

Western Isles Residents Views On Windfarms

Contributed by MORI
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Ipsos MORI was commissioned by the Western Isles Development Trust (WIDT) to conduct a survey of residents views on renewable energy.

Key findings include;

Almost equal support (41%) and opposition (40%) for the general principle of building major windfarms on Lewis. Of those who supported the principle of building major wind-farms on Lewis the main reason they gave (45%) was that they generally supported wind energy / that it is a clean way to generate electricity.

Of those who opposed the principle of building major wind-farms on Lewis the main reason they gave for opposing (58%) was that the proposals would spoil the view / scenery.

Small community owned windfarms gained most support (73%).
80% supported proposals to create a centre for the study, research and development of renewable energy in the Western Isles.

75% supported upgrading the link between the Western Isles and the National Grid.Â
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Technical Details

The survey was based on a survey of 601 residents of the Western Isles conducted by telephone between the 12-20 of May 2006. The sample was distributed among island groups in proportion to their populations as follows:

Lewis 70%; Harris 8%; North Uist 6%; Benbecula 5%; South Uist 7% and Barra 4%.
Data are weighted by age, gender, working status and area. As the results are based on a sample, results are subject to a sampling tolerances.