

NOTE: A fact sheet summarizing the polling results is included at the end of this release. For more information, please contact Sally Kieny or Warren Schultz at 802/864-6710 or Andrew Perchlik (Perchlik@revermont.org) at 802/229-0099.

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Support for Wind Energy Grows in Statewide Poll:

Vermonters give overwhelming approval to turbines on state's mountain ridges

Burlington, VT—Eight out of every ten Vermonters (81%) surveyed in a recent statewide poll would consider wind turbines on Vermont mountain ridges beautiful or acceptable. Andrew Perchlik, executive director of Renewable Energy Vermont, shared results from a January poll conducted by ORC Macro in Burlington.

The number of Vermonters who would like to see more wind energy in Vermont increased to 43%, up from 30% in a 2002 statewide poll. Renewable energy sources in general also received strong support, with 83% of those surveyed wanting to see more of these sources in Vermont rather than fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas. This is a 12% increase from a 2002 poll that asked the same question. Support for natural gas fell sharply from the 2002 poll, dropping from 11% in 2002 to 3% in the January poll. Nuclear power held steady at 4%.

"It remains clear that an overwhelming majority of Vermonters embrace wind energy and renewable energy in general, despite the noisy opposition we've been hearing from a small group," says Andrew Perchlik. "By calling for greater use of renewables and supporting in-state electrical generation, Vermonters have spoken for energy independence and reducing our reliance on dirty, polluting fossil fuels."

The Searsburg project is the only major wind project operating in Vermont, generating enough electricity to power about 2,000 homes. Several other wind energy proposals are being considered in the state.

In a third question, Vermonters supported in-state electrical generation rather than buying power from out of state. Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed support in-state electrical generation, while 8% support buying power out of state (13% didn't know).

"We hope these results will serve as a wake-up call to our Governor and policymakers," says Perchlik. "Vermonters have consistently supported wind and other renewables. In a time of rising energy prices and uncertainty about our energy future due to a declining worldwide supply of oil, it makes sense to incorporate greater use of renewable energy sources into our power mix to protect Vermonters for the long-term."

Renewable Energy Vermont is a renewable energy trade association dedicated to the promotion of renewable energy. The ORC Macro poll, a random sampling of 400 Vermonters, was conducted by telephone in January. The margin of error is +/- 4.9%.

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Wind Energy Questions from ORC Macro Poll January 2006 Fact Sheet

Question 1: *If you were to see wind (energy) turbines along a Vermont mountain ridge, would you consider that sight...*

Overall	January 2006	October 2002
Beautiful/Acceptable	81%	79%
Unacceptable/Ugly	16%	16%
Other	<1%	2%
Don't Know	3%	3%

By Income

Beautiful/Acceptable responses were highest among the \$25K-\$35K income range (90%) and lowest at 75% among the highest income bracket (over \$100K).

By Education

Support was highest among those with a four-year degree (86%) and lowest, although still positive, among those with post-graduate education (76%).

By Political Affiliation

All (100%) of those who identified themselves as Progressives considered wind turbines beautiful/acceptable. Support is also high among Democrats (84%) and Independents (81%). Support is lowest, yet still positive, among Republicans at 74%.

Question 2: *What one energy source would you like to see more of in Vermont?*

Overall	January 2006	July 2002
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All Renewables*	83%	71%
Wind	43%	30%
Solar	22%	25%
Hydro (water)	14%	13%
Biomass (wood)	5%	3%
Oil	3%	3%
Coal	<1%	0
Natural Gas	3%	11%
Nuclear	4%	4%
Other	4%	0
Don't Know/Refused	3%	11%

*All renewables represents the combined totals of wind, solar, hydro (water) and biomass (wood).

By Income

Support for renewable energy was highest (93%) among Vermonters in the highest income bracket, while remaining high (80% or above) for all other income brackets above \$25K-\$35K. Support was lowest (60%) among Vermonters making under \$15K.

By Education

Wind energy was the preferred renewable energy source for Vermonters among all educational levels, except for those with some high school education who preferred oil (26%) to wind (21%). The highest support (49%) was among Vermonters with a four-year degree.

By Political Affiliation

	Republicans	Democrats	Progressives	Independents
All Renewables*	69%	88%	100%	88%
Wind	39%	52%	53%	42%
Oil	3%	4%	0	0
Coal	3%	0	0	1%
Natural Gas	5%	2%	0	2%
Nuclear	14%	0	0	1%

*All renewables represents the combined totals of wind, solar, hydro (water) and biomass (wood).

Question 3: Do you support in-state electrical generation or should we buy our electricity out of state?

Overall:	January 2006
In-state generation	78%
Buy out of state	8%
Don't Know	13%
Refused	1%

By Income and Age

In-state generation drew its largest support (87%) from younger Vermonters (age 30 to 39), and the lowest (71%), although still positive, from Vermonters over age 70. Support for in-state generation was highest (90%) among Vermonters in the \$15K-\$25K range and lowest (64%) among Vermonters in the highest income bracket (over \$100K).

By Education

Support for in-state generation was highest (89%) among those with a two-year college degree and lowest (72%), although still positive, among those with a four-year degree.

By Political Affiliation

Support for in-state generation was strongest among Progressives (87%), Democrats (80%) and Independents (80%) and lower, although still positive, among Republicans (74%).

The survey margin of error is +/-4.9%. The ORC Macro poll, a random sampling of 400 Vermonters, was conducted by telephone in January 2006. The three questions presented here were commissioned by members of Renewable Energy Vermont.

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