

ANNUAL LEWIS COUNTY SURVEY FINDS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR WIND ENERGY

79% Of Residents Believe Wind Farms Should Be Expanded

March 30, 2009 (ALBANY, NY) - A study released by the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College has found that residents in Lewis County overwhelmingly support development of wind farms in their community.

The study, "The Second Annual Lewis County Survey of the Community," found that 79% of residents support an expansion of wind farms in the county. The study also found that 70% of Lewis County residents believe wind farms have a positive impact on their community, while an additional 19% said it has had no impact. Only 5% viewed them as having a negative impact.

"This study shows us that support for wind energy runs broad and deep, and that host communities see direct benefits from the addition of clean energy resources that provide emission-free power for us all," said Carol E. Murphy, executive director of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York. "These results are particularly meaningful because they are based on the opinions of people who have lived within and around wind farms for several years now. Lewis County is at the forefront of New York's clean energy sector, and it's encouraging to see the vast majority of the area's residents are invested in the industry's continued growth."

Lewis County is home to the 321 megawatt Maple Ridge wind farm, the largest wind farm east of the Mississippi and approximately a third of currently operating wind resources in New York. Over 35% of the respondents in the survey said that they could see wind turbines from their home. Support for wind farms was high among men and women, across age groups, income and education levels, and among both homeowners and renters.

Lewis County residents also expressed strong support for other clean energy resources, specifically hydropower and solar energy. New York's clean energy sector has tremendous potential for expansion and could generate thousands of jobs statewide in the coming years.

http://www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/2008LC_report.pdf