

Atlantic Wind Connection Public Opinion Poll **Maryland Toplines**

October, 2011

Methodology

- Sample Size: n=500
- Margin of Error: Plus or minus 4.3%
- Eligibility: Registered Voters Statewide
- Interview Dates: September 16-21, 2011
- Prepared for: Atlantic Wind Connection

Master Questionnaire
AWC – Maryland

September 2011
Job 2437

Actual sample: **500** **1**

A. Registered to Vote.

Yes	500	100%
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1.

2.

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

Jobs and the economy.	286	57%
State government spending.	92	18%
Clean environment.	30	6%
Energy costs.	6	1%
Public education.	80	16%
None/DK/Refused	6	1%

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	379	76%
Disagree	110	22%
DK/Refused	10	2%

Actual sample:

500

2

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	50	10%
Somewhat positive	87	18%
Neutral	100	20%
Somewhat negative	153	31%
Very negative	104	21%
Don’t Know	6	1%
Total Positive	137	28%
Total Negative	257	51%

b. Nuclear.

Very positive	102	21%
Somewhat positive	138	28%
Neutral	87	18%
Somewhat negative	93	19%
Very negative	69	14%
Don’t Know	11	2%
Total Positive	240	48%
Total Negative	162	32%

c. Wind farms based off shore.

Very positive	205	41%
Somewhat positive	171	34%
Neutral	49	10%
Somewhat negative	25	5%
Very negative	39	8%
Don’t Know	11	2%
Total Positive	376	75%
Total Negative	64	13%

Actual sample: **500** **3**

d. Oil.

Very positive	76	15%
Somewhat positive	132	26%
Neutral	116	23%
Somewhat negative	112	23%
Very negative	61	12%
Don't Know	3	1%
Total Positive	208	42%
Total Negative	173	35%

e. Solar.

Very positive	294	59%
Somewhat positive	140	28%
Neutral	34	7%
Somewhat negative	16	3%
Very negative	11	2%
Don't Know	5	1%
Total Positive	434	87%
Total Negative	27	6%

f. Wind farms based on land.

Very positive	200	40%
Somewhat positive	185	37%
Neutral	45	9%
Somewhat negative	40	8%
Very negative	20	5%
Don't Know	10	2%
Total Positive	385	76%
Total Negative	60	14%

Actual sample: **500** **4**

g. Natural gas.

Very positive	185	37%
Somewhat positive	187	38%
Neutral	75	15%
Somewhat negative	34	7%
Very negative	14	3%
Don't Know	5	1%
Total Positive	372	75%
Total Negative	48	10%

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

Strongly support	236	47%
Somewhat support	150	30%
Somewhat oppose	37	8%
Strongly oppose	37	7%
DK/Refused	40	8%
Total Support	386	77%
Total Oppose	74	15%

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.	45	9%
Cleaner air.	86	17%
Helping make the U.S. more energy independent.	155	31%
Use of free wind as an energy source leading to long term price stability.	166	33%
None/Not worth it	48	10%

8.

Actual sample: 500 5

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	354	71%
No	127	26%
DK/Refused	19	4%

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

Yes	378	76%
No	105	21%
DK/Refused	17	4%

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

Yes	398	80%
No	89	18%
DK/Refused	13	3%

10.

11.

12.

Actual sample: **500** **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	155	31%
Somewhat persuasive	230	46%
Not at all persuasive	99	20%
Don't Know	16	3%
Total Persuasive	385	77%

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	154	31%
Somewhat persuasive	214	43%
Not at all persuasive	106	21%
Don't Know	26	5%
Total Persuasive	368	74%

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

Very persuasive	215	43%
Somewhat persuasive	159	32%
Not at all persuasive	105	21%
Don't Know	21	4%
Total Persuasive	374	75%

Actual sample: **500** **7**

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	219	44%
Somewhat persuasive	181	36%
Not at all persuasive	84	17%
Don't Know	16	3%
Total Persuasive	400	80%

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

Very persuasive	165	33%
Somewhat persuasive	190	38%
Not at all persuasive	114	23%
Don't Know	31	6%
Total Persuasive	355	71%

14.

15.

16. Now, just a few more questions about the topic of offshore wind in general. First, knowing that the state of Maryland 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.	246	49%
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.	186	37%
Don't Know	68	14%

Actual sample: **500** **8**

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	95	19%
Change mind/off Atlantic Coast	64	13%
DK/Refused	27	6%
No Answer/Generate Offshore	314	63%

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 Maryland should be generated off the coast of Maryland.	122	24%
It is okay for offshore wind power for use in Maryland to be generated off the Mid-Atlantic Coast anywhere between Maryland, Maryland and New Jersey.	312	63%
Don't Know	66	13%

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	334	67%
Oppose	136	27%
DK/Refused	30	6%

Actual sample: **500** **9**

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	112	23%
Somewhat more willing	179	36%
No more willing	184	37%
Don't Know	25	5%
Total More Willing	291	58%

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

Much more willing	274	55%
Somewhat more willing	136	27%
No more willing	82	16%
Don't Know	8	2%
Total More Willing	410	82%

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

Much more willing	275	55%
Somewhat more willing	142	29%
No more willing	70	14%
Don't Know	13	3%
Total More Willing	427	84%

Actual sample: **500** **10**

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

Much more willing	244	49%
Somewhat more willing	156	31%
No more willing	86	17%
Don't Know	14	3%
Total More Willing	400	80%

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

Much more willing	186	37%
Somewhat more willing	171	34%
No more willing	124	25%
Don't Know	20	4%
Total More Willing	357	71%

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

Much more willing	291	58%
Somewhat more willing	130	26%
No more willing	69	14%
Don't Know	10	2%
Total More Willing	421	84%

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	281	56%
Somewhat more willing	131	26%
No more willing	79	16%
Don't Know	9	2%
Total More Willing	412	83%

Actual sample: **500** **11**

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	300	60%
Somewhat more willing	114	23%
No more willing	74	15%
Don't Know	12	3%
Total More Willing	414	83%

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

Much more willing	237	48%
Somewhat more willing	165	33%
No more willing	84	17%
Don't Know	14	3%
Total More Willing	402	81%

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

More jobs.	132	27%
Cleaner environment.	144	29%
Energy independence.	109	22%
More stable long-term prices for electricity.	87	18%
Don't Know	28	6%

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	62	13%
Less likely to support	292	59%
Not impact opinion	139	28%
DK/Refused	7	1%

Actual sample: **500** **12**

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	338	68%
Disagree	142	29%
DK/Refused	20	4%

b.

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

Agree	305	61%
Disagree	179	36%
DK/Refused	16	3%

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

Agree	316	63%
Disagree	160	32%
DK/Refused	24	5%

D1. Gender.

Male	250	50%
Female	250	50%

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D2. Age.

18-29	15	3%
30-39	47	10%
40-49	99	20%
50-59	156	31%
60-64	54	11%
65-Up	127	25%
Refused	2	1%

D3. Party ID.

Democrat	246	49%
Republican	90	18%
Independent	131	26%
Other/DK/Refused	33	7%

D4. Education Level.

0-11	9	2%
12 – high school	67	14%
Business school/some college	110	22%
College graduate	156	31%
Graduate degree	156	31%
DK/Refused	2	1%

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	199	40%
Radio	65	13%
Internet	121	24%
Newspaper	107	22%
DK/Refused	8	2%

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D6. Race.

African American	110	22%
White	350	70%
Hispanic	10	2%
Asian American	6	1%
Other	7	2%
DK/Refused	17	4%

County

Allegany	5	1%
Anne Arundel	49	10%
Baltimore	67	14%
Baltimore City	53	11%
Calvert	8	2%
Caroline	2	1%
Carroll	15	3%
Cecil	10	2%
Charles	14	3%
Dorchester	0	0%
Frederick	25	5%
Garrett	4	1%
Harford	20	4%
Howard	27	6%
Kent	1	0%
Montgomery	83	17%
Prince George's	69	14%
Queen Anne's	6	1%
St. Mary's	9	2%
Somerset	0	0%
Talbot	2	1%
Washington	15	3%
Wicomico	10	2%
Worcester	5	1%
DK/Refused	1	0%

**Master Questionnaire
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Actual sample: 500 15

Media Market

Baltimore	255	51%
DK/West	230	46%
East	15	3%
