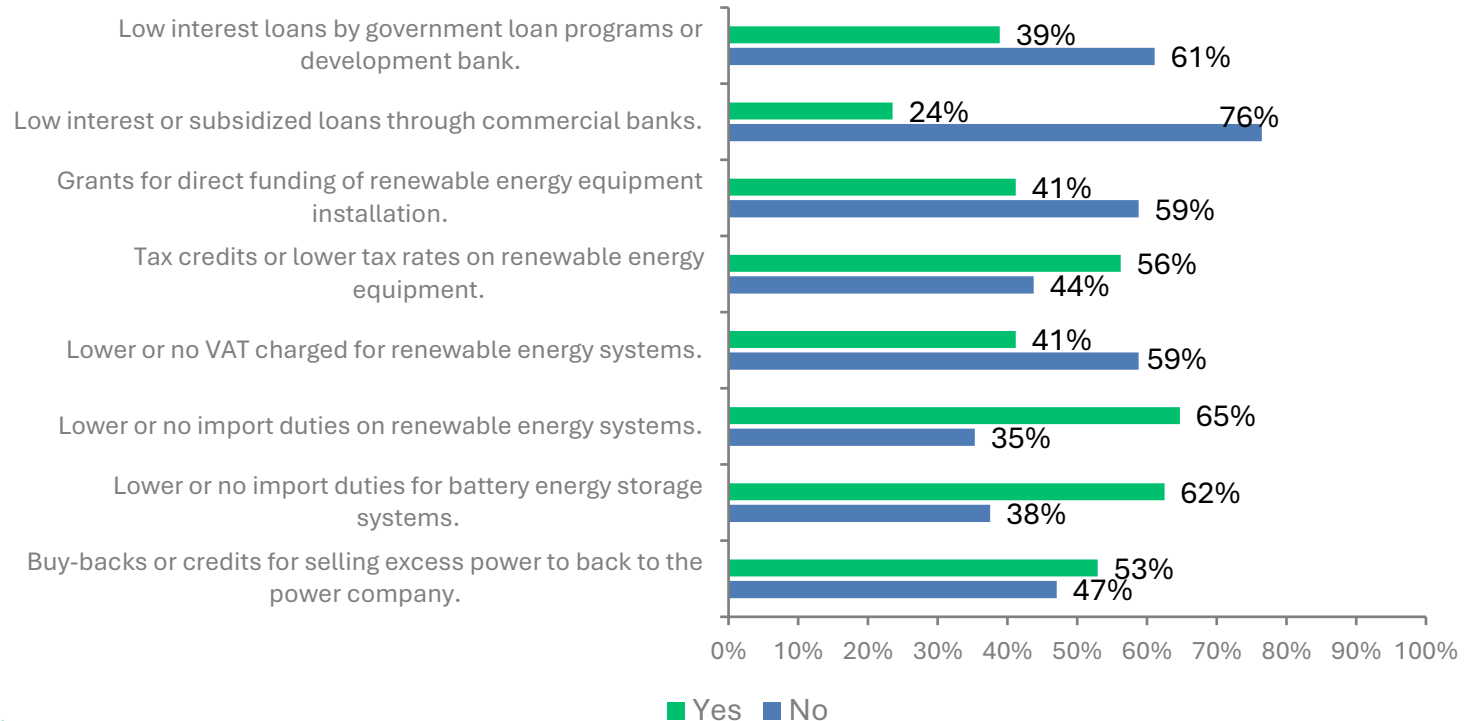
# Need cited in 31 percent of jurisdictions for workforce to support installation and servicing of renewable energy systems.



# Q8: Who establishes policies and regulations concerning the installation and use of self-generating renewal energy?



# Financial incentives currently in place to help aid businesses in installing renewable energy systems for businesses:



## Key Comments from Respondents:

- The current regulatory process for issuance of licenses is very straight-forward, however, the process from application to licensing can take up to 15 months.
- There are restrictions on self-generation but they are not consistently applied.
- Buy-back credits are very low. Credits should be same rate as purchases from power company.
- The lack of financing and grant support is a major obstacle to making investments in renewables. Readily available to the government, but not to the private sector.
- The main impediment to greater investments in renewables is a 25Kva cap on commercial production. However, net metering has been favorable in assuring a return on the capital investment of between 5-6 years and finance packages offering 4.5% interest from the Development Bank and other institutions is attractive.
- With regards to billing and interconnection with the grid, the current regulatory environment has indicated that net metering, the strongest argument for investing in PV, is no longer sustainable as it does not contribute to the upkeep of the grid.

## *Continued....*Key Comments from Respondents:

- Our industry has recommended a number of very practical steps to address the current shortcomings which limit industry's investments in renewables. These steps require resources, collaboration, and political will. The end goal is to reduce costs which will lead to greater investments in renewables and in other business activities as operating costs are lowered.
- Addressing the challenges toward increasing investments in renewables will lead to significant progress towards the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as per our global commitments, increased energy security, and improved public health.



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