

**Public attitudes to new nuclear  
build – public survey of  
Anglesey residents and Wylfa B**

**Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary, on behalf of  
Dr Delyth Morris, School of Social Sciences  
University of Bangor**

# Purpose of study

A Bangor University study of public attitudes to energy on the island of Anglesey shows lower support for nuclear power in favour of a renewable renaissance including solar, wind, wave and hydro-electric power to provide the future energy needs for the island and for Wales in general.

The survey, commissioned by Mana-Cymru and conducted by Bangor University, also found that 91% of the residents questioned had a good or very good opinion of renewable energy

The majority opinion was that 74% of new energy jobs produced in Anglesey should be in the renewable sector, compared to just 35% who favoured nuclear.

# Aim of Study

- This survey was commissioned by management consultants Mana-Cymru Ltd and carried out by Bangor University's School of Social Sciences.
- The aim was to ask a sample of 500 individuals from the Isle of Anglesey and adjoining areas about their knowledge of renewable energy, as well as ascertaining their opinion on the proposed development of Wylfa B.
- The study was representative of age, gender, spoken language, and social class.

## 2.3 How much information do you feel you have had about renewable energy sources generally?

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A Lot</b>	145	29%
<b>A Bit</b>	210	42%
<b>Not Much</b>	128	26%
<b>None</b>	17	3%

## 2.4 What is your opinion of renewable energy sources?

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Very good idea</b>	177	35%
<b>Good idea</b>	279	56%
<b>Bad idea</b>	6	1%
<b>Very bad idea</b>	3	1%
<b>No opinion</b>	35	7%

## 2.5 In your opinion, could Wales produce enough energy from 'green' sources' to meet its needs over the next few years?

	Number	Percentage
<b>Yes, more than enough</b>	57	11%
<b>Probably, yes</b>	180	36%
<b>No</b>	113	23%
<b>Don't know</b>	150	30%

## 2.6 Which of the following would you like to see developed on Anglesey as a way of producing energy?

In the following table, respondents could choose more than one answer:

	Number	Percentage of whole sample who agreed
<b>Solar power</b>	273	55%
<b>Wave machines</b>	267	53%
<b>Wind farms</b>	237	47%
<b>Nuclear power</b>	214	43%
<b>Hydro-electric</b>	162	32%
<b>Other</b>	18	4%

## 2.7 Have you heard of the possibility of building Wylfa B?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	487	97%
No	13	3%



## 2.8 If Wylfa B is built, what effect do you think 5,000 building workers will have on Anglesey?

	Number	Percentage
<b>Good for Anglesey</b>	359	72%
<b>Bad for Anglesey</b>	73	15%
<b>No effect</b>	7	1%
<b>Don't know</b>	61	12%

## 2.9 Did you know that there are about 500 decommissioning jobs available in Wylfa A when the present station comes to the end of its life?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	192	38%
No	308	62%

## 2.10 If more energy jobs were available on Anglesey, where would you like to see these being created:

In the following table, respondents could choose more than one answer:

	Number	Percentage of whole sample who agreed
<b>Alternative/ Renewable energy</b>	370	74%
<b>Nuclear energy</b>	175	35%
<b>Unsure</b>	72	14%

**2.11 'Hot' radioactive waste from Wylfa B will be stored on the surface of the site for 160 years – what do you think about this?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>It worries me a great deal</b>	163	33%
<b>It worries me a bit</b>	165	33%
<b>Doesn't worry me</b>	138	28%
<b>Don't know</b>	34	7%

## 2.12 In your opinion, what would be the advantages of building Wylfa B?

In the following table, respondents could choose more than one answer:

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage of whole sample who agreed</b>
<b>Work for people on Anglesey</b>	439	88%
<b>More money in the local economy</b>	237	47%
<b>Essential way of producing energy</b>	163	33%
<b>Other</b>	7	1%

## 2.13 In your opinion, what would be the disadvantages of building Wylfa B?

	Number	Percentage of whole sample who agreed
Pollute the environment	240	48%
Harmful effects on people's health	232	46%
Harmful effects on children's health	186	37%
Badly affect the Welsh language	100	20%
Danger to safety	71	14%
Badly affect farming	57	11%
Badly affect tourism	54	11%

# NFLA Conclusions

- Given the choice, Anglesey residents prefer renewables over nuclear.
- Nuclear new build at Wylfa B is seen as a positive employment opportunity on the island.
- There are though key concerns with the public over development of new nuclear power (health, environment, affect on tourism etc).
- This poll contradicts those commissioned by EDF and Horizon which suggest large majorities for the building of new nuclear power stations.
- This poll was developed to give a wider context to the energy debate in Anglesey and Wales.
- The poll has been covered in detail by local media in North Wales.
- Please consult the NFLA press release for our take on the poll.