

# Herald Scotland

Tuesday 19 October 2010

## Most Scots 'back more wind farms'

Last updated 19 Oct 2010 - 3:15 am

More than three-quarters of Scots support the growth of wind farms, according to a new survey.

The opinion poll commissioned by Scottish Renewables found that 78% of those surveyed agreed wind farms were necessary - up 5% from five years ago.

The YouGov survey also revealed 52% disagreed with the statement that wind farms are "ugly and a blot on the landscape".

The results were published by Scottish Renewables as the organisation released its latest policy paper, "Driving the Low Carbon Economy: Onshore Wind".

Rosie Vetter, onshore wind policy manager at Scottish Renewables, said: "This shows that the majority of people in Scotland support the development of wind power, despite the frequent attacks by a vocal minority of opponents.

"The majority of people clearly understand the need for more renewable energy as part of the answer to the question of how we tackle climate change and see the social, economic and environmental benefits from clean generation of electricity here in Scotland.

"The increase in support for wind energy comes from the fact that this industry is now recognised as playing an important part in Scotland's economic recovery with new jobs, investment and manufacturing.

"The industry has grown massively over the last five years, but despite the greater number of wind farms across the country, people are more positive about wind than ever before."

The policy paper also highlights the need for better regulation, improved grid access and stable financial incentives if the industry is to work towards the Scottish Government's target of 80% of electricity consumed in Scotland coming from renewables by 2020.

The paper, which was supported by RenewableUK, also said that onshore wind power needs sustained growth as it will deliver the bulk of generation required to meet these targets.

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