

Estimation of the potential for expanding use of wind energy along infrastructure corridors, and development of pertinent reliability criteria

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Volume II: Environmental and psychological study of the impacts of wind energy plants along autobahns and through roads: An analysis of acceptance on the part of drivers

Customer

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**"An environmental and psychological study of
the impacts of wind energy plants:
An analysis of acceptance on the part of
drivers"**

Supplementary study accompanying the study
"Estimation of the potential for expanding use of wind
energy along infrastructure corridors, and development of
pertinent reliability criteria"

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Annex I: Questionnaire

Annex II: Photographs of the "Osterfeld" study site



Short summary

The study "Environmental and psychological study of the impacts of wind energy plants along autobahns and through roads: analysis of acceptance on the part of drivers" focussed on the manner in which drivers perceive and assess wind energy plants along autobahns. In the study, a total of 260 drivers, at three autobahn locations, were surveyed with the help of a standardized questionnaire. The study emphasizes included drivers' perceptions of changes in landscape beauty, their sense of whether wind energy plants distract them during driving and any related fears they may have (for example, that wind energy plants are located too close to roads or could cause accidents).

In general, the results showed that a majority of drivers – averaging 75 % – support wind energy use in general.

What is more, drivers rarely reported negative reactions such as "cause fear or pose a threat" or "are a distraction for drivers": A total of 80 - 90 % of all persons surveyed reported having no such negative sensations.

As hypothesised, most drivers felt that wind energy plants did not have a negative impact on landscape beauty.

A correlation was seen, as expected, between general perceptions of wind energy use and sensations of threat or fear. At the same time, such effects did not seem to be "autobahn-specific"; they tended to be the result of existing views (persons with a more positive perception will be less inclined to fear or be disturbed by wind energy plants). As a result, it is unlikely that installation of wind energy plants along autobahns would have any negative effects on general acceptance.

With regard to further use of wind energy in Germany, drivers tended to see autobahn sites as a useful alternative. Some 54 % of all persons surveyed agreed with a pertinent statement, while only 25 % disagreed.