



New England Ratepayers Association

Results of the Massachusetts Energy Awareness Survey

Conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center,
via telephone interviews with 503 Massachusetts Respondents

March 2013

Q1: Do you think most of your electricity comes from nuclear power plants, coal power plants, natural gas, wind power, solar power, hydroelectric power from dams or are you unsure of where it comes from?

Nuclear Power	Coal Power	Natural Gas	Wind Power	Solar Power	Hydroelectric	Unsure
11%	13%	16%	0%	0%	6%	54%

Q2: Which of the following energy sources would you prefer to get your electricity from?

Nuclear at 11 cents per kWh	Coal at 9.5 cents per kWh	Natural Gas at 6.5 cents per kWh	Cape Wind at 18 cents per kWh	Solar at 21 cents per kWh	Hydro at 8.6 cents per kWh	All Equal, No Preference	Don't Know /Not Sure
4%	2%	34%	10%	15%	25%	3%	7%

Q3A: Which of the following do you think should be the top priority for Massachusetts when it comes to energy policy?

Invest in home energy efficiency programs	Support tax incentives for energy eff. construct	Invest in wind and solar projects	Encourage more private sector energy	Build more trans. Lines to bring cheap renew. energy	Encourage biodiesel & alt fuel development	Don't Know /Not Sure
29%	11%	26%	8%	12%	7%	7%

Q3B: What do you think should be the second priority of Massachusetts when it comes to energy policy?

26%	16%	17%	8%	13%	15%	6%
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Q3A & Q3B Combined (The Top Two Priorities for Massachusetts Energy Policy)

Invest in home energy efficiency programs	Support tax incentives for energy eff. construct	Invest in wind and solar projects	Encourage more private sector energy	Build more trans. Lines to bring cheap renew. energy	Encourage biodiesel & alt fuel development	Don't Know /Not Sure
54%	26%	41%	15%	24%	21%	12%

Q4: How familiar would you say you are with the proposed offshore wind farm called Cape Wind?

Very Familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not very familiar	Not familiar at all	Don't Know /Not Sure
11%	53%	20%	16%	1%

Q5: In general, do you support or oppose renewable energy projects like Cape Wind?

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither /Not Sure	Oppose Somewhat	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know /Not Sure
46%	34%	6%	3%	8%	3%

Q6: Utility companies pass higher costs of generating electricity on to families and businesses. How much more than current energy rates should utilities pay for electricity like Cape Wind?

10% More	20% More	% More	100% More	Shouldn't pay more than market rates	Don't Know /Not Sure
19%	14%	7%	3%	40%	18%



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Q7: Wind generation projects like Cape Wind receive tax credits worth millions of dollars from the federal government. Knowing that they get these tax credits, do you think Cape Wind should use them to reduce the rates they charge for electricity or should they use them for other business purposes? (ROTATE RESPONSES)

**Use to Reduce
Electricity Rate**

78%

**Use for Other
Business Purposes**

10%

**Some of Both -
Volunteered**

6%

**Don't Know
/Not Sure**

6%

Q8: To increase the use of renewable power, elected officials and regulators in Massachusetts directed utilities to buy power from Cape Wind for three times the cost they would pay in the New England power market. Do you think elected officials and regulators should require utilities pay more for power from Cape Wind or should they let the utilities purchase power from other sources at market rates? (ROTATE RESPONSES)

**Require Utilities to Pay More
For Power From Cape Wind**

18%

**Let Utilities Pay
Market Rates**

63%

**Some of Both -
Volunteered**

5%

**Don't Know
/Not Sure**

14%

Q9: Cape Wind has entered into contracts to sell their power for more than three times the cost that the utilities could buy the power for in the New England market. Despite these high prices paid for the power, Cape Wind may also receive almost 250 million dollars in federal tax credits. Do you think Cape Wind should be supported with 250 million dollars in tax credits or should it succeed or fail without tax credits? (ROTATE RESPONSES)

**Should Receive \$250
Million in Tax Credits**

28%

**Should Succeed or Fail
Without Tax Credits**

55%

**Don't Know
/Not Sure**

16%

Q10: In addition to tax credits, Cape Wind is also applying for federal loan guarantees for its debts, similar to the guarantees failed companies like Solyndra and A123 received. Do you think Cape Wind should get federal loan guarantees if it receives special tax credits and gets paid twice the market price for its power?

Yes

20%

No

69%

Don't Know/Not Sure

11%



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Q11: New England currently pays some of the highest electricity rates in the nation. What do you think is more important: that New England policy makers work to increase renewable, but more expensive power sources like Cape Wind or should they work to increase the use of cheaper natural gas and hydroelectric power? (ROTATE RESPONSES)

Work To Increase Renewable Power Like Cape Wind	Work To Increase Use of Cheaper Sources of Power	Some of Both - Volunteered	Don't Know /Not Sure
27%	56%	12%	5%

Q12: Which of the following statements do you agree with most? Renewable power projects like Cape Wind attract businesses to New England OR renewable power projects like Cape Wind raise electricity rates and discourage businesses from relocating to New England. (ROTATE RESPONSES)

Attract Business to New England	Discourage Business From Relocating to New England	Don't Know /Not Sure
40%	36%	24%

Q13: Many of the Cape Wind opponents are concerned with impact of the project on the local communities near the wind towers. Would you support the Cape Wind project if you knew it would result in losses in tourism and employment, declining in property values, and losses in fisheries income?

Yes	No	Don't Know/Not Sure
26%	63%	11%

Q14: Would you support the Cape Wind Project if you knew that Massachusetts residents, businesses, and municipal operations would pay an extra \$2.7 billion in higher rates for Cape Wind power over the life of the 15-year contract?

Yes	No	Don't Know/Not Sure
26%	65%	9%



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Q15: New England fishermen have just been impacted with lower fishing quotas that will devastate the industry. Fishing groups are growing increasingly concerned with the potential impact of huge offshore wind farms on fishing grounds in the Gulf of Maine, offshore Rhode Island and in the Nantucket Sound. Should New England move forward quickly to build these offshore wind farms or should there be more study on the impact to the fishing industry in light of the lower quotas or are you unsure? (ROTATE RESPONSES)

Build Wind Farms Now	Study Impact on Fishing Industry With Lower Quotas	Don't Know /Not Sure
17%	62%	21%

Q16: The proposed Cape Wind offshore wind farm would involve 440-foot tall wind turbines being placed in Nantucket Sound about five and a half miles from the Town of Hyannis. It is estimated that the project could produce enough power for about half of Cape Cod's electricity needs. People who support the project say it is needed to generate clean, renewable alternative energy for Cape Cod and also to reduce our reliance on imported energy without increasing global-warming emissions. People who oppose the project say it might be visually unappealing, is uneconomical because of the hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer subsidies it requires to be viable, and will charge utilities three times the cost for the electricity versus other sources. After hearing these positions, do you support or oppose the proposed Cape Wind project?

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither /Not Sure	Oppose Somewhat	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know /Not Sure
21%	20%	8%	19%	26%	6%

Q17: Cape Wind will be charging New England utilities more than twice the regular retail rate for electricity. These higher costs will be passed onto families and businesses. The project may also receive hundreds of millions of dollars in tax subsidies and federal loan guarantees, despite the high rates it is charging for its power. Now that you are aware of these facts, do you believe that Cape Wind should be built or do you think it should be halted before it is constructed? (ROTATE RESPONSES)

Cape Wind Should Still Be Constructed	Cape Wind Should Be Halted	Don't Know /Not Sure
32%	50%	17%