

Public attitudes to wind energy in Wales



**Friends of
the Earth
Cymru**

**Cyfeillion
y Ddaear
Cymru**

REPORT

**AUGUST 2002
TELEPHONE OMNIBUS**

SEPTEMBER 2002

PREPARED FOR: Friends of the Earth Cymru

PREPARED BY: Market Research Wales Ltd

www.mrwales.co.uk

Research Questionnaire – Relevant Questions

ROUTE

Wind turbines form a source of renewable energy and are a way of producing energy without causing global warming emissions. There are currently 360 wind turbines on land in Wales.

Q1 Would you support the doubling of wind turbines on land in Wales?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

Q2

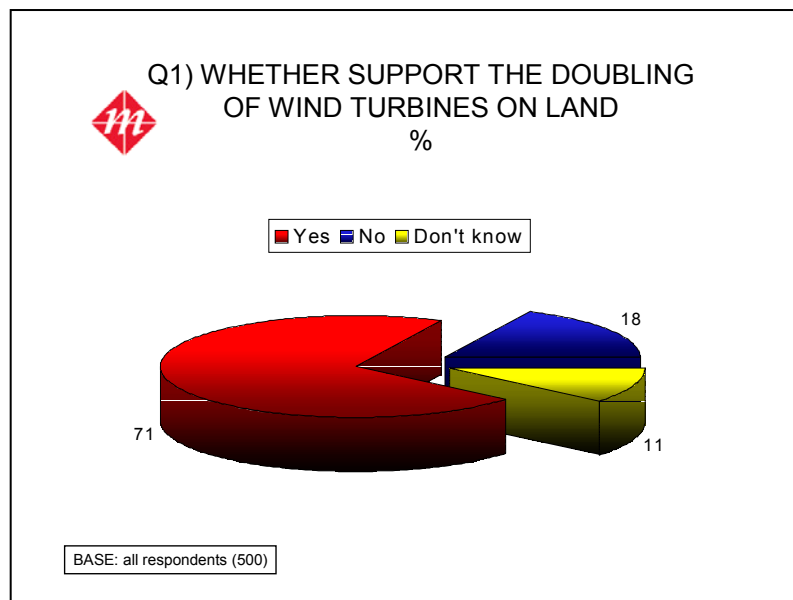
Six hundred wind turbines, sited over four miles off the coast, would generate as much electricity as one new nuclear power station.

Q2 If you had the choice, which of the following sources of electricity production would you prefer?

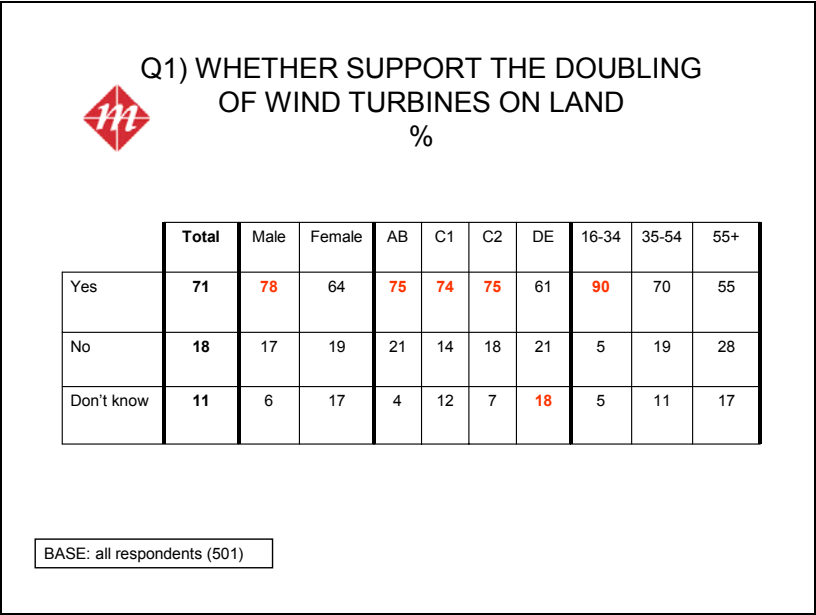
Nuclear power station	1
Off-shore wind turbines	2
Don't know	3

MAIN FINDINGS

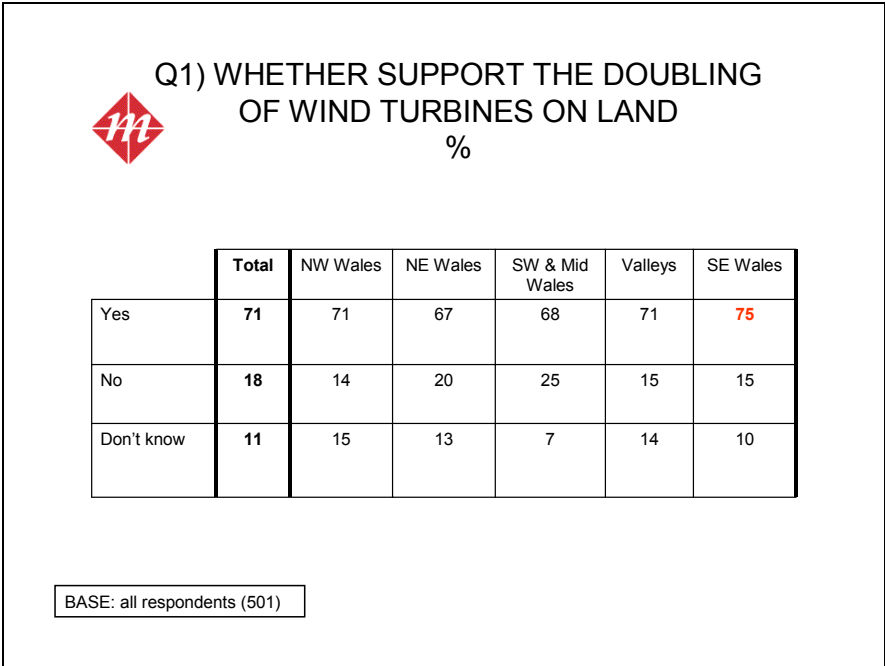
- When asked whether they would support the doubling of wind turbines on land in Wales, over seven in ten (71%) of Welsh adults stated they would.



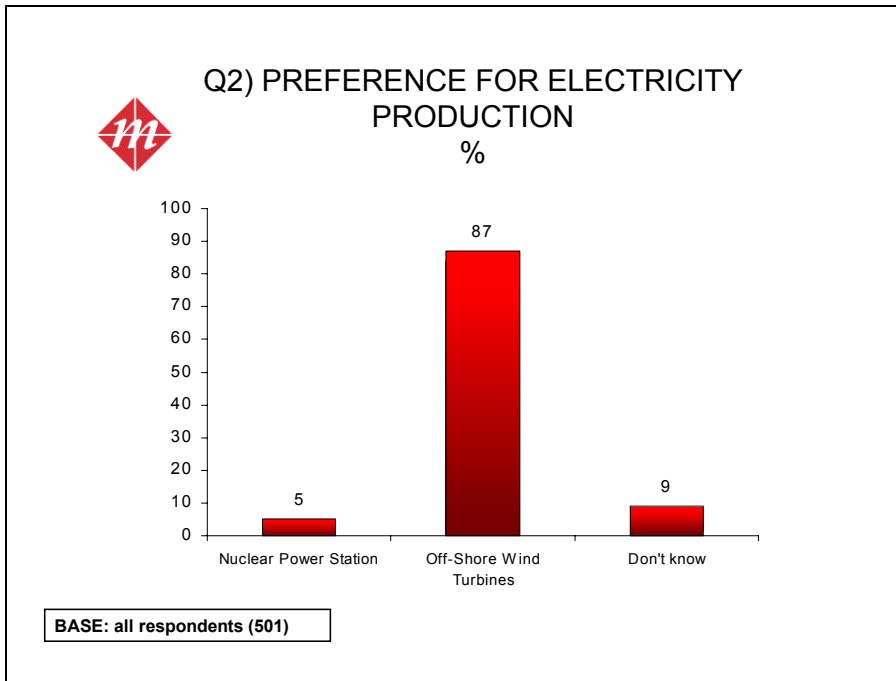
- Support for the doubling of wind turbines on land was greatest amongst 16 to 34 year olds (90%) and men (78%). The lower socio-economic groups DE were less inclined to support the doubling of wind turbines (61%), however they were also more likely to provide no view (18% stated they did not know).



- Geographically, support was highest in South East Wales (75%).



- When asked their preference for electricity production between a nuclear power station and off-shore wind turbines, nearly nine in ten respondents (87%) stated off-shore wind turbines.



- Those stating a preference for a nuclear power station were more likely to be from socio-economic groups DE (8%) and aged 55 plus (8%). Off-shore wind turbines had the greatest support in North Wales (90%), amongst the higher social grades (ABs 95% and C1s 91%) and younger respondents (95% 16-34 year olds). Support for off-shore wind turbines was markedly lower amongst DEs (77%).

Q2) PREFERENCE FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION
%

	Total	Male	Female	AB	C1	C2	DE	16-34	35-54	55+
Nuclear power station	5	5	4	2	4	4	8	1	5	8
Off-shore wind turbines	87	88	86	95	91	89	77	95	85	81
Don't know	9	7	10	3	6	7	15	3	10	11

BASE: all respondents (501)



Q2) PREFERENCE FOR ELECTRICITY
PRODUCTION
%

	Total	NW Wales	NE Wales	SW & Mid Wales	Valleys	SE Wales
Nuclear power station	5	5	-	7	2	7
Off-shore wind turbines	87	91	90	85	86	85
Don't know	9	4	10	7	12	7

BASE: all respondents (501)

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SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A total of 500 adults aged 16 and over were interviewed by telephone between 23 August to 2 September 2002.

To ensure a representative sample, quotas were placed on gender and region. The five regions used were:

Region 1 – *North West Wales* – Anglesey, Conwy, Gwynedd.

Region 2 – *North East Wales* – Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham.

Region 3 – *South West and Mid Wales* – Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Swansea.

Region 4 – *Valleys* – Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen.






Region 5 – *South East Wales* – Bridgend, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Vale of Glamorgan.

An equal number of interviews were conducted in each region. Final data was reweighted to reflect the actual distribution of the population within Wales.

All interviewing was conducted from MRW's dedicated telephone stations. The sample was monitored carefully and all data collected using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system.

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-  **is dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting a sustainable future for Wales**
-  **is part of the UK's most influential environmental campaigning organisation**
-  **is part of the most extensive environmental network in the world, with over 60 national organisations across five continents**
-  **supports a unique network of campaigning local groups working across Wales**
-  **is dependent upon individuals for over 90 per cent of its income.**

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Friends of the Earth Trust company no. 1533942. Registered charity no. 281681.
Friends of the Earth Limited company no. 1012357.

 Printed on paper made from 100 per cent post-consumer waste.