

Public Acceptance of Wind Power

Overview of LBNL's Baseline Survey of Residents Living Near Existing US Wind Energy Facilities

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WindExchange Webinar

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*Overcoming Wind Siting Challenges III:
Public Acceptance and Land Use*



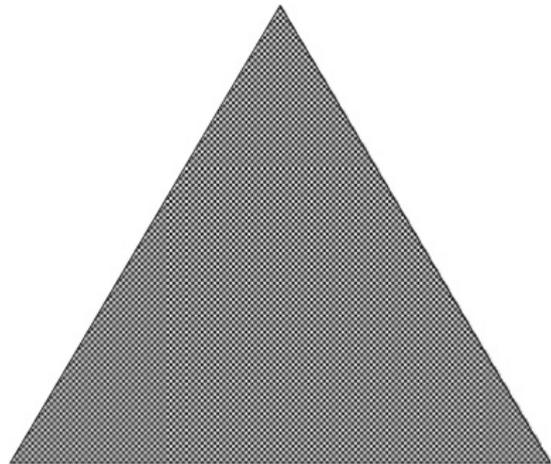
Why Study Public Acceptance Near Wind Turbines?

- *Wind Vision* Report underlines the fact that “low hanging fruit” wind sites are largely taken – future deployment will happen increasingly in proximity to *neighbors*
- Local opposition and reduced community support has been shown to cause **delays/derailments of proposed facilities.**
- There is a need to help the public understand the impacts and benefits of wind facilities on surrounding communities and residents.
- Also important for the DOE and industry to understand perceived impacts in order to appropriately invest in and develop strategies to reduce opposition.

Our Work Focuses on Community Acceptance

Socio-political acceptance

- Of technologies and policies
- By the public
- By key stakeholders
- By policy makers



Other areas extremely important (e.g., federal ITC support, low cost financing), but outside the scope of this work

Community acceptance

- Procedural justice
- Distributional justice
- Trust

Market acceptance

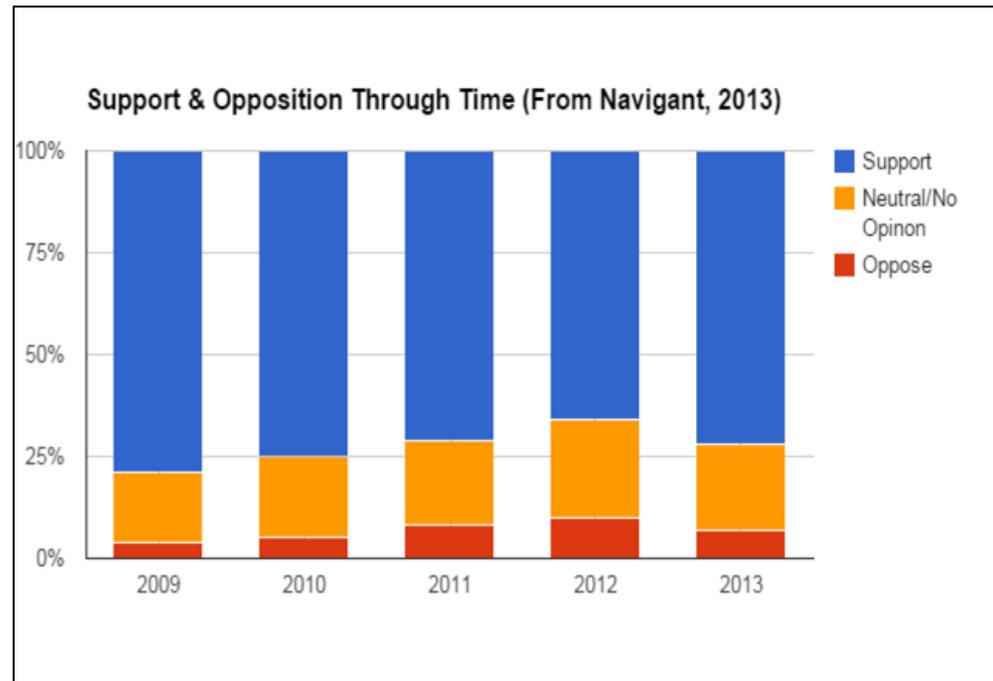
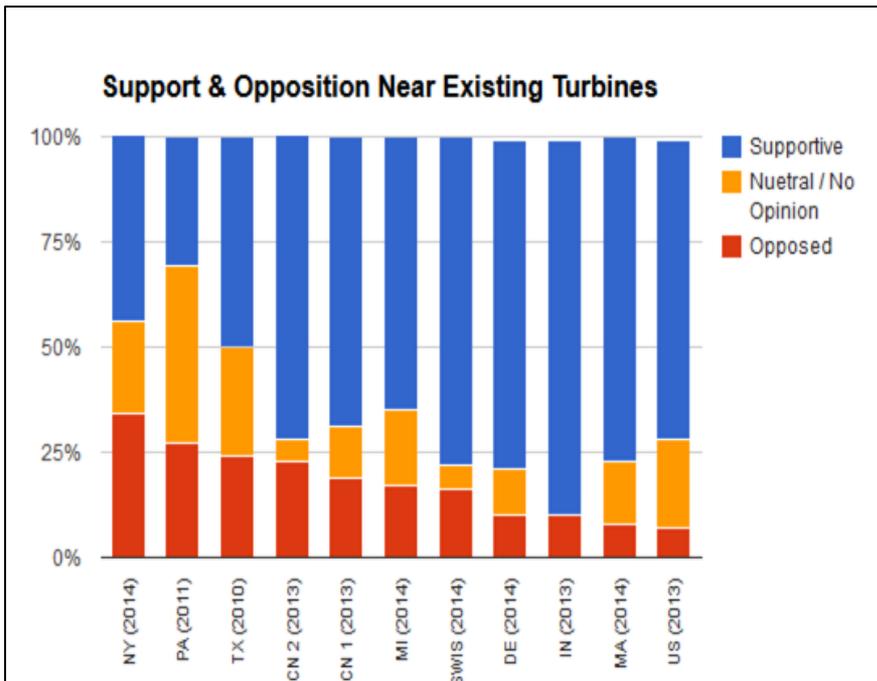
- Consumers
- Investors
- Intra-firm

Source: Wustenhagen, R., Wolsink, M. and Burer, M. J. (2007) Social Acceptance of Renewable Energy Innovation: An Introduction to the Concept. Energy Policy. 35: 2683-2691.



A Large Majority Of Respondents Either Support Or Are Neutral Towards Wind Across Regions/Time

But a significant portion of the population near turbines are NOT supportive (ranging from 7 to 34%)



“Attitudes towards wind power are fundamentally different from attitudes towards wind farms” (Wolsink, 2007)

Project Timeline

- Assemble Advisory Panel (March, 2015)
- Literature Review (March, 2015)
- Construct data set of wind “neighbors” (June, 2015)
- Final draft of research questions (June, 2015)
- Final draft of survey instrument (September, 2015)
- Data Collection and Summary (FY 2016)
- Write report, outreach, dissemination (FY 2017)

We Have Identified a Number of Gaps in the U.S. Literature That Our Work Could Fill

- Representative sample of individuals living near turbines
- Geographic & landform representation near wind projects
- Comparing acceptance across other energy sources
- Correlates of acceptance:
 - Role of participation/collaboration in planning
 - Levels and types of compensation/investment opportunities
 - Distance from and views of turbines
 - Numbers of turbines in development
 - If respondents moved into area after construction occurred

Survey Instrument

- Final research questions will be translated into survey items for data collection
- Phone and mail / internet survey
 - Approximately 15-20 minutes
 - Sample size: 1000-2000 individuals
 - Living near ~10 wind projects around country
- Data collection Fall 2015 - Spring 2016

Thank You

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