



Irish national survey of households near new commercial **wind** and **solar farms**

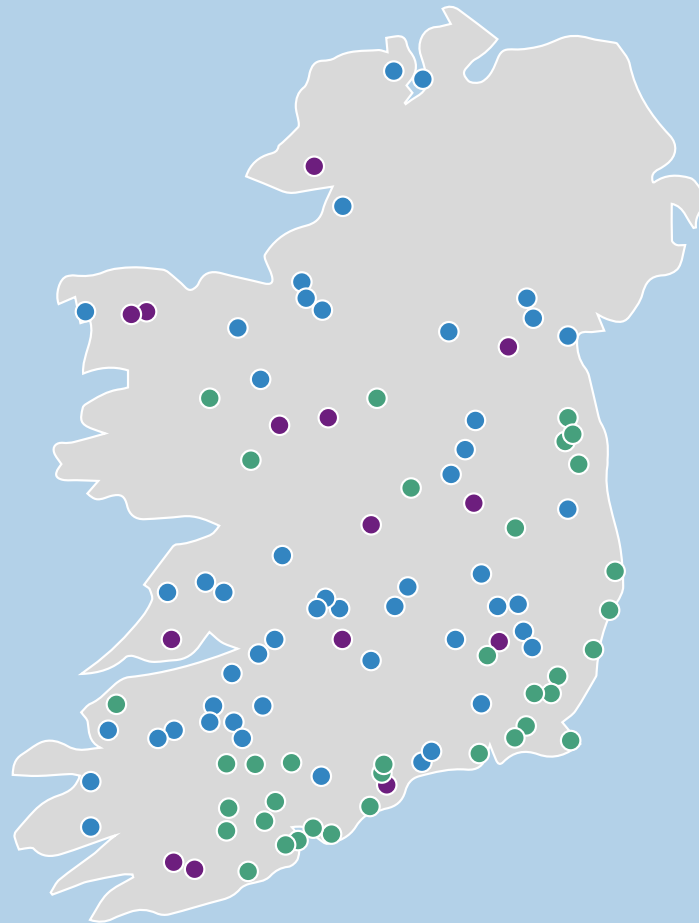
KEY FINDINGS

May 2023



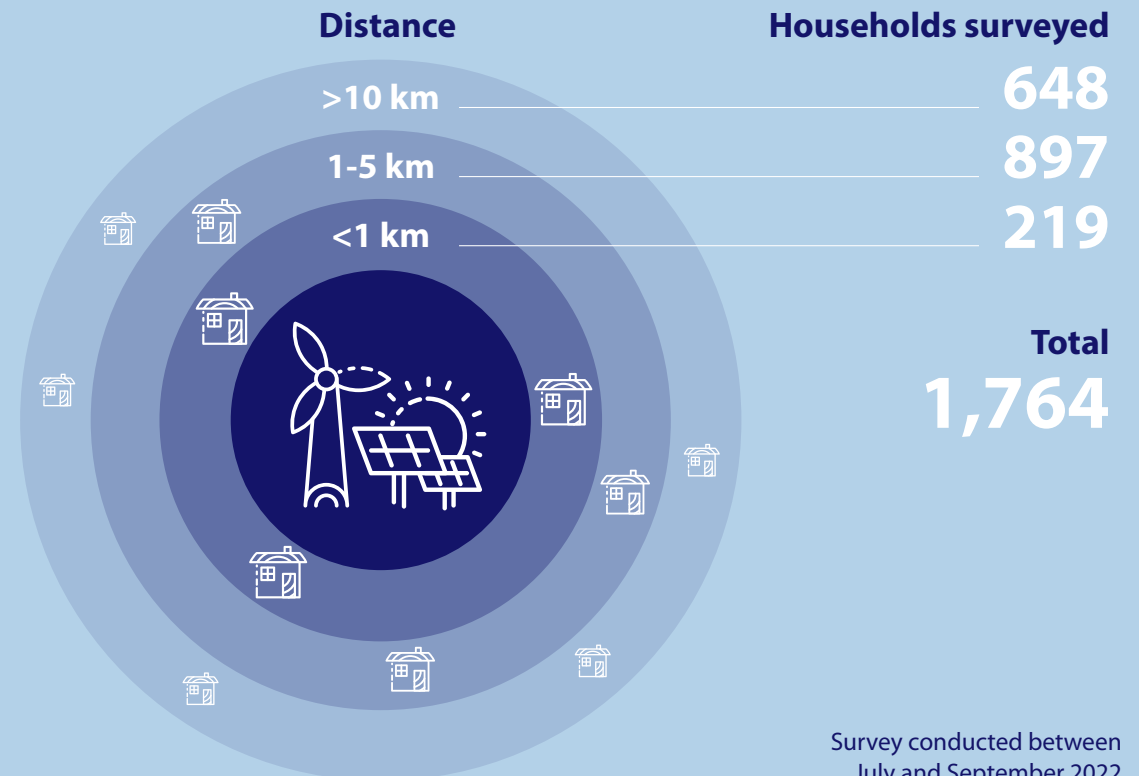
SEAI commissioned a national survey of the attitudes of people who live near to 50 new commercial solar or wind farm projects in Ireland.

This will form part of a long-term study to understand the effects of government policies on the public’s support for Ireland’s energy transition.



- New wind project site surveyed
- New solar project site surveyed
- Surveyed households far from a new solar or wind project

In 2022, surveyors conducted in-person interviews on the doorstep across all of rural Ireland. They surveyed 1,764 households. This included 1,116 households within 5km of a new commercial wind or solar project sites, of which 219 live within 1km of a project site.



Survey conducted between July and September 2022

People's attitudes towards wind farms



67%
Positive



18%
Neutral



12%
Negative



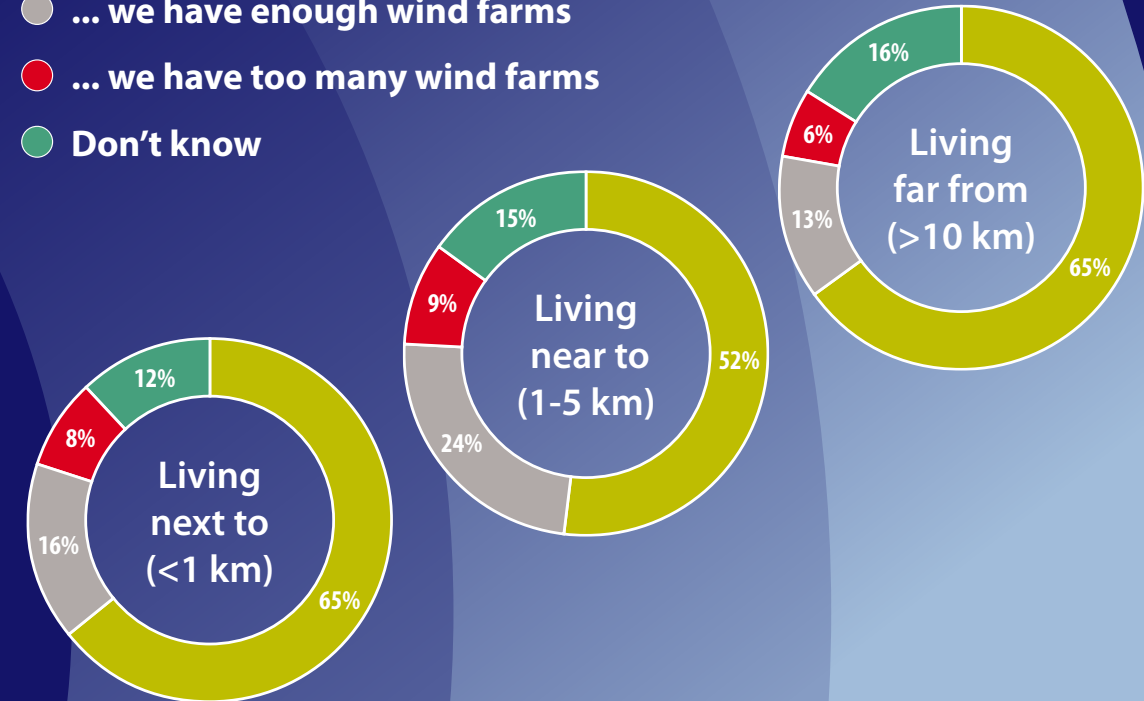
3%
Don't know

DETAILED RESULTS:

	People who live next to (<1 km):	People who live near to (1-5 km):	People who live far from (>10 km):
	72%	62%	70%
	13%	20%	17%
	13%	14%	11%
	1%	4%	3%

People who believe...

- ... we have too few wind farms
- ... we have enough wind farms
- ... we have too many wind farms
- Don't know



SURVEY STATEMENT:

“If I want, I can have a say in the planning process of a local wind project.”

People who live next to (<1 km)



People who live near to (1-5 km)



SURVEY STATEMENT:

“Project developers and the planning authorities take account of the opinions of communities close to wind projects.”

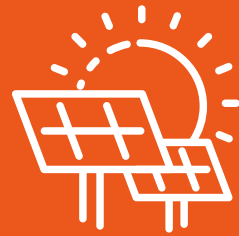
People who live next to (<1 km)



People who live near to (1-5 km)



People's attitudes towards solar farms



81%
Positive



11%
Neutral



4%
Negative



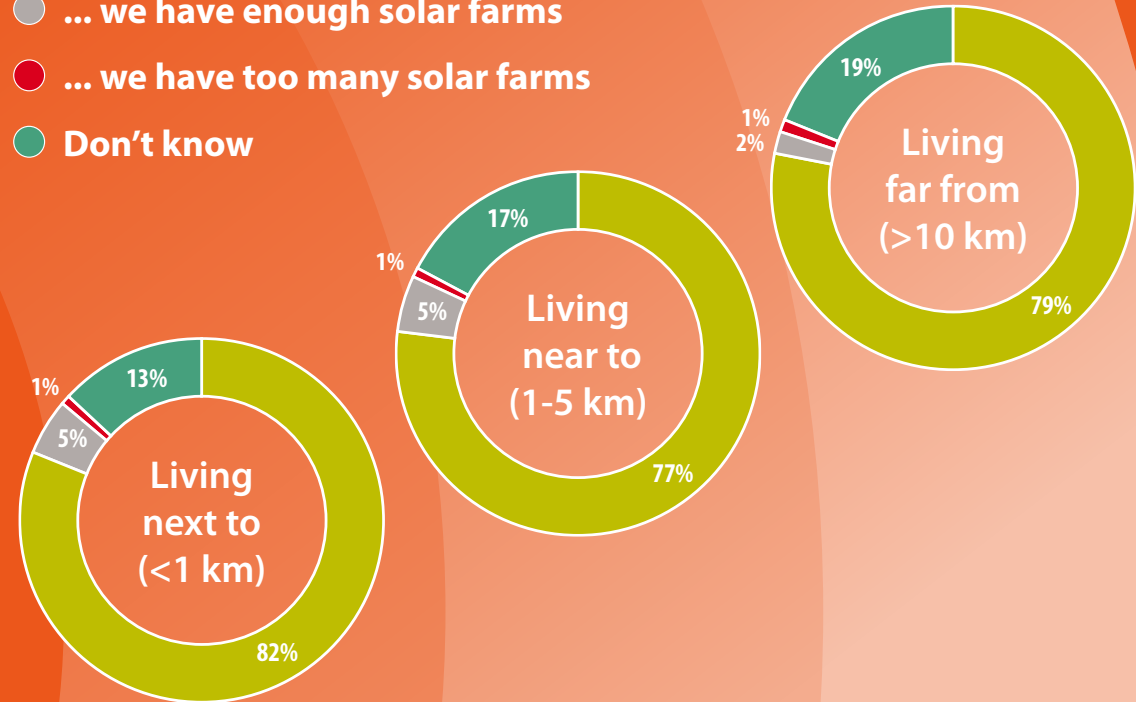
4%
Don't know

DETAILED RESULTS:

	People who live next to (<1 km):	People who live near to (1-5 km):	People who live far from (>10 km):
	81%	81%	80%
	14%	10%	11%
	1%	5%	3%
	3%	4%	6%

People who believe...

- ... we have too few solar farms
- ... we have enough solar farms
- ... we have too many solar farms
- Don't know



SURVEY STATEMENT:

“If I want, I can have a say in the planning process of a local solar project.”

People who live next to (<1 km)



People who live near to (1-5 km)



SURVEY STATEMENT:

“Project developers and the planning authorities take account of the opinions of communities close to solar projects.”

People who live next to (<1 km)



People who live near to (1-5 km)



People's attitudes to Community Benefit Funds



New wind and solar projects will distribute €335 million to communities near them.*



78%
Positive



10%
Neutral



8%
Negative



4%
Don't know

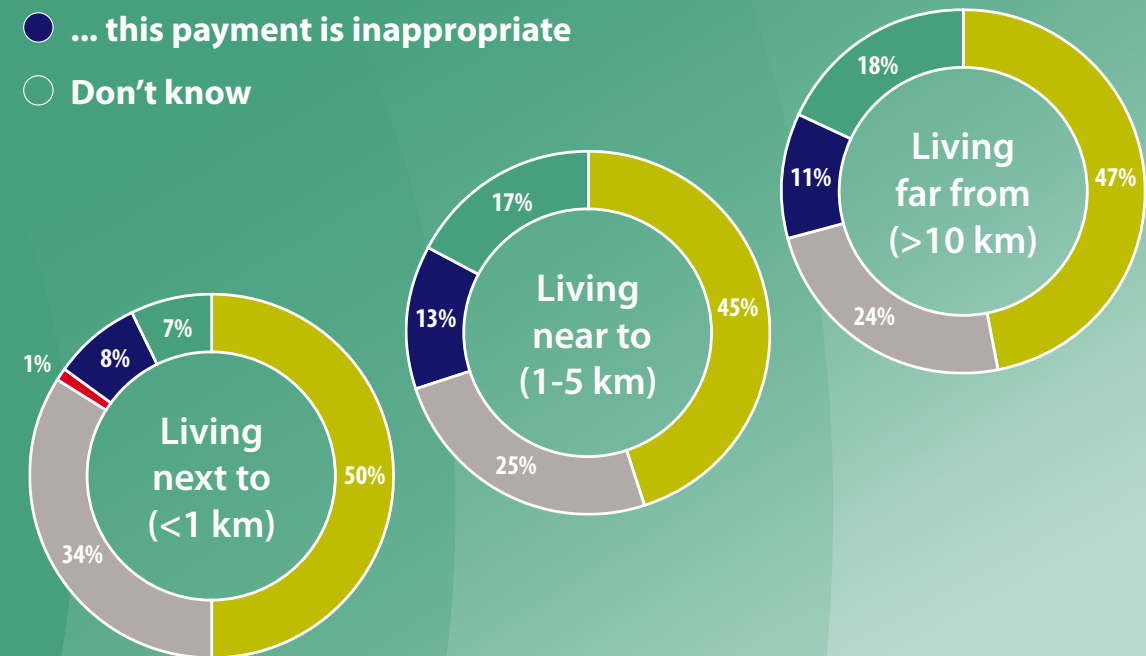
DETAILED RESULTS:

	People who live next to (<1 km):	People who live near to (1-5 km):	People who live far from (>10 km):
	84%	77%	78%
	7%	11%	10%
	7%	7%	8%
	2%	5%	4%

Every household within 1km of a new wind turbine will receive at least €1,000 annually

People who believe...

- ... this payment should be more
- ... this payment sounds about right
- ... this payment should be less
- ... this payment is inappropriate
- Don't know



*Total estimated value of community benefit funds across all RESS projects over 15 year period.

More information on this research can be found at:

www.seai.ie/ress-impacts



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