



ORKNEY RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM – ORKNEY WIND ENERGY

JANUARY 2017



METHODOLOGY

ComRes interviewed 500 adults aged 18+ in Orkney via telephone between the 9th and 13th January 2017.

Data were weighted according to age and gender. Data were also weighted based on the population of islands in Orkney.

All figures are decimals but are rounded to whole numbers, so nets and totals may differ by +/-1 from figures calculated from whole numbers displayed in this document.

ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules (www.britishpollingcouncil.org). This commits us to the highest standards of transparency.

The BPC's rules state that all data and research findings made on the basis of surveys conducted by member organisations that enter the public domain must include reference to the following:

- The company conducting the research (ComRes)
- The client commissioning the survey
- Dates of interviewing
- Method of obtaining the interviews (e.g. in-person, post, telephone, internet)
- The universe effectively represented (all adults, voters etc.)
- The percentages upon which conclusions are based
- Size of the sample and geographic coverage.

Published references (such as a press release) should also show a web address where full data tables may be viewed, and they should also show the complete wording of questions upon which any data that has entered the public domain are based.

All press releases or other publications must be checked with ComRes before use. ComRes requires 48 hours to check a press release unless otherwise agreed.

FINDINGS

SUMMARY

Residents on Orkney generally support energy developments in Orkney, from the electricity grid upgrade to wind farm development. The vast majority of residents tend to be in favour of the Orkney Isles’ future wind developments competing with others in the UK for support from the Government.

Levels of support for the propositions tested are broadly consistent across age, gender and regional demographics, as well as home-ownership status and length of time lived in Orkney.

NET: Support Renewable energy development	NET: Support Electricity grid upgrade (Caithness to Orkney)	NET: Support Wind farm development	NET: Agree Orkney wind developments competing with others in UK for Govt support
89%	94%	70%	87%

Base: All respondents (n=500)

Nine in ten residents on Orkney (89%) support the development of renewable energy on Orkney.

Q1. To what extent do you support or oppose the development of renewable energy on Orkney?

NET: Support	89%
Strongly support	58%
Tend to support	32%
Tend to oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	3%
NET: Oppose	6%
Don't know	5%

Base: All respondents (n=500)

Almost all (94%) residents on Orkney support/oppose an upgrade to the electricity grid connection from Caithness to Orkney, that would allow for greater energy use in Orkney in future.

Q2. To what extent do you support or oppose an upgrade to the electricity grid connection from Caithness to Orkney? This would allow for greater energy use in Orkney in the future.

NET: Support	94%
Strongly support	72%
Tend to support	21%
Tend to oppose	2%
Strongly oppose	2%
NET: Oppose	4%
Don't know	2%

Base: All respondents (n=500)

- Seven in ten (72%) say that they strongly support this upgrade.
- Renters (86%) are less likely than owners (95%) to support this upgrade, however, those in favour still constitute the vast majority of adults on Orkney.

Opinions on wind farm development on Orkney are similarly positive, but with a smaller majority supporting their development compared to renewable energy development in general. Seven in ten residents surveyed support future wind farms being developed in the Orkney Isles as part of an energy mix. This proposition, despite being popular with the majority, garnered the least support of all options tested.

Q3. To what extent would you support or oppose future wind farms being developed in the Orkney Isles as part of an energy mix?

NET: Support	70%
Strongly support	31%
Tend to support	39%
Tend to oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	12%
NET: Oppose	26%
Don't know	4%

Base: All respondents (n=500)

- Around one in eight (12%) adults surveyed say that they ‘strongly oppose’ future wind farms being developed in the Orkney Isles, suggesting that there is a minority of entrenched opposition to the idea.
- Older residents (those aged 45+) are less likely than younger residents (18–44 year-olds) to support wind farms with 65% in favour of wind farm development as opposed to 78%.
- Those who support future wind farms being developed in the Orkney Isles are also more likely to support or agree with any of the other statements tested than those who oppose them.

Residents are generally positive about the idea of Orcadian renewable technologies competing with others in Britain to stabilise prices for generators of renewable energy. 87% of those surveyed agree that Orkney should be allowed to compete for Government support.

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that wind developments on Orkney should be allowed to compete with other renewable technologies on mainland Great Britain for Government support? In this instance, Government support means a contract to stabilise prices for those generating renewable energy.

NET: Agree	87%
Strongly agree	46%
Tend to agree	41%
Tend to disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	5%
NET: Disagree	10%
Don't know	3%

Base: All respondents (n=500)

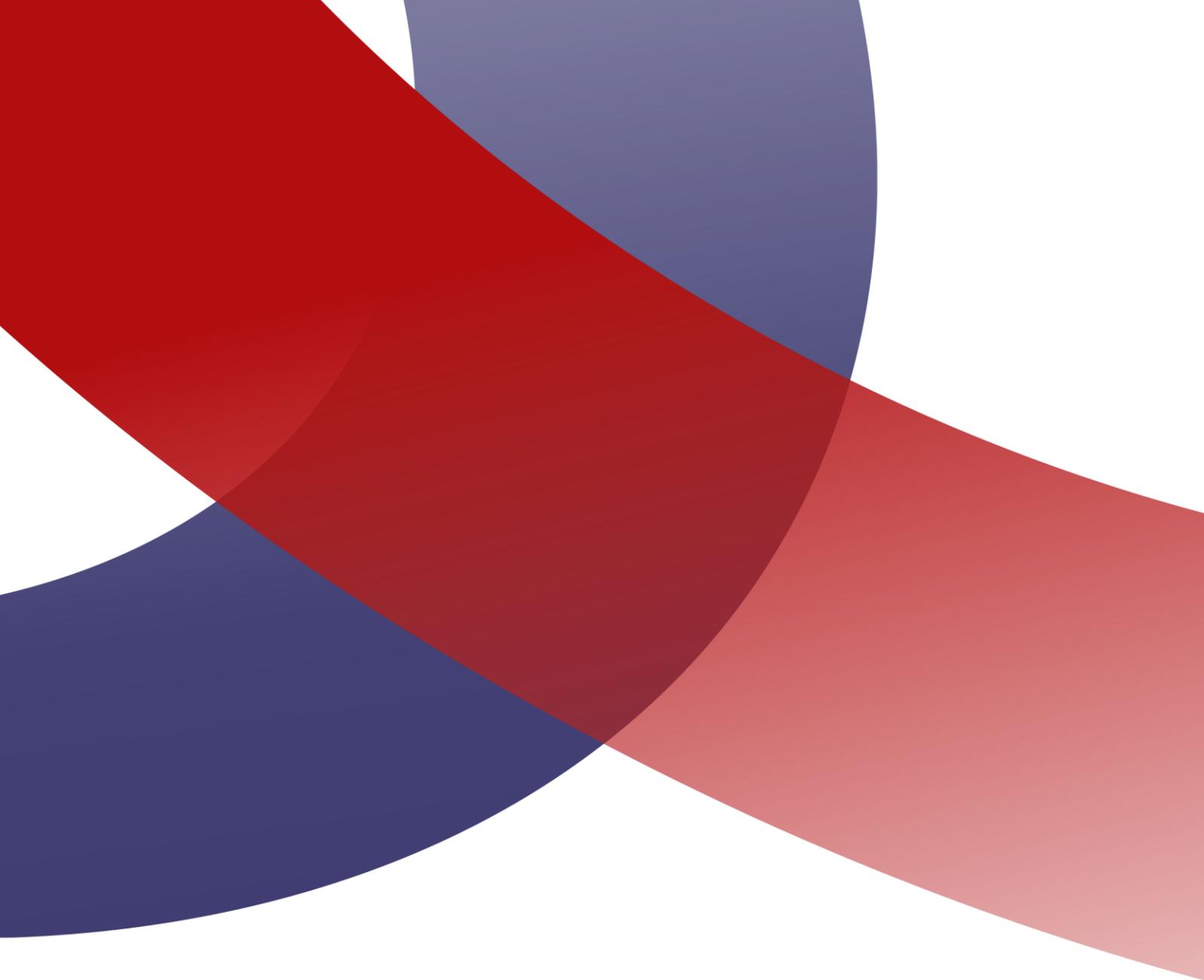
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