

Wind Power

Outcome of Public Opinion Polls

In Cornwall, 75% of people responding to a questionnaire felt windfarms either enhanced (54%) or made no difference (21%) to their enjoyment of the countryside (71% of residents and 73% of visitors had this view). ***77% thought more windfarms would either increase (10%) or make no difference (67%) to the appeal of Cornwall to tourists*** (72% of residents and 86% of visitors had this view). See end of document for comments. (Cornwall AONB Partnership/CSEP survey carried out at the Royal Cornwall Show, 12 June 2004 – 100 responses)

Three-quarters of Britons believe wind farms are necessary to help meet demand for energy, a survey by the British Wind Energy Association suggests. The study also suggests 70% of those polled would support the creation of a wind farm in their area. Two surveys have been merged into the study: one by World survey on behalf of BWEA, and one by ICM Research on behalf of Greenpeace. Both polls were carried out in the month of August 2004, each involving 1,000 adults. (20/9/04 BBC news website)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3670746.stm>

84% of people support the use of wind power in the South West of England. 4% are opposed. (Mori poll, 'Public Attitudes to Renewable Energy in the South west, 2003')
<http://www.regensw.co.uk/documents/mori-survey-mar-april-2003.pdf>

An analysis of 42 surveys conducted between 1990 and 2002 showed averages of ***77% of the public in favour of wind energy***, with less than one in ten people against. ***An average eight in ten people in the UK are consistently supportive of wind power technology***, a level of support that has been maintained for over a decade. (The analysis of public attitude surveys was compiled as the British Wind Energy Association released the results of a UK-wide opinion poll which showed that ***74% of British bill payers were in favour of increasing the use of wind power.***)
Details at www.bwea.com/view/news/round2.html)

Nine out of ten tourists visiting some of Scotland's top beauty spots say the presence of wind farms makes no difference to the enjoyment of their holiday, and twice as many people would return to an area because of the presence of a wind farm than would stay away, according to a poll carried out by MORI Scotland. A face-to-face survey of more than 300 visitors to Argyll, commissioned jointly by the British Wind Energy Association and the Scottish Renewables Forum, found that ***91% said the presence of wind farms in the area made no difference to whether they would return.*** About 1 in 5 had actually seen one of the three wind farms in Argyll and ***when asked what effect if any they had had on their impression of Argyll, 55% of these people said "generally or completely positive", 32% "ambivalent" and only 8% "negative". Eight out of ten people (54%) said they would be***

interested in visiting a wind farm visitor centre during their stay.
<http://www.bwea.com/media/news/tourism.html>

A survey in Australia asked people 401 people whether the presence of a wind farm would stop them visiting a coastal area. 55% said it would make no difference, 8% said it would make them less likely to visit, 36% said it would make them more likely to visit. (*Auspoll for Pacific Hydro, 2002*)
<http://www.meridianenergy.com.au/windpower/wind+farm+and+tourism.pdf>

An opinion poll survey of 4000 Somerset residents by the County Council indicated that **66% support the principle of generating energy through wind turbines with 17% opposed.**
<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/ete/sustdev/renewable/index.cfm?override=subtopic&infoid=3590>

The Welsh Consumer Council and Friends of the Earth Cymru commissioned a Wales-wide survey of attitudes to climate change and windfarms, and the results were published last year in the report 'Climate Concern'. The study showed that a majority of people believed that human activity contributed to climate change, with burning fossil fuels most readily identified as a cause. Two-thirds of respondents said that they were fairly or very concerned about climate change. Copies of the report can be downloaded at <http://www.wales-consumer.org.uk/publications/054.php>.

1190 letters about windfarms were published in the local press between 1st of August 2001 and 31st July 2002, 727 or 61% of which were negative. Yet of these, an amazing 27% were written by just 12 people. During the 5 year period between 1996 and 2001, 1825 negative letters were written in total, of which 25% were written by just 16 people. Fewer of the same people are now writing even more! <http://www.bwea.com/ref/trends.html>

Go to <http://www.asa.org.uk> & follow the instructions below to view a **Advertising Standards Agency ruling** against the Countryside Alliance anti wind farm campaign:

Choose **<Adjudications>** from the left hand side menu

Scroll down to Browse all ASA adjudications since 13th January 1999 and choose **<By Issue>**

Choose **<Charities and pressure groups>**

Choose **<S>** from the top menu

Choose **<Stop Wind Farms in Moray>**

More Info. sources:

BWEA press release, 25 Aug 2003, Scottish Executive opinion poll survey of residents living around Scotland's 10 windfarms)
<http://www.bwea.com/media/news/goodneighbours.html>

MORI Scotland study for the Scottish Executive study can be found online at www.scotland.gov.uk/enterprise/energy:

- Public Attitudes to Wind Farms 2003 (Final survey results)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/pawslr.pdf>
- Public Attitudes to Wind Farms 2003 (Final research findings)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/resfinds/grf12.pdf>