

# Atlantic Wind Connection Public Opinion Poll **Delaware Toplines**

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October, 2011

## **Methodology**

- Sample Size: n=400
- Margin of Error: Plus or minus 5.0%
- Eligibility: Registered Voters Statewide
- Interview Dates: September 15-19, 2011
- Prepared for: Atlantic Wind Connection

Master Questionnaire  
AWC – Delaware

September 2011  
Job 2437

**Actual sample:** **400** **1**

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A. Registered to Vote.

Yes	400	100%
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1.

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2.

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3. Which of the following do you feel is the most important issue or problem facing Delaware today?

Jobs and the economy.	258	65%
State government spending.	41	10%
Clean environment.	18	5%
Energy costs.	11	3%
Public education.	68	17%
None/DK/Refused	4	1%

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4. Do you agree or disagree with this statement about the issues of jobs and the environment:

“Since protecting the environment and creating jobs can work together, the Governor should make it a priority to promote green jobs and clean energy generating industries.”

Agree	292	73%
Disagree	102	26%
DK/Refused	6	2%

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**Actual sample:** **400** **2**

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5. Next I will ask you about one of these topics – energy – specifically how you feel about each of the following ways to generate electricity. Rate your feelings toward each of the following source of electricity as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. Here’s the first one.

a. Coal.

Very positive	59	15%
Somewhat positive	76	19%
Neutral	70	18%
Somewhat negative	107	27%
Very negative	82	21%
Don’t Know	6	2%
Total Positive	135	34%
Total Negative	189	47%

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b. Nuclear.

Very positive	68	17%
Somewhat positive	101	25%
Neutral	70	18%
Somewhat negative	83	21%
Very negative	72	18%
Don’t Know	6	2%
Total Positive	169	42%
Total Negative	155	39%

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c. Wind farms based off shore.

Very positive	190	48%
Somewhat positive	107	27%
Neutral	40	10%
Somewhat negative	26	7%
Very negative	26	7%
Don’t Know	11	3%
Total Positive	297	74%
Total Negative	52	13%

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**Actual sample:** **400** **3**

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d. Oil.

Very positive	72	18%
Somewhat positive	95	24%
Neutral	96	24%
Somewhat negative	86	22%
Very negative	46	12%
Don't Know	5	1%
Total Positive	167	42%
Total Negative	132	33%

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e. Solar.

Very positive	214	54%
Somewhat positive	115	29%
Neutral	28	7%
Somewhat negative	24	6%
Very negative	17	4%
Don't Know	2	1%
Total Positive	329	82%
Total Negative	41	10%

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f. Wind farms based on land.

Very positive	154	39%
Somewhat positive	138	35%
Neutral	40	10%
Somewhat negative	30	8%
Very negative	24	6%
Don't Know	14	4%
Total Positive	292	73%
Total Negative	54	14%

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**Actual sample:** **400** **4**

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g. Natural gas.

Very positive	133	33%
Somewhat positive	150	38%
Neutral	72	18%
Somewhat negative	24	6%
Very negative	16	4%
Don't Know	5	1%
Total Positive	283	71%
Total Negative	40	10%

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6. Would you support or oppose the development of offshore wind power in the ocean 12 to 15 miles off the coast of Delaware?

Strongly support	213	53%
Somewhat support	114	29%
Somewhat oppose	23	6%
Strongly oppose	35	9%
DK/Refused	15	4%
Total Support	327	82%
Total Oppose	58	15%

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7. Which of the following 4 factors resulting from offshore wind power do you think is the best reason to support it given electricity produced by offshore wind farms is more expensive than that produced by traditional coal, gas and oil power plants?

More jobs.	46	12%
Cleaner air.	61	15%
Helping make the U.S. more energy independent.	117	29%
Use of free wind as an energy source leading to long term price stability.	137	34%
None/Not worth it	39	10%

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8.

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**Actual sample:** **400** **5**

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9A. Again, given that producing electricity using wind turbines located offshore in the ocean is more expensive than producing electricity in other ways ... Would you be willing to pay \$5.00 more per month to receive electricity generated from offshore wind?

Yes	284	71%
No	108	27%
DK/Refused	8	2%

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9B. Well, would you be willing to pay \$3.50 more per month to receive electricity generated from offshore wind?

Yes	307	77%
No	89	22%
DK/Refused	4	1%

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9C. Well, would you be willing to pay \$2.00 more per month to receive electricity generated from offshore wind?

Yes	319	80%
No	75	19%
DK/Refused	6	2%

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10.

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11.

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12.

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**Actual sample:**

**400**

**6**

13. Next, I will read you some statements about this idea of having a single transmission system running 12 to 15 miles off the Atlantic Coast, from Virginia to Northern New Jersey to carry offshore generated wind power to shore. Tell me if you find each statement to be a very persuasive, somewhat persuasive or not at all persuasive reason to support building this offshore transmission system. Here's the first one.

a. It will lower the cost of offshore wind power because it would be more efficient in transferring the electricity to shore.

Very persuasive	144	36%
Somewhat persuasive	173	43%
Not at all persuasive	60	15%
Don't Know	23	6%
Total Persuasive	317	79%

b. It will improve reliability by combining several wind farms on a single system thus smoothing out the variability of wind speeds at the different wind farms.

Very persuasive	131	33%
Somewhat persuasive	146	37%
Not at all persuasive	97	24%
Don't Know	26	7%
Total Persuasive	277	69%

c. It will be less of an environmental impact by having fewer lines connecting to shore.

Very persuasive	184	46%
Somewhat persuasive	128	32%
Not at all persuasive	70	18%
Don't Know	18	5%
Total Persuasive	312	78%

**Actual sample:** **400** **7**

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d. It provides a back-up to the land-based transmission and can act as a bypass grid in case of emergency or terrorist attack.

Very persuasive	199	50%
Somewhat persuasive	133	33%
Not at all persuasive	47	12%
Don't Know	21	5%
<b>Total Persuasive</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>83%</b>

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e. It will make it easier and faster to develop offshore wind farms.

Very persuasive	141	35%
Somewhat persuasive	158	40%
Not at all persuasive	80	20%
Don't Know	21	5%
<b>Total Persuasive</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>75%</b>

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14.

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15.

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16. Now, just a few more questions about the topic of offshore wind in general. First, knowing that the state of Delaware has a law in place requiring about 20 percent of all electricity consumed in the state be from clean and renewable sources, which would you prefer?

To generate most of that clean energy from offshore wind power 12 to 15 miles off the Atlantic Coast.	234	59%
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To import most of that clean energy from land-based wind farms located in Midwestern states like Iowa and Illinois which might be slightly cheaper.	121	30%
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Don't Know	45	11%
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**Actual sample:** **400** **8**

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17. IF IMPORT MOST: Knowing that importing electricity from land-based wind farms located up to a thousand miles away means the jobs and economic investment associated with these green jobs would go to those states, do you still support importing this clean energy generated in other states OR would you change your mind and prefer this electricity be generated in the Mid-Atlantic by wind farms located 12 to 15 miles off the coast?

Still support importing	65	16%
Change mind/off Atlantic Coast	46	12%
DK/Refused	10	3%
Not Asked/Generate Offshore	279	70%

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18. Which of these two statements about where future offshore wind farms might be located do you agree with most?

Any offshore wind power generated for use in Delaware should be generated off the coast of Delaware.

	114	29%
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It is okay for offshore wind power for use in Delaware to be generated off the Mid-Atlantic Coast anywhere between Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey.

	243	61%
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Don't Know

	43	11%
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19. Do you support or oppose a law that would require the electric utilities in your state to buy a small percentage of their power from offshore wind farms?

Support	252	63%
Oppose	126	32%
DK/Refused	22	6%

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**Actual sample:** **400** **9**

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20. Now, I will read you a set of statements about offshore wind power. Tell me if each one would make you much more willing, somewhat more willing or no more willing to pay higher electric rates in order to have electricity generated by offshore wind. Here's the first one.

a. The wind offshore blows mostly in daytime hours when demand for electricity is highest.

Much more willing	100	25%
Somewhat more willing	148	37%
No more willing	128	32%
Don't Know	24	6%
<b>Total More Willing</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>62%</b>

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b. Wind power is clean and renewable, generating electricity without air pollution or greenhouse gasses.

Much more willing	220	55%
Somewhat more willing	109	27%
No more willing	63	16%
Don't Know	8	2%
<b>Total More Willing</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>82%</b>

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c. The offshore wind industry could generate up to 3 to 5 thousand jobs in your state.

Much more willing	248	62%
Somewhat more willing	98	25%
No more willing	50	13%
Don't Know	4	1%
<b>Total More Willing</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>87%</b>

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**Actual sample:** **400** **10**

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d. Offshore wind power guarantees stable prices since the source of the power – the wind – is free.

Much more willing	217	54%
Somewhat more willing	104	26%
No more willing	75	19%
Don't Know	4	1%
Total More Willing	321	80%

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e. Offshore wind farms would be located about 12 to 15 miles off the coast with minimal visibility from shore.

Much more willing	189	47%
Somewhat more willing	114	29%
No more willing	86	22%
Don't Know	11	3%
Total More Willing	303	76%

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f. Producing electricity using offshore wind will contribute to America's energy independence.

Much more willing	260	65%
Somewhat more willing	82	21%
No more willing	52	13%
Don't Know	6	2%
Total More Willing	342	86%

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g. Investing now in offshore wind power will leave a legacy of clean energy at stable rates for our children and future generations.

Much more willing	249	62%
Somewhat more willing	83	21%
No more willing	63	16%
Don't Know	5	1%
Total More Willing	332	83%

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**Actual sample:** **400** **11**

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h. Offshore wind power will reduce air pollution and air quality-related health problems by cutting down the need for coal burning power plants.

Much more willing	241	60%
Somewhat more willing	89	22%
No more willing	63	16%
Don't Know	7	2%
<b>Total More Willing</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>83%</b>

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i. Having wind farms generating electricity off the Delaware coast means that money paid for utility bills stays in the state's economy.

Much more willing	218	55%
Somewhat more willing	120	30%
No more willing	56	14%
Don't Know	6	2%
<b>Total More Willing</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>85%</b>

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21. So, regardless of how you feel about offshore wind power, which of these 4 factors is the best reason for Delaware to have it?

More jobs.	129	32%
Cleaner environment.	78	20%
Energy independence.	93	23%
More stable long-term prices for electricity.	70	18%
Don't Know	30	8%

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22. Switching quickly to politics and global warming: If a candidate for president or Governor says they do not believe that humans are responsible for global warming, would this make you more likely to support this candidate, less likely to support this candidate, or not impact your opinion?

More likely to support	63	16%
Less likely to support	209	52%
Not impact opinion	119	30%
DK/Refused	9	2%

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**Actual sample:** **400** **12**

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23. Lastly, tell me if you AGREE or DISAGREE with these statements about offshore wind power. Here's the first one.

a. I want my elected officials to support offshore wind, even if it is initially more expensive.

Agree	275	69%
Disagree	116	29%
DK/Refused	9	2%

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b.

c. I want my elected officials to promote all forms of green energy even if it costs more money.

Agree	230	58%
Disagree	153	38%
DK/Refused	17	4%

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d. I want my elected officials to promote green jobs for our state even if it costs more for electricity.

Agree	269	67%
Disagree	118	30%
DK/Refused	13	3%

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24. One last question. As you may or may not know, Delaware's Governor recently announced a deal with Bloom Energy to bring nearly one thousand manufacturing jobs to the state in exchange for Delmarva power buying energy from Bloom. This deal with cost Delmarva ratepayers about \$1.00 a month in higher utility bills. Do you support or oppose this deal?

Support	230	58%
Oppose	120	30%
DK/Refused	50	13%

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**Actual sample:** 400 13

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D1. Gender.

Male	200	50%
Female	200	50%

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D2. Age.

18-29	12	3%
30-39	37	9%
40-49	72	18%
50-59	99	25%
60-64	47	12%
65-Up	132	33%
Refused	1	0%

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D3. Party ID.

Democrat	174	44%
Republican	83	21%
Independent	117	29%
Other/DK/Refused	26	7%

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D4. Education Level.

0-11	9	2%
12 – high school	84	21%
Business school/some college	79	20%
College graduate	125	31%
Graduate degree	100	25%
DK/Refused	3	1%

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D5. Which source do you use to get MOST of your news about what is going on in your local area – TV, radio, the Internet, or newspaper?

TV	158	40%
Radio	29	7%
Internet	86	22%
Newspaper	123	31%
DK/Refused	4	1%

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**Actual sample:** 400 14

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D6. Race.

African American	65	16%
White	314	79%
Hispanic	1	0%
Asian American	2	1%
Other	7	2%
DK/Refused	11	3%

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County

Kent	69	17%
New Castle	250	63%
Sussex	79	20%
Refused	2	1%

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