

The Nature Conservancy Delaware Survey Data, Spring 2023

GOAL OF RESEARCH: Gather Delaware consumers' perceptions and views of offshore wind power

*Survey responses were collected anonymously



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- **77%** of people believe that the development of offshore wind power projects in Delaware should be encouraged or strongly encouraged.
- **64%** of people have a positive or very positive attitude toward offshore wind power.
- **56%** of people believe fossil fuel emissions' role in climate change is significant or very significant.
- **51%** of people are aware of the potential for offshore wind power development off the Delaware coast.
- Creation of clean energy and jobs, and improved air quality, are identified most often as being positively impacted by offshore wind power projects.

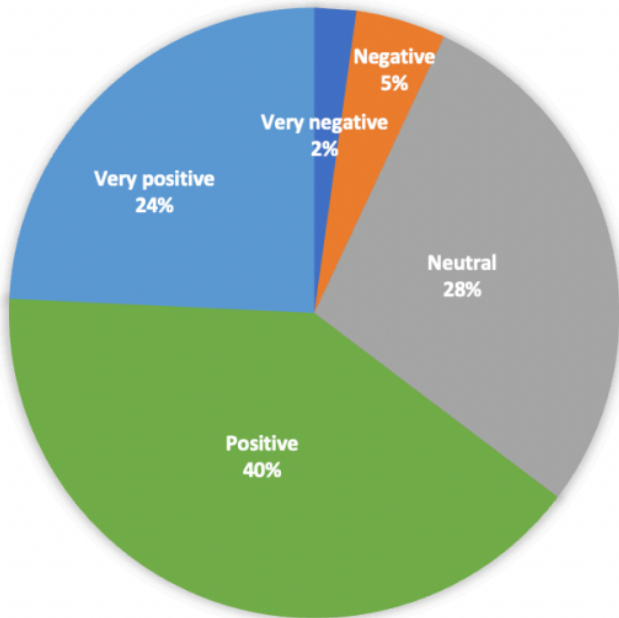
*** Respondents from each county were about equal***



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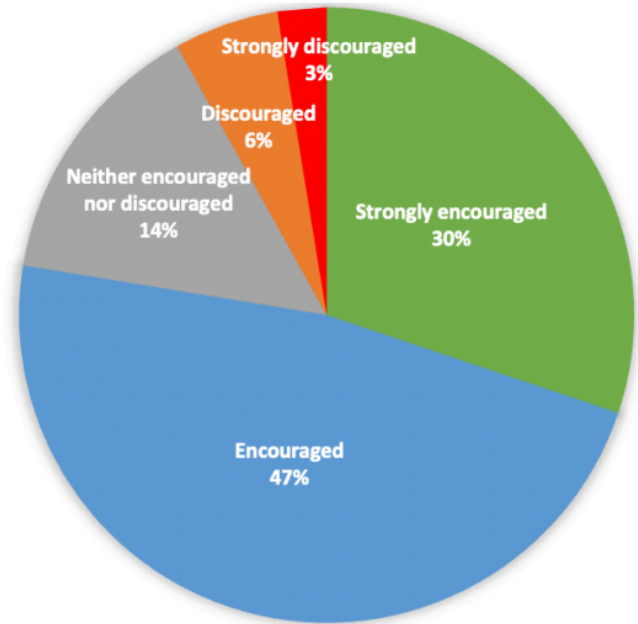
Offshore wind power

General attitude toward offshore wind power:



- 64% are positive or very positive.
- 7% are negative or very negative.

In general, the development of offshore wind power projects in Delaware should be...



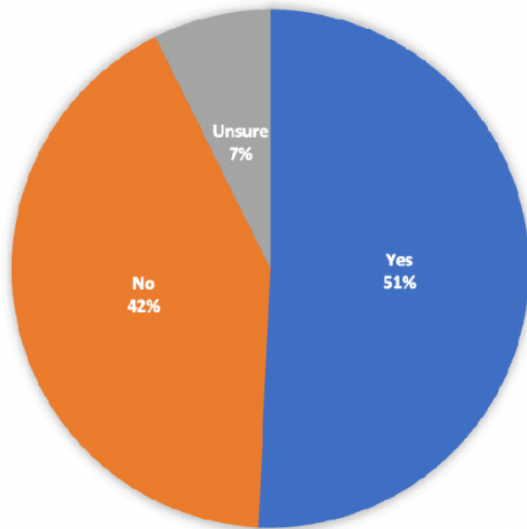
- 77% believe the development of offshore wind projects in Delaware should be encouraged or strongly encouraged.
- 9% believe it should be discouraged or strongly discouraged.



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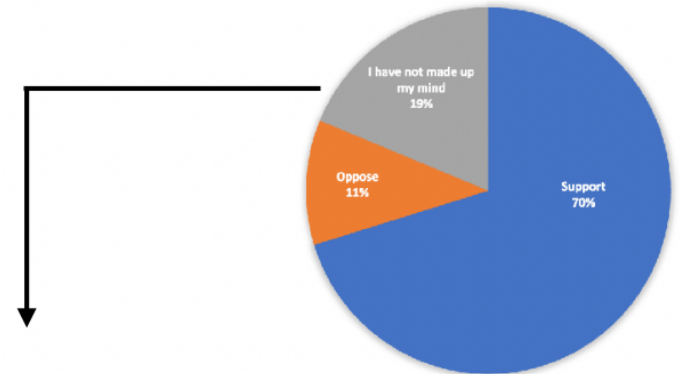
Offshore wind power

Awareness (before taking the survey) of the potential for development of offshore wind power off the Delaware coast in the next three to five years:

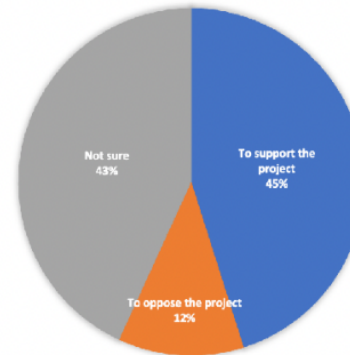


51% are aware; 42% are unaware.

Support or opposition to bringing offshore wind power to Delaware:



Which way people are leaning:



- 70% support; 19% have not made up their mind.
- Of those who have not made up their mind, 45% are leaning toward support.



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Taking action

Percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the following statements:

71% Using offshore wind power generation can help create local jobs and boost the economy.

70% To fight climate change, we need to increase renewable energy generation over the next decade and decrease our reliance on fossil fuel-based energy sources. To do this, we must expand renewable energy development, including offshore wind power projects.



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Observations and Takeaway

- Nearly **two-thirds of people have a positive or very positive attitude** toward offshore wind power, and slightly more than half are aware of the potential for offshore wind power development off the Delaware coast.
- **More than three-quarters of people** believe the development of offshore wind power projects in Delaware should be encouraged. Less than 10% believe it should be discouraged.
- Four out of 10 people living in Sussex or New Castle counties who have not made up their minds about bringing offshore wind power to Delaware are leaning toward support of the project.

