

# THE WISCONSIN SURVEY – Spring 2011

## Energy

### Survey Information:

Random Selection, Landline Telephone Survey

Number of Adult Wisconsin Resident Respondents: 400

Interview Period: 4/5/11 – 4/18/11

Margin of Error: +/- 5% at the 95% confidence level.

### Contact:

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- *NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.*

Currently, the state has a mix of electricity sources that range from coal, natural gas, and nuclear, to renewable sources such as hydroelectric power, wind, and biomass (such as burning the methane from landfills to produce electricity). To meet the state's growing energy needs, I'm going to ask you whether you think we should increase, decrease, or continue with the same amount for each of our major sources of electricity.

Source	Increase	Decrease	Stay the Same	Not Sure	Refused
a. Coal	19%	41%	32%	9%	0%
b. Natural Gas	39%	16%	39%	7%	0%
c. Nuclear	27%	39%	23%	10%	0%
d. Hydroelectric	60%	6%	23%	10%	0%
e. Wind	77%	11%	6%	6%	0%
f. Biomass	54%	14%	15%	17%	<1%

### **FOR WIND INCREASE/STAY the SAME ONLY**

For the following possible reasons to support wind energy, please tell whether you think each is a valid or invalid reason for supporting wind energy

	Valid	Invalid	Not Sure	Refused
a. It will decrease our nation's reliance on foreign oil	83%	15%	2%	<1%
b. It will decrease our reliance on coal and natural gas	82%	15%	3%	<1%
c. It will help the environment	89%	9%	2%	<1%
d. It will create jobs in Wisconsin	77%	14%	9%	<1%

Of these reasons to support wind energy, which do consider the strongest reason?

It will decrease our nation's reliance on foreign oil .....	38%
It will decrease our reliance on coal and natural gas .....	13%
It will help the environment .....	27%
It will create jobs in Wisconsin .....	14%
Other (please specify – see below.....) .....	2%
Not Sure.....	4%
Refused.....	3%

**Other:**

- All of the above (50% of other responses)
- Air Quality (17%)
- Efficiency (17%)
- Not a supporter of wind power (17%)

**FOR ALL Repondents:**

Do you see any potentially harmful effects associated with wind energy? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_ (open)

1. None .....	36%
2. Bird/Wildlife Harm.....	20%
3. Noise .....	12%
4. Costs too much/not cost-effective.....	6%
5. Aesthetics .....	6%
6. Uses up too much land.....	4%
Location.....	4%
8. Health Hazards.....	3%
9. Falling hazard/tornado damage .....	3%
10. Inefficient/reliability issues.....	2%

(Other – each of which received 1 response together = 4%)

How concerned are you about a nuclear power accident happening here in Wisconsin? Would you say you are .....

Very Concerned .....	16%
Somewhat Concerned .....	31%
Not Too Concerned .....	32%
Not At All Concerned .....	21%
Not Sure.....	1%
Refused.....	<1%

If the country as a whole were to rely more on renewable sources of electricity such as wind, do you think the country's economy would be.....

Stronger .....	57%
Weaker .....	12%
Not affected by more renewable energy sources .....	25%
Not Sure.....	5%
Refused.....	1%

Currently there is a debate surrounding the siting of wind machines in the state. Some say that siting decisions should remain at the local level in community control where the machines are located, while others say it should be a state-level decision to ensure equitable distribution and enough supply to meet our energy needs. Which side's argument is closest to your own view, do you think wind machine siting should.....

Stay at the Local Level .....	61%
Should be a State-Level Decision .....	35%
Not Sure.....	4%
Refused.....	1%

Would you favor or oppose 8-10 wind energy machines being located close to where you live?

Favor .....	69%
Oppose .....	25%
Not Sure.....	6%
Refused.....	<1%

Would you favor or oppose placing wind machines offshore in Lake Michigan to help supply electricity to Wisconsin?

Favor .....	79%
Oppose .....	12%
Not Sure.....	9%
Refused.....	<1%

To significantly increase the state’s use of wind energy, how much extra would you be willing to pay each month on your electricity bill? Would you be willing to pay \$2/month

Yes ..... 68%  
 No, less than \$2/month (but greater than \$0) ..... 5%  
 No, not willing to pay anything..... 25%  
 Not Sure..... 2%  
 Refused..... <1%

The following table begins with asking only those who said “Yes” to \$2/month above. Then each subsequent question works the same way: only those who said “yes” to the previous question are asked the subsequent question, e.g., only those who said “yes” to \$15/month are asked whether they would be willing to pay \$20/month etc..

	Yes (% of those answering this part of the question)	No	Not Sure	% of Total Sample Answering this Question
b. \$5/month	75%	23%	2%	68%
c. \$10/month	54%	43%	3%	51%
d. \$15/month	41%	55%	4%	27%
e. \$20/month	61%	39%	0%	11%
f. More than \$20/month	38%	56%	6%	7%

The table below reflects the same questions as above, but the percentages are relative to the entire sample of 400 respondents.

	Yes	No	Not Sure
b. \$5/month	51%	16%	1%
c. \$10/month	27%	22%	2%
d. \$15/month	11%	15%	1%
e. \$20/month	7%	4%	0%
f. More than \$20/month	3%	4%	<1%

Do you have any wind machines other than traditional farm windmills close to where you live?

Yes .....	18%
No .....	81%
Not Sure.....	1%
Refused.....	0%

**IF YES,**

How far from your place of residence would you say they are?

A Mile or Less .....	11%
Between 2 and 5 Miles .....	38%
Between 6 and 10 Miles .....	28%
More than 10 Miles .....	22%
Not Sure.....	1%
Refused.....	0%

From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades?

Yes, solid evidence .....	51%
No, not solid evidence .....	42%
Not Sure .....	8%
Refused .....	0%