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Survey finds more in area now embrace wind power

By BEN LEACH, www.PressofAtlanticCity.com | Posted: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 |

As offshore wind power moves closer to reality in New Jersey, more local residents and visitors to the area are aware and in favor of the technology coming to the areas off the state's coastline.

A new public opinion poll found that 90 percent of people surveyed were aware of offshore wind as a means of generating power. The survey found that 75 percent of people were in favor of wind turbines within three miles of the coastline, an increase from 38 percent in a similar poll taken in 2006.

The majority of the results were in favor of wind power. Only 4 percent of those surveyed said they would be less likely to visit Atlantic City in the future because of wind turbine development. In 2006, 30 percent of people surveyed felt this way.

"The survey is quite explicit in pointing out that not only do residents and tourists not mind having the wind turbines off the shore of Atlantic City, two-thirds of the respondents believe that it will have a positive effect on Atlantic City and the environment," said Sharon Schulman, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Richard Stockton College.

The research was conducted by the Hughes center and Zogby International at the request of Fishermen's Energy, one of the companies with plans for developing an offshore wind farm.

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