

VALUATION OF PUBLIC OPINION IN RENEWABLE ENERGIES & ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION IN THE CASTILLA Y LEÓN POPULATION

The *Ente Regional de la Energía of Castilla y León, EREN* has developed a survey aimed at the Castilla y León population in the framework of the RES-e Regions Boosting Green Electricity project in 11 European Regions.

Aims and design:

The objective was made a questionnaire which was designed in 8 steps, in order to know the knowledge and the degree of acceptance in Renewable Energies in the population of the nine provinces in the Castilla y León Region:

1. Profile of interviewee
2. Renewable Energy knowledge
3. Acceptance of Renewable Energies
4. Wind power
5. Solar Power Energy
6. Small Hydro power
7. Biomass
8. General Performance from the Junta de Castilla y León

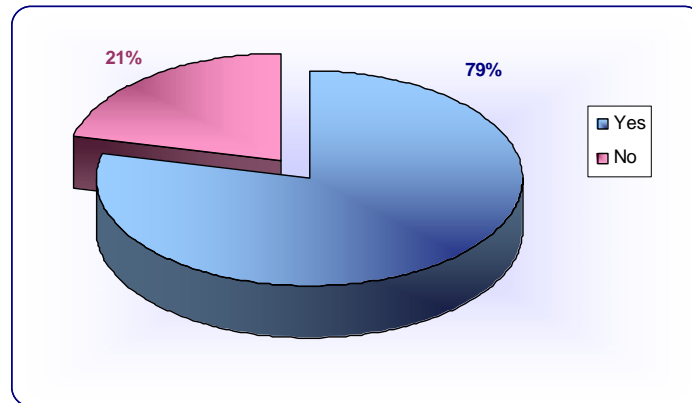
It has been made a total of 1172 surveys, from the age range from 18 to 65. The interviews were made by telephone during October 2005, mainly during the weekends.

On the other hand an *on-line survey* is being carried out by the EREN. The survey is available from the main web page of Junta de Castilla y León (www.jcyl.es).

Results:

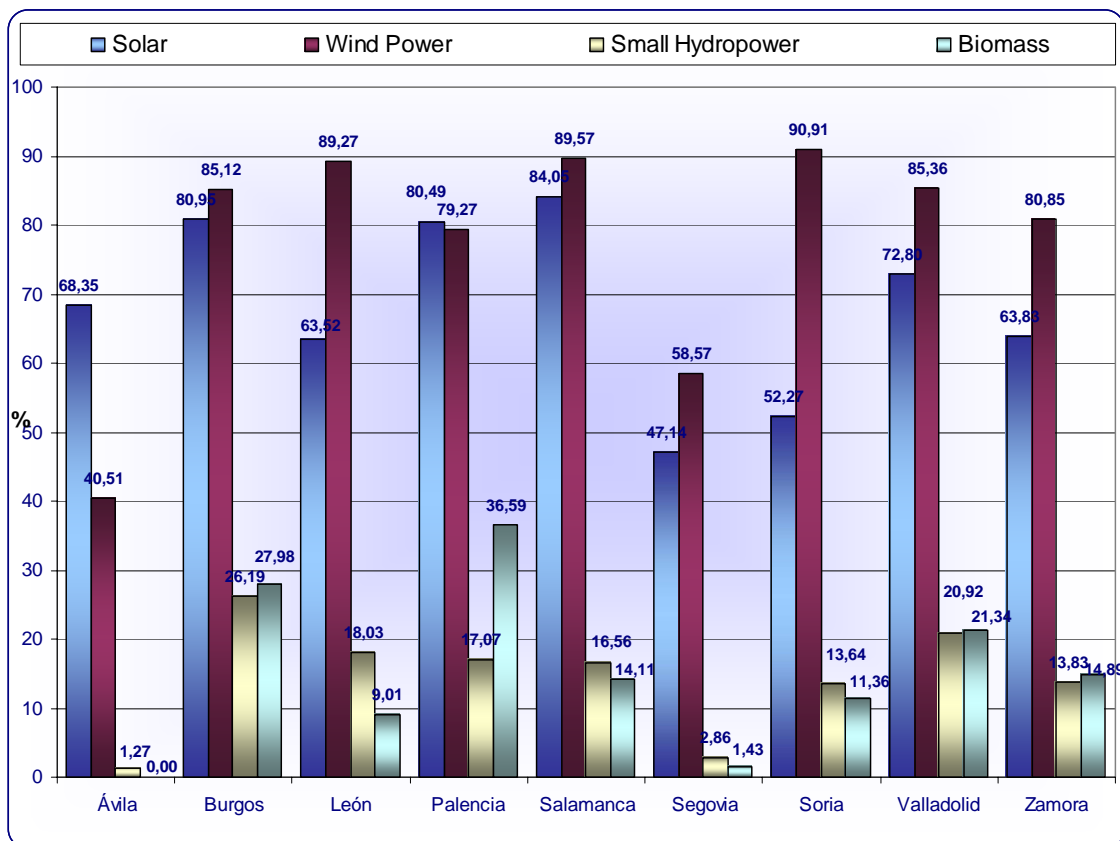
- ✚ From the 1172 interviewed people, a percentage of a 79 % of the population have knowledge or have heard about or have some reference to Renewable Energies. At this point, it is observed that although the people don't know the term "Renewable Energies", after a brief explanation about every technology consist in and their uses, people easily recognised to know some kinds of Renewable Energies, so the percentage of knowledge raises rate a 3% more reaching an 82%.





Do you know renewable energies or have you ever heard about it?

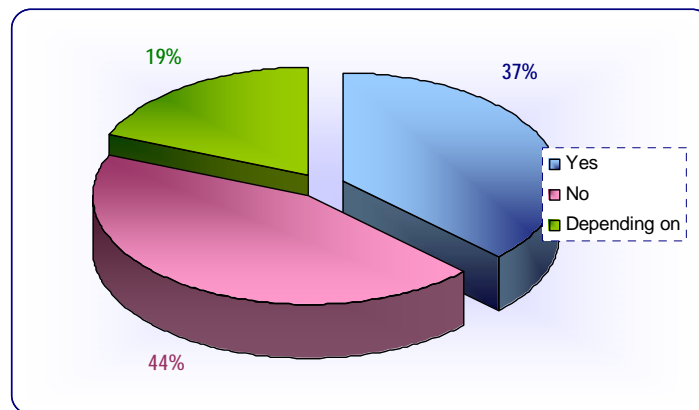
✚ The most well-known Renewable Energies in each of the province of Castilla y Leon Region are enclosed in the graphic below:



Register of the most well - known Renewable Energies of Castilla y León population

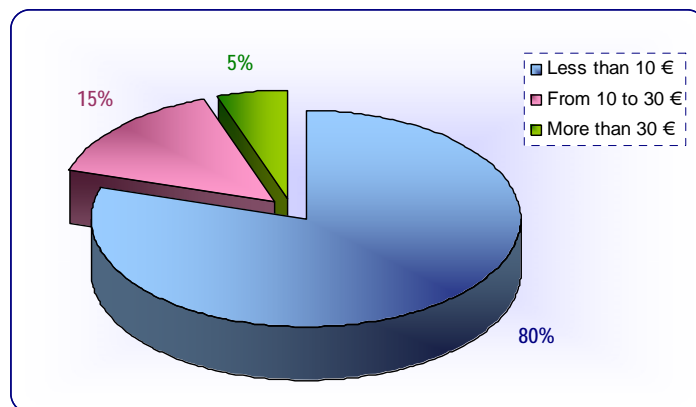
The most well-known renewable energy technologies are the wind power and the solar power.

- About *additional costs from “green electricity”*, a 37% of the population are willing to pay up for a electricity which come from a renewable energy source. Less than a half answered “no”, exactly a 44 %.



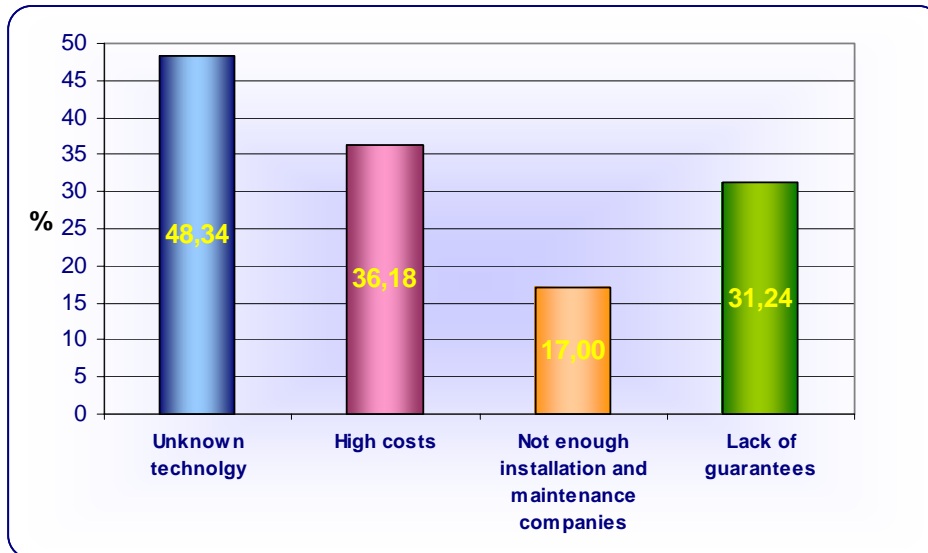
Are you the willing of using Renewable energies if this will imply an over cost in your energy bill?

From that 37 % which is willing to pay up from “green electricity”, only a 5% would pay more that 30 euro in the bimonthly energy invoice.



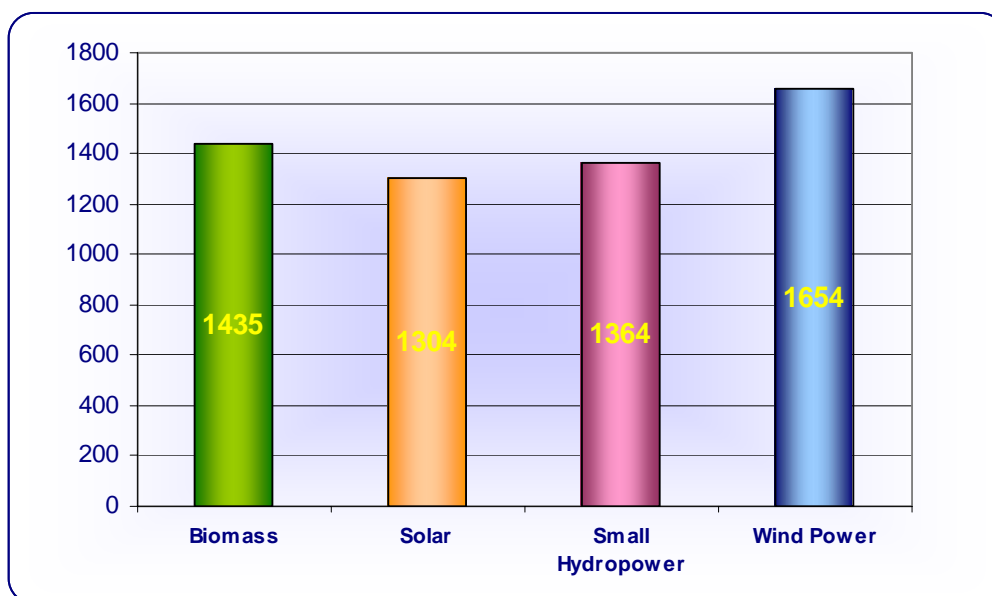
How much are you willing to pay up in your energy bill?

- Keeping in mind the goal of identifying the renewable energies issues which concerned more the population and detecting barriers in the promotion of these technologies, population were asked about which aspects they considered more worried. The results showed that the most worrying issue was the “lacking of information” about technologies, following by the “high costs” and the “lack of guarantees and maintenance on the installations”.



Which are the most worrying aspects about renewable energies installations?

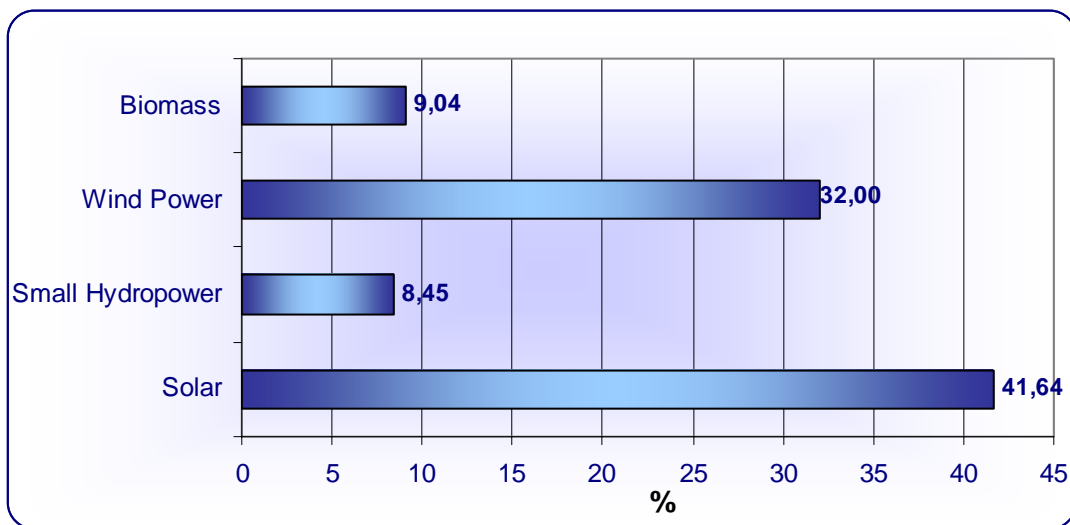
- Regarding to the preference of technology in electricity generation, there are not wide differences among the technologies. The population like the most wind power, which people consider a clean energy and careful with the environment which also foments the employment and wealth in the area. Following in the range it is situated the Biomass, and the two latest are the Small Hydro Power and Solar power. Considering the Hydro Power a careful environmental energy, a profitable business which foments the employment and wealth in the area because it uses autochthonous natural sources.



Which kind of Renewable Energy would you prefer to see used more to generate electricity?

Although an 84% of the population know about Solar Power installations, only a 55 % of them know its use for electric generation.

- ✚ About the *general future performance* from the *Junta de Castilla y León* the population opinion is that the energy that should be promoted more strongly is the Solar, following by the Wind Power.



Which technologies should be promoted from the Regional government (Junta de Castilla y León)?

The population opinion agrees in an 86 % that it must be promoted this electricity from renewable energy sources.

An 81 % of the population think that electricity from renewable energies should be consumed in public buildings and an 83 % consider that regional enterprises should be also involved in the consumption of green electricity.

Conclusions:

From the results it can be observed a high degree of agreement about renewable energies promotion among the population.

In order to promote electricity from Renewable Energies or any kind of Renewable Energy in the Castilla y León Region, it should be carry out an information campaign to covering that lack of information run into the survey results.

On the other hand it has been showed a high level of acceptance and support of electricity from Renewable Energies in the population. Even a 37% of the population will be willing to pay up in their “energy bills” if the origin of the energy that they consume has been generated a renewable energy source.

It should be pointed out that the most well-known renewable energies agree with the technologies which should be boosted more from the Regional Government according with the population opinion.

Comments:

The most well-known renewable energy technologies are the wind power and the solar power. This was an unexpected result because traditionally in the region have been commonly used Hydro power and Biomass from the ancient.

There is an opposing remark that Solar Power is not one of the first chosen energies to have electricity generation, although it is one of the energies more well-known and one of the energies that population think it should be promoted more from the Regional Government.

The best tool for disseminate information it seems Internet and magazines because are this media where the people would look for information.

