

ORC Macro Poll Results
March 2004
Fact Sheet

In a statewide poll conducted in March 2004, 400 Vermonters were asked to choose one energy source they would like to see more of in Vermont's future. An overwhelming majority chose renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biomass or hydro-electric power) over nuclear, oil, coal and natural gas. These results were similar to a 2002 statewide poll, which asked the same question. There was a significant increase in the 2004 survey in the number of respondents who chose wind as the energy source.

Question: What ONE energy source would you like to see MORE OF in Vermont's future?

Energy Source	2004	2002
RE sources combined	83%	71%
Wind	42%	30%
Nuclear	1.5%	4%
Natural Gas	7%	11%
Coal	--	--
Oil	3%	3%
Solar	27%	25%
Wood	3%	3%
Hydro	12%	13%

RE = renewable energy

Overall support was highest for wind across the board, regardless of region, education, household size, political affiliation, voting status or gender. Among those with an income of \$75,000 or higher, solar edged out wind as the top choice (66% versus 53%). Solar also edged out wind (44% to 28%) as the top choice among those aged 30 to 39.

Fossil fuels and nuclear energy scored weakly in Vermont. Coal received no votes, oil received 3%, natural gas received 7% and nuclear received 1.5%.

Support for wind, solar and all renewable energy sources increased over 2002 results when broken down by region of the state as well (see table on following page).

Vermont Region	2004	2002
Central		
wind	39%	35%
wind and solar	71%	60%
RE sources combined	88%	74%
Southern		
wind	44%	25%
wind and solar	69%	53%
RE sources combined	83%	70%
Northern		
wind	36%	25%
wind and solar	62%	49%
RE sources combined	80%	73%
Chittenden County		
wind	41%	35%
wind and solar	69%	59%
RE sources combined	83%	70%
TOTALS		
wind	42%	30%
wind and solar	68%	55%
RE sources combined	84%	71%

In a second question, which asked about the aesthetics of wind turbines, 74% of the respondents said they would consider wind turbines along a Vermont mountain ridge either beautiful or acceptable. This dropped only slightly (down 5% overall, within the margin of error) from a 2002 survey asking the same question despite extensive media coverage and public discussion of this issue in recent months.

Question: If you were to see wind (energy) turbines along a Vermont mountain ridge, would you consider that sight...

	2004	2002
Beautiful	8%	11%
Acceptable (not objectionable)	66%	68%
Unacceptable	9%	9%
Ugly	7%	7%
Other	4%	2%
Don't Know	6%	3%

ORC Macro conducted the statewide survey of 400 Vermonters in late March, 2004. Survey margin of error: +/- 4.9%. The wind energy questions were commissioned by members of Renewable Energy Vermont.