

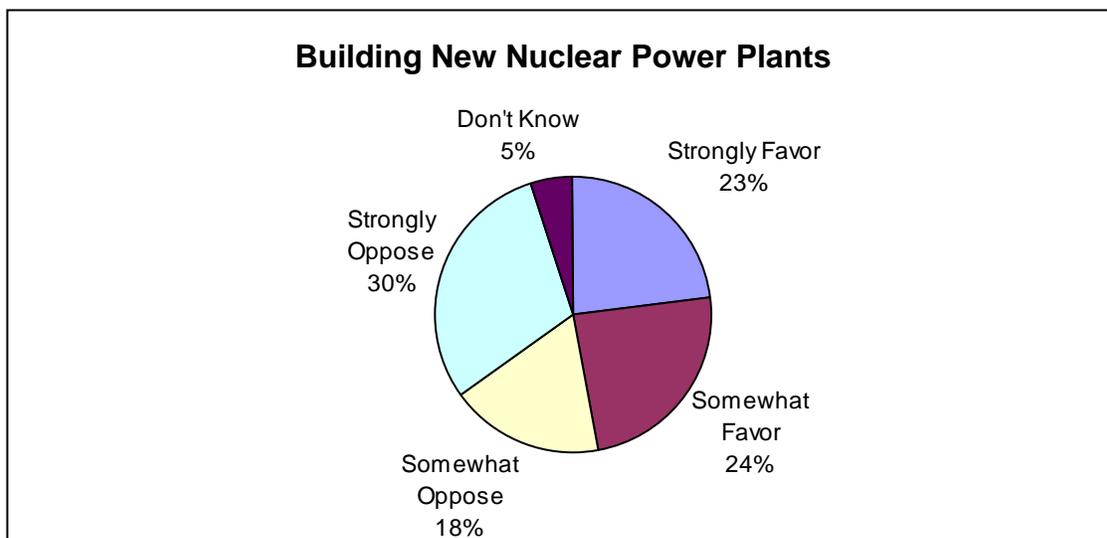
Electricity Generating Infrastructure Preferences

A recent survey on energy issues by the New England Energy Alliance found New Englanders have strong support for producing electricity through wind facilities amid technology misconceptions and have marginal support for the development of most traditional generating infrastructure. To account for common misconceptions and general lack of information about various forms of electricity generating technologies and fuel supply options, the survey posed factual pros and cons for each question.

Nuclear Power Plants

New England relies on nuclear power to generate 28% of the region’s electricity –its second largest source of supply providing reliable, base-load capacity using a dependable, emissions free fuel source. Supporters of nuclear power point to the fact that this generating technology emits no greenhouse gases, has an excellent safety record and is being built in many countries like Japan, France and the UK and that evolutionary designs offer significant safety enhancements from the old design plants. Opponents state that there is still no workable solution for disposing of nuclear waste, that constructing nuclear plants are very expensive and that an accident cannot be ruled out.

Forty-seven percent of New Englanders surveyed favor the construction of new nuclear power plants – compared to 55% nationally.



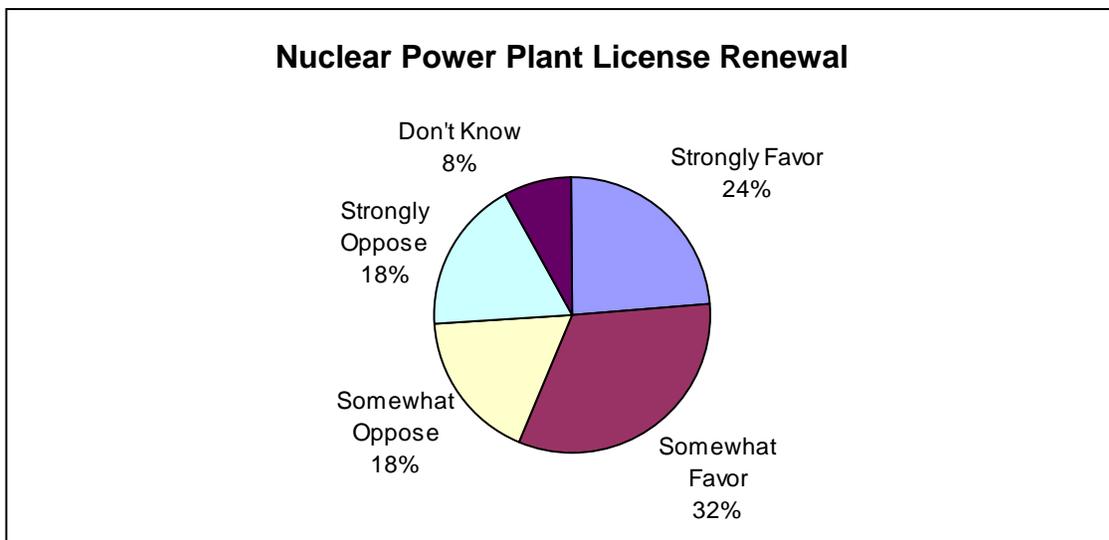
License Renewal for Existing Nuclear Power Plants

The 40-year license term of nuclear power plants was originally established to reflect the amortization period that was traditionally used by electric utility companies for large capital investment – and not on a nuclear plant’s anticipated operating life, which is longer.

The NRC formally reviews all license renewal applications in a stringent process that can last up to three years. To date, the NRC has approved license renewal for dozens of plants including Millstone Units 2 and 3 in 2005 in Connecticut. License renewal applications of both Pilgrim in Massachusetts and Vermont Yankee have been submitted to the NRC as operating licenses for those plants will expire in 2012. (Seabrook’s operating license does not expire until 2026).

License renewal supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants are operating better than ever and must meet rigorous regulatory inspection requirements to gain renewal. Opponents argue that nuclear technology is out-dated and older plants are too dangerous to continue operating.

Fifty-six percent of New Englanders favor renewing the licenses of existing nuclear power plants –about the same as the national average of 59%.



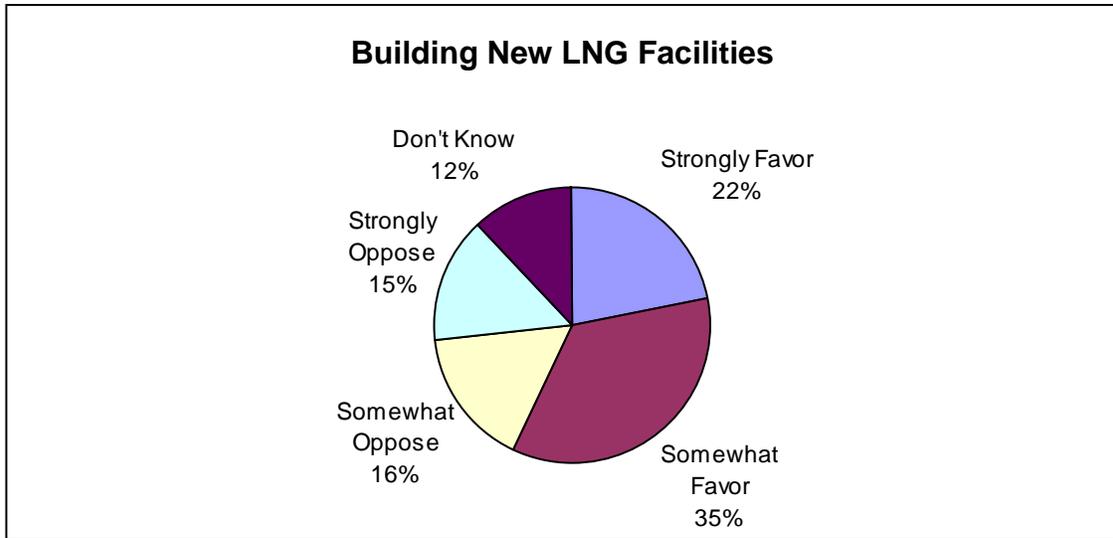
Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities

For decades, LNG has been vital in maintaining a balance between the region’s natural gas supply and demand. Overall, LNG comprises nearly 20% of New England’s total year-round natural gas supply and substantially more during winter peak demand periods when it provides about 30%.

LNG is delivered by tanker from the Caribbean country of Trinidad and Tobago through Boston Harbor to the Distrigas terminal in Everett – one of six on-shore LNG import facilities in the U.S and the recently completed Northeast Gateway facility located off Cape Ann, Massachusetts.

Supporters of LNG terminal facilities justifiably point to a proven track record of safety all over the world and the region’s growing needs for more natural gas. Opponents raise safety concerns like vulnerability to a terrorist threat.

Fifty-six percent of New Englanders surveyed are in favor of building new LNG facilities.

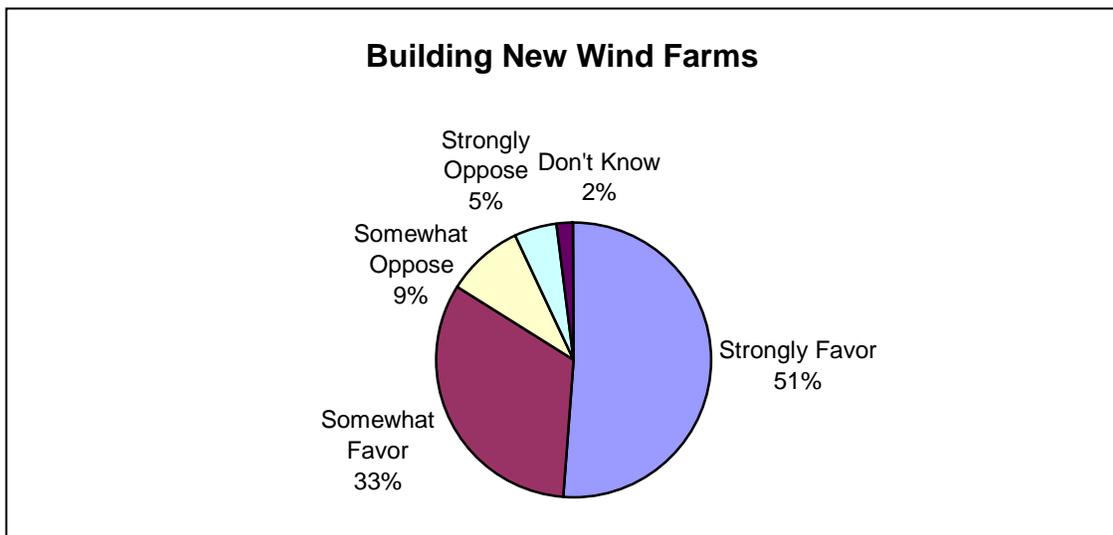


Wind Farms

Technology advancements along with federal and state subsidies have enabled wind generating facilities to produce electricity that is now cost competitive with other fuels. Wind facilities have no fuel costs, but they do have maintenance and substantial capital development costs that must be recovered over periods of intermittent operation (as electricity generation can be highly variable depending on wind speeds).

Wind generation currently comprises less than 1% of New England’s electricity supply. Since the best location for wind generation tends to be in scenic mountain and oceanside areas, the siting of turbines is often controversial.

Supporters correctly state that wind farms don’t emit greenhouse gases, that it is free and unlimited, and that new technology advances make it a more viable source of electricity. Opponents point out that wind farms are unsightly, expensive even with taxpayer subsidies and only operate about 30% of the time.



An overwhelming majority of New Englanders – 84% -- are in favor of building large wind farms, 11 percentage points higher than the national average.

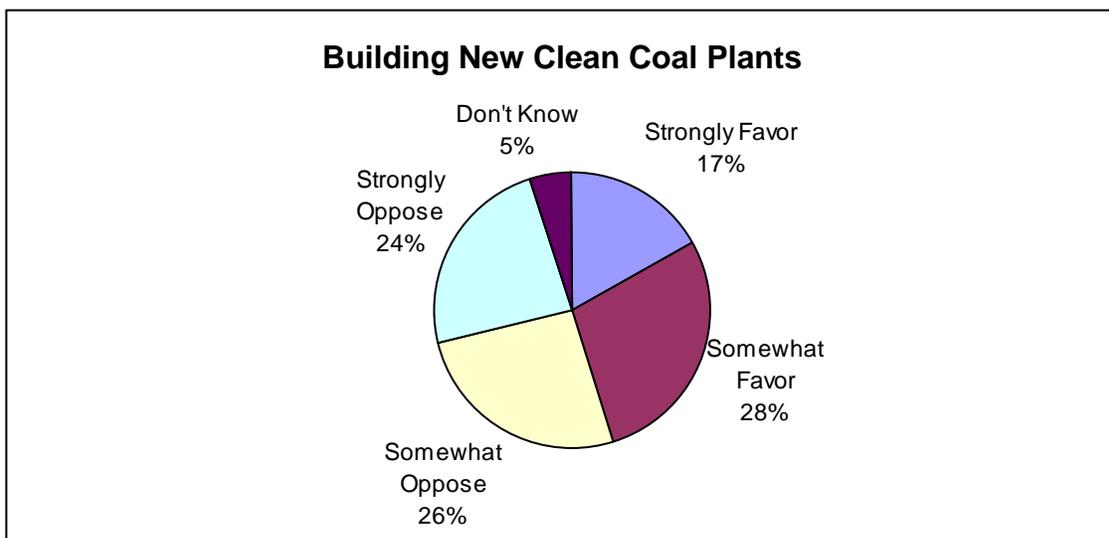
Clean Coal

Generating about 15% of New England’s electricity, a hallmark of coal plants is their price stability. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in emission control equipment, to significantly reduce the by-products of coal combustion including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate emissions. Coal burning, however, does produce significant carbon dioxide emissions, a leading global warming gas.

Clean coal is chemically washed of impurities or gasified, burned and then treated with steam to remove sulfur dioxide and reburned so as to make the carbon dioxide in the flue gas recoverable. The Brayton Point Station in Somerset, Massachusetts is hosting a pilot-scale clean coal gasification plant with CO₂ sequestration – to demonstrate the conversion of coal into natural gas.

Supporters of clean coal plants argue that they reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 50% from existing coal technology, that coal is a low cost, domestic source of fuel, and that they are easy to build and operate. Opponents state that clean coal plants will still produce considerable amounts of greenhouse gases, and that mining damages the environment.

Forty-six percent of New Englanders surveyed support the building of clean coal plants – just below the national average of 52%.



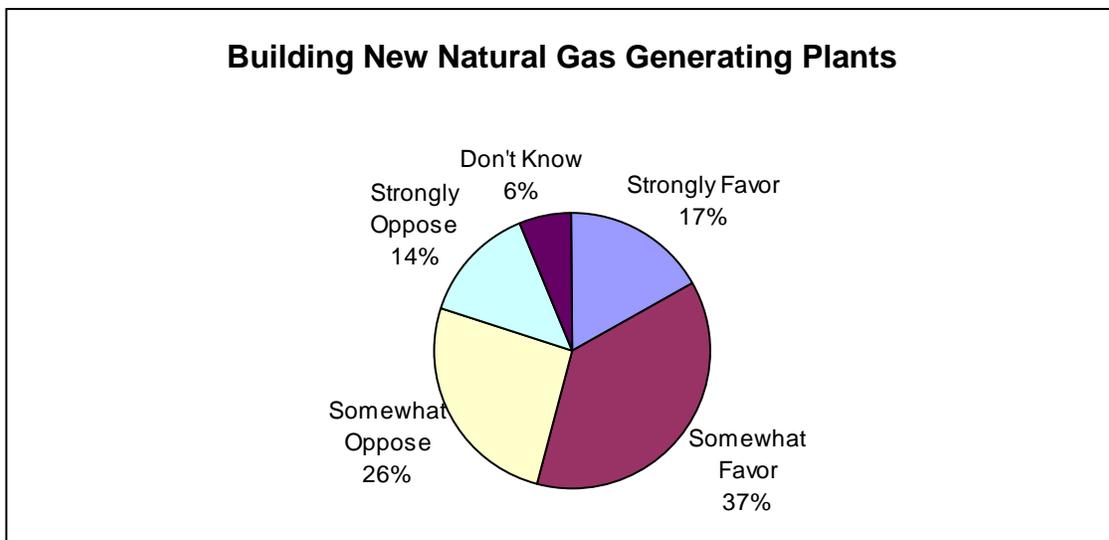
Natural Gas Generating Plants

Natural gas-fired generating plants currently produce over 40% of the region’s electricity. Lower facility costs, high efficiency technologies, and air quality considerations (to comply with federal and state regulations) have made natural gas the fuel of choice for electricity generation in New England.

Almost all of the generating plants built in New England since restructuring have been natural gas-fired. The region's growing reliance on natural gas to fuel generating plants has raised serious concerns about the declining fuel diversity in its electricity fuel mix. New England has no native supply of natural gas, so it is transported via pipeline from south-central U.S., western and eastern Canada and from the Caribbean to LNG import terminals in Massachusetts.

Supporters of natural gas-fired generating plants point out that new plants use only a fraction of the gas used in older facilities to generate the same amount of electricity – due to high efficiency technological advancements. Opponents state that natural gas is expensive and that the region already too dependent on it as a fuel to generate electricity.

Fifty-five percent of New Englanders surveyed are in favor of building new natural gas generating plants.



The annual telephone survey was performed by Opinion Dynamics for the New England Energy Alliance in April 2008 and included 600 registered voters (consumers) proportionately distributed throughout New England. The margin of error is +/-4%. The complete results are available at www.newenglandenergyalliance.org. For more information contact:

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The New England Energy Alliance is a coalition of energy providers and business and trade organizations concerned about future energy supplies.