

***2013 Chester Area
Wind Energy Study
February 2013***



Introduction and Methodology

The following report presents the findings from the **2013 Chester Area Wind Energy Study**, conducted by Corporate Research Associates, on behalf of South Canoe.

CRA conducted a telephone survey with 300 residents in the area around the proposed wind farm location. Approximately 10 percent of the interviews were conducted with residents located within 10 kilometers of the proposed location, and one-third were conducted with residents located less than 20 kilometers from the proposed location. A map of the location sampled is available in the methodology section of this report. The margin of error on a sample of 300 residents is plus or minus 5.6 percentage points, 19 times in 20. Interviews were conducted from February 5 to February 13, 2013.

Highlights

“There is clear majority support within the Chester and West Hants municipalities for both the use of renewable energy sources to generate electricity in general and support of the proposed South Canoe wind farm specifically” according to Don Mills, Chairman and CEO of Corporate Research Associates.

Awareness

- There is moderate awareness of wind energy projects in the area, although many residents are unaware of specific details, or mention projects other than South Canoe. While just over one-half of residents are aware of wind energy projects, only two in ten of these mention the South Canoe project specifically.

Strong Support

- There is a high level of support for renewable energy such as wind energy as a way to generate electricity in Nova Scotia, as well as a high level of support for the South Canoe project specifically.

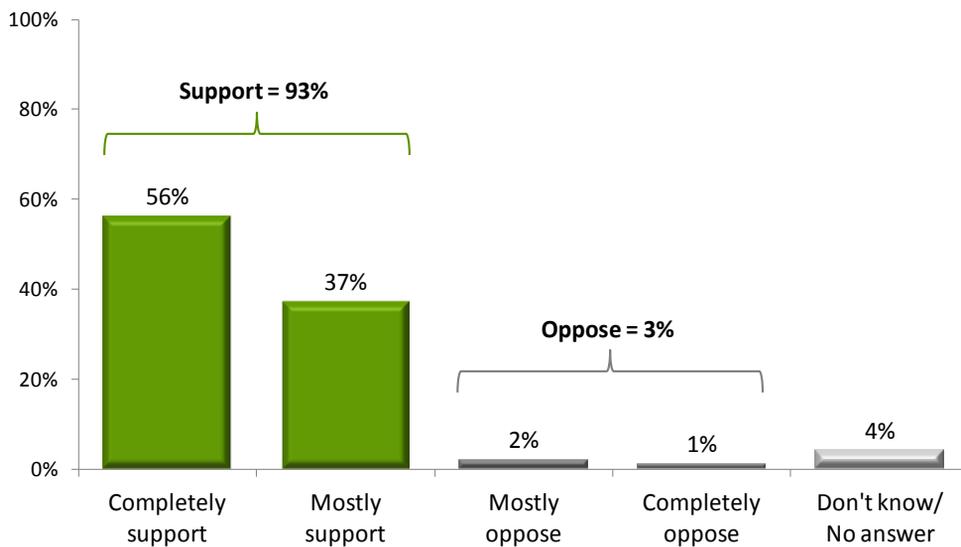
Opinion of Renewable Energy

There is a high level of support for renewable energy.

Nearly all residents are in support of using wind energy to generate electricity in Nova Scotia, with just three percent in opposition. (Table 4)

There are small differences in opinion across the population. Specifically, examining those who *completely support* renewable energy to generate electricity indicates that men, younger residents, and those further away from the proposed wind energy location are more likely to offer this response.

Use of Renewable Energy Such as Wind to Generate Electricity in Nova Scotia



Q.4: As you may or may not know, electricity in Nova Scotia is currently generated in a number of different ways, including coal, natural gas, wind and hydropower. Do you *completely support*, *mostly support*, *mostly oppose*, or *completely oppose* the use of renewable resources such as wind to generate electricity in Nova Scotia? (n=300)

Chester Wind Energy Development

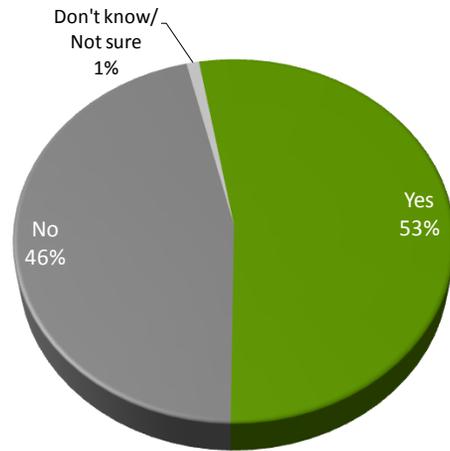
There is moderate awareness of wind energy plans in the Chester area.

There is moderate awareness of plans for a wind energy development in the local area, with approximately one-half of residents aware of such an initiative. (Table 5)

Across the population, men, older residents, and those closest to the proposed wind farm are more likely to be aware of plans for a wind energy development in the area.

When asked specifically what they recall hearing about plans for wind energy developments in the area, two in ten identify the South Canoe project, while one-third generally recall that a wind farm will be placed in the area. A small number recall other projects such as Kaiser Meadows, or Martock Ridge. (Table 6)

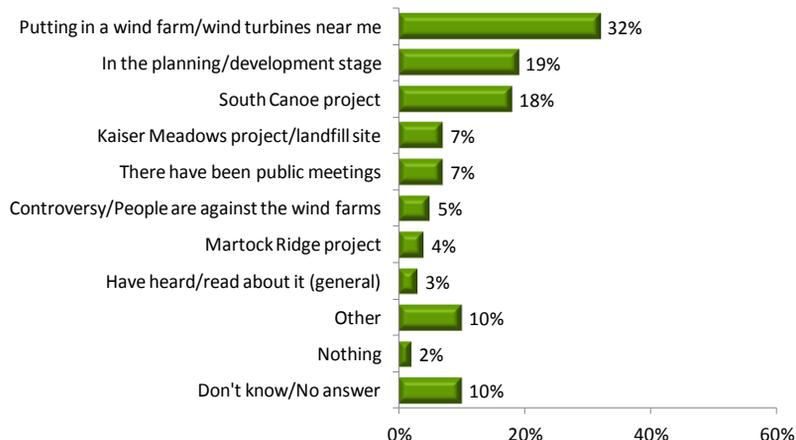
Prior Awareness of Plans for Wind Energy Developments in Area



Q.5: Prior to today, are you aware of any plans for wind energy developments in your area? (n=300)

Specific Awareness About Plans for Wind Energy Developments in Area

Unaided Mentions Among Those Aware



Q.6: [IF 'YES' IN Q.5] What have you heard about plans for wind energy developments in your area? [RECORD VERBATIM] PROBE: Anything else? (n=166)

Opinion of Chester Area Wind Energy Farm

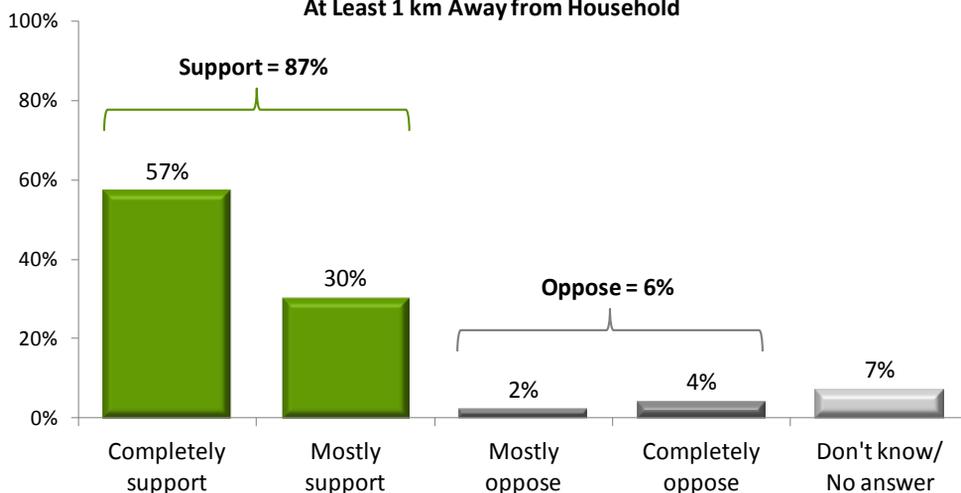


Residents are in support of the Chester area wind project.

The vast majority of residents in the area support a wind energy farm in the Municipal District of Chester, bordering West Hants. Moreover, six in ten *completely* support such an initiative, which can be considered a high level of support. Just six percent of residents are opposed. (Table 7)

Across the population, there are small differences in opinion. Support declines marginally as age increases, although it is important to note that those 55 years or older are also more likely to offer a response of 'don't know'. In addition, men are slightly more likely to be in support when compared with woman. Those closest to the proposed location are marginally less likely to be in support, although it is important to note that the level of support in this area remains high, with eight in ten of those less than 10 kilometers from the project, in support.

Wind Energy Farm in the Municipal District of Chester Bordering West Hants At Least 1 km Away from Household

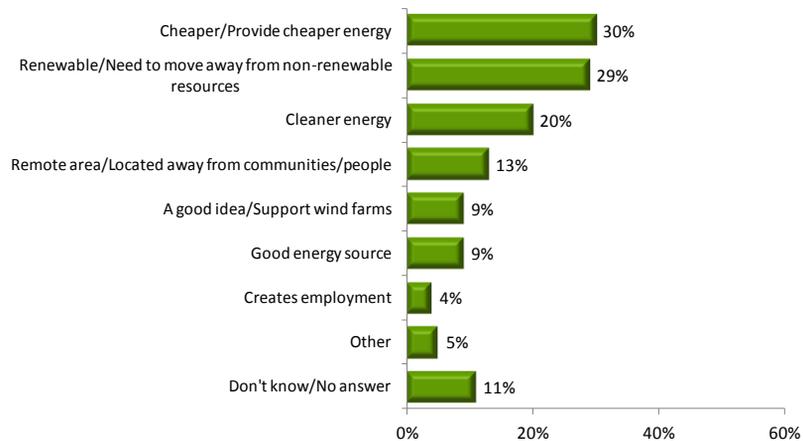


Q.7: As you may or may not know, there is a proposal to develop a 34 turbine wind energy farm in Lunenburg County in the Municipal District of Chester, near the border of West Hants. It is near the settlements of New Russell and Vaughan, located 25 km southwest of Windsor. All things considered, would you *completely support*, *mostly support*, *mostly oppose*, or *completely oppose* a wind energy farm in this area as long as it was at least 1000 meters, or one kilometer, away from your household? (n=300)

Opinion of Chester Area Wind Energy Farm (Con't)

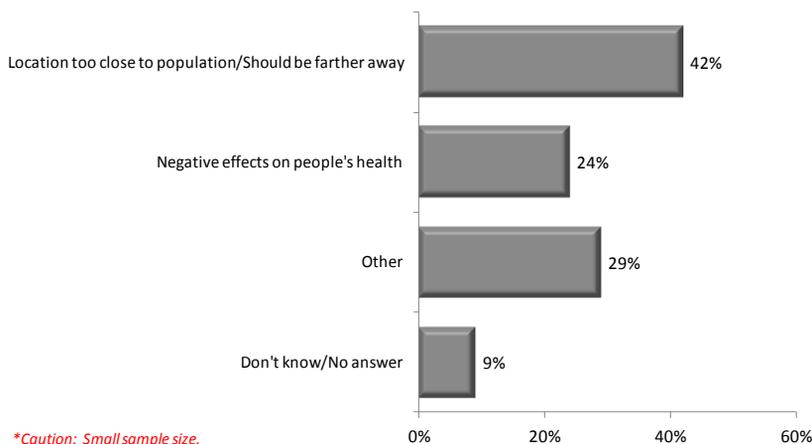
There are a number of reasons residents **support** the proposed wind energy farm. Three in ten mentions the cheaper energy provided by such an initiative, while a similar number mention that it is important to move away from non-renewable resources. Two in ten are in support because it is a cleaner form of energy, and just over one in ten mention that the location is in a remote location, away from communities. (Table 8: Support)

Reasons Support a Wind Energy Farm in the Municipal District of Chester Bordering West Hants Unaided Mentions Among Those Who Support



Q.8: [IF 'COMPLETELY SUPPORT'/'MOSTLY SUPPORT' IN Q.7] Why do you **SUPPORT** a wind energy farm in the Municipal District of Chester bordering West Hants? [RECORD VERBATIM] PROBE: Any other reasons? (n=256)

Reasons Oppose a Wind Energy Farm in the Municipal District of Chester Bordering West Hants Unaided Mentions Among Those Who Oppose*



*Caution: Small sample size.

Q.8: [IF 'MOSTLY OPPOSE'/'COMPLETELY OPPOSE' IN Q.7] Why do you **OPPOSE** a wind energy farm in the Municipal District of Chester bordering West Hants? [RECORD VERBATIM] PROBE: Any other reasons? (n=21*)

Among the small number of residents who are **opposed** to the Chester wind energy farm (n=21), reasons for this opposition are that the location is too close to the population, or that there are concerns with the negative effects on people's health. (Table 8: Oppose)

Methodology

Sample Design and Selection

The **2013 Chester Area Wind Energy Study** was designed to complete telephone interviews with a representative sample of 300 residents in the area around the proposed wind energy farm. Prior to being finalized, the survey was pre-tested on a small number of respondents to ensure the appropriateness of the questions and response categories.

The following map details the approximate location of the proposed wind energy farm and the approximate geographic location of those included in the survey. Specifically, postal codes within this geographic location (the green area outlined on the map) were sampled. Residents were asked their postal code at the outset of the survey to determine whether they qualified, based on their geographic location. In addition, sampling was conducted to contact those closest to the site first (i.e., those with the postal code in New Ross (B0J2M0). Once all records in this initial sample were contacted, sample records for those further from the site were contacted, in order to reach a sample size of 300.



Methodology (Con't)

Data Weighting

The final data set was weighted to be representative of the age and gender distribution of the geographic locations sampled, as determined from the 2011 Census of Canada.

Data Collection

Data collection was conducted by telephone between February 5 and February 13, 2013. The average length of time required to complete an interview was 6 minutes. Trained and fully supervised interviewers conducted all interviewing, and a field supervisor subsequently verified 10 percent of all interviews through monitoring.

Sample Size and Tolerances

A sample of 300 produces a sampling error of plus or minus 5.6 percent in 19 out of 20 samples. The margin of sampling error will be greater for regional sub-samples, as presented in the following table.

Sampling Tolerances for Percentage Results by Sample Size					
Size of Sample	10 or 90%	20 or 80%	30 or 70%	40 or 60%	50%
300 Interviews	3.4	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.7
200 Interviews	4.2	5.5	6.3	6.8	6.9
100 Interviews	5.9	7.8	9.0	9.6	9.8
50 interviews	8.3	11.1	12.7	13.6	13.9