

# Public Attitudes to Wind Power in Sweden 2023

EECC – Swedish Opinion on  
Environment, Energy and Climate  
Change

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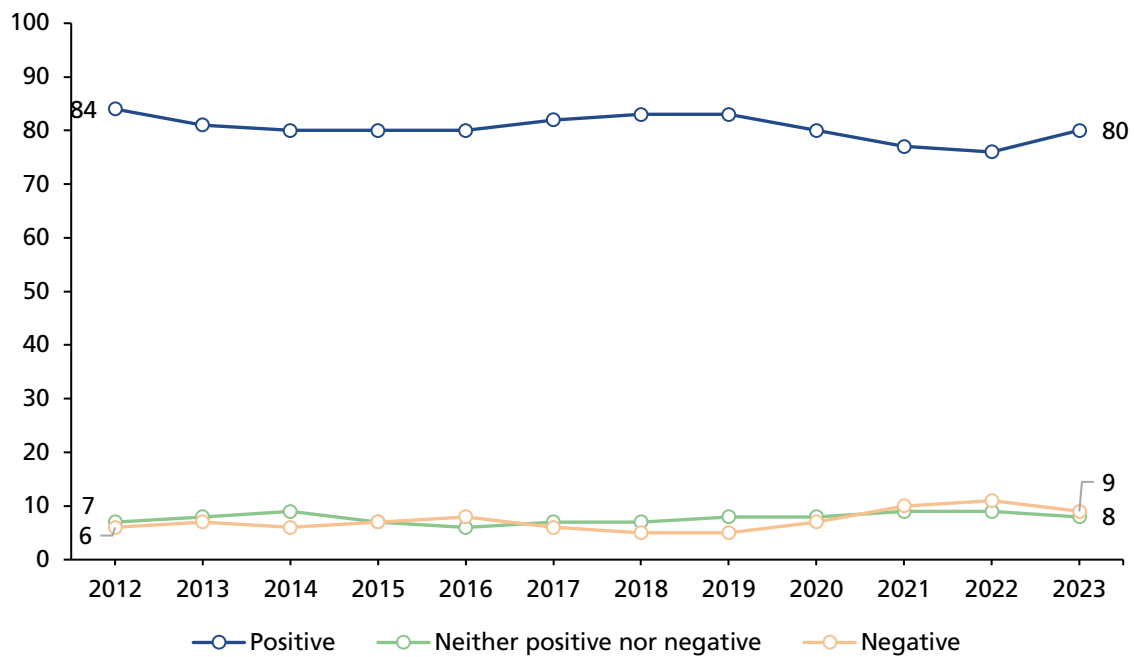
**Table 1 Attitudes towards hydropower, wind power, nuclear power and solar power, 2012–2023 (percent)**

Energy source and survey year	Very positive	Rather positive	Neither positive nor negative	Rather negative	Very negative	No opinion	Total percent	Number of respondents	Balance measure
<b>Hydropower</b>									
2012	55	31	8	2	0	4	100	1 460	+84
2013	53	31	7	3	1	5	100	1 573	+80
2014	52	31	8	3	1	5	100	1 656	+79
2015	53	29	8	3	1	6	100	1 654	+78
2016	54	29	8	2	1	6	100	1 588	+80
2017	55	28	8	2	1	6	100	1 772	+80
2018	53	31	8	2	0	6	100	1 752	+82
2019	53	30	8	2	1	6	100	1 681	+80
2020	51	31	8	3	1	6	100	1 818	+78
2021	51	30	10	3	1	5	100	1 533	+77
2022	58	25	8	2	1	6	100	1 724	+80
2023	58	30	6	2	0	4	100	1 662	+86
<b>Wind power</b>									
2012	57	27	7	4	2	3	100	1 459	+78
2013	54	27	8	5	2	4	100	1 569	+74
2014	52	27	9	5	2	5	100	1 651	+73
2015	55	25	7	5	3	5	100	1 656	+72
2016	57	23	6	5	3	6	100	1 595	+72
2017	57	24	8	4	2	5	100	1 765	+75
2018	57	26	7	3	2	5	100	1 746	+78
2019	56	27	8	3	2	4	100	1 680	+78
2020	51	29	8	4	3	5	100	1 818	+73
2021	49	28	9	7	3	4	100	1 528	+67
2022	50	25	9	7	4	5	100	1 719	+64
2023	54	26	8	6	3	3	100	1 660	+71
<b>Nuclear power</b>									
2012	12	22	24	20	18	4	100	1 452	-4
2013	11	21	20	22	20	6	100	1 560	-10
2014	12	19	24	21	17	7	100	1 634	-7
2015	11	19	23	19	21	7	100	1 632	-10
2016	12	18	21	20	21	8	100	1 575	-11
2017	10	17	21	23	21	8	100	1 749	-17
2018	12	19	21	20	19	9	100	1 741	-8
2019	16	22	19	19	16	8	100	1 672	+3
2020	13	19	22	20	17	9	100	1 801	-5
2021	20	21	21	17	15	6	100	1 508	+9
2022	29	24	18	13	10	6	100	1 720	+30
2023	26	24	19	15	11	5	100	1 656	+24
<b>Solar power</b>									
2021	70	22	4	0	0	4	100	1 527	+92
2022	73	18	4	1	0	4	100	1 722	+90
2023	72	20	4	1	0	3	100	1 665	+91

**Comment:** The question reads: 'In general, what is your attitude towards the following energy sources?'. The percentage base consists of all respondents who received the question. The share that skips the questions about hydropower, wind power, nuclear power and solar power varies between 3 and 6 percent for the period studied. The balance measure is calculated by subtracting the share of negative responses from the share of positive responses.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2012–2023.

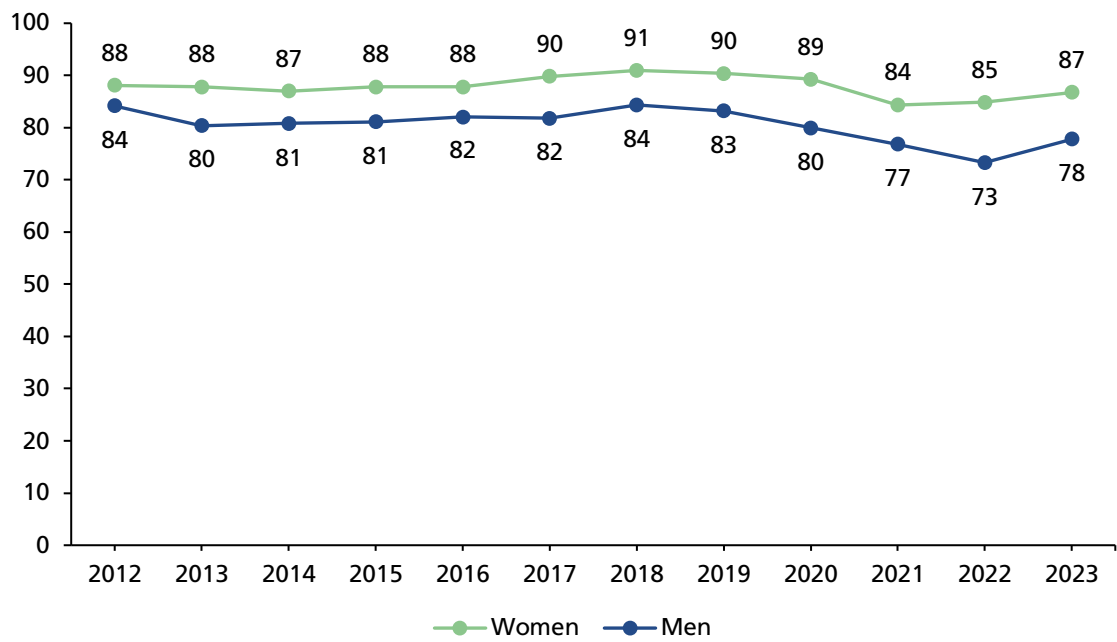
**Figure 1 Attitudes towards wind power, 2012–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: ‘In general, what is your attitude towards the following energy sources? Wind power’. The response options are ‘Very positive’, ‘Rather positive’, ‘Neither positive nor negative’, ‘Rather negative’, ‘Very negative’, and ‘No opinion’. The figure shows respondents that are ‘Very positive’ or ‘Rather positive’ as ‘Positive’, and respondents that are ‘Rather negative’ or ‘Very negative’ as ‘Negative’. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The number of respondents varies between approximately 1 450 and 1 800 for the survey areas.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2012–2023.

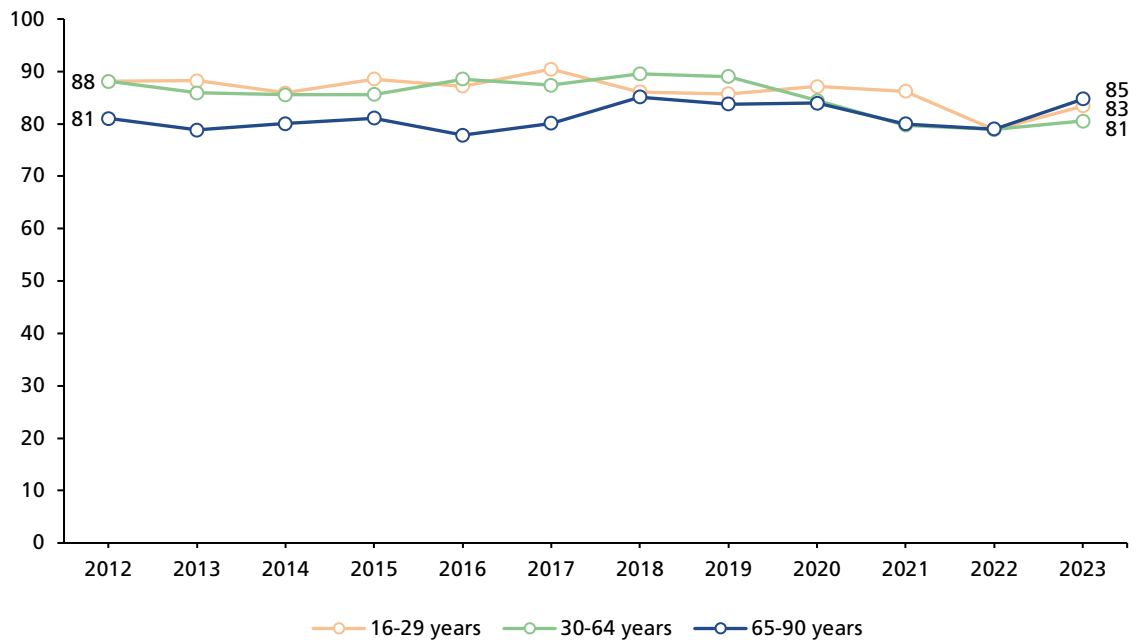
**Figure 2 Positive attitude towards wind power by gender, 2012–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'In general, what is your attitude towards the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are 'Very positive', 'Rather positive', 'Neither positive nor negative', 'Rather negative', 'Very negative' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents that are 'Very positive' or 'Rather positive' as having a positive attitude towards wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The number of respondents varies between approximately 1 250 and 1 700 for the survey years.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2012–2023.

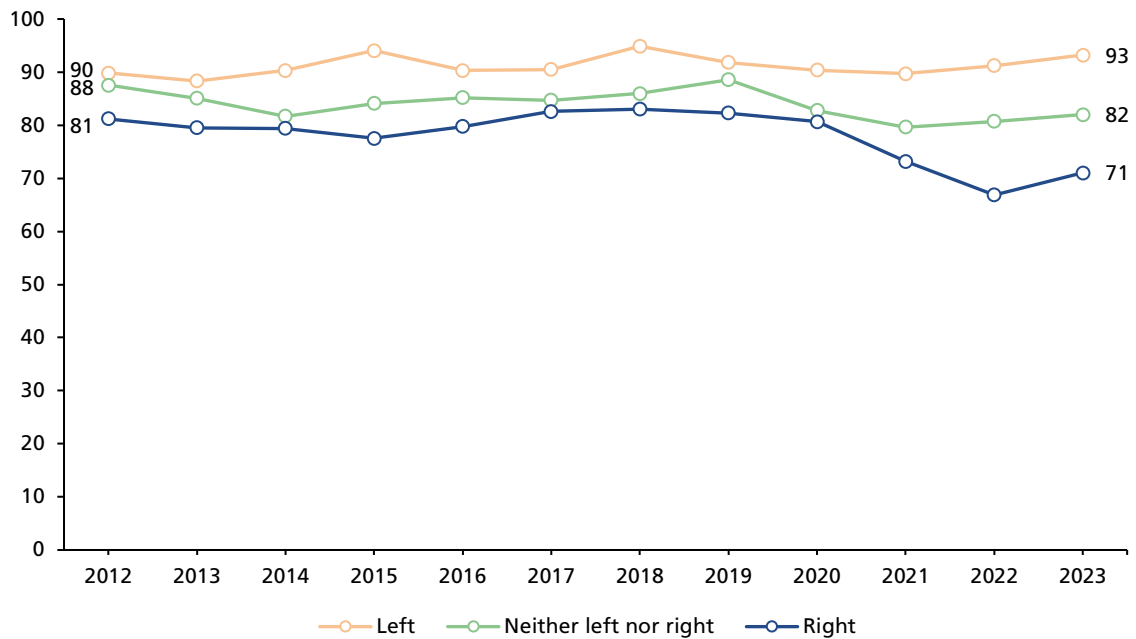
**Figure 3 Positive attitude towards wind power by age, 2012–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'In general, what is your attitude towards the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are 'Very positive', 'Rather positive', 'Neither positive nor negative', 'Rather negative', 'Very negative' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents that are 'Very positive' or 'Rather positive' as having a positive attitude towards wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The number of respondents varies between approximately 1 450 and 1 700 for the survey years.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2012–2023.

**Figure 4 Positive attitude towards wind power by ideology, 2012–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: ‘In general, what is your attitude towards the following energy sources? Wind power’. The response options are ‘Very positive’, ‘Rather positive’, ‘Neither positive nor negative’, ‘Rather negative’, ‘Very negative’ and ‘No opinion’. The figure shows the share of respondents that are ‘Very positive’ or ‘Rather positive’ as having a positive attitude towards wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The question about subjective placement on an ideological left-right scale reads: ‘The concept of a political left-right scale is often used to describe a person’s political opinions. Where would you place yourself on such a scale?’. The figure shows respondents that are ‘Clearly to the left’ or ‘Somewhat to the left’ as ‘Left’, and respondents that are ‘Somewhat to the right’ or ‘Clearly to the right’ as ‘Right’. The number of respondents varies between approximately 1 350 and 1 700 for the survey years.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2012–2023.

**Table 2 Positive attitude towards wind power by party affiliation, 2012–2023 (percent)**

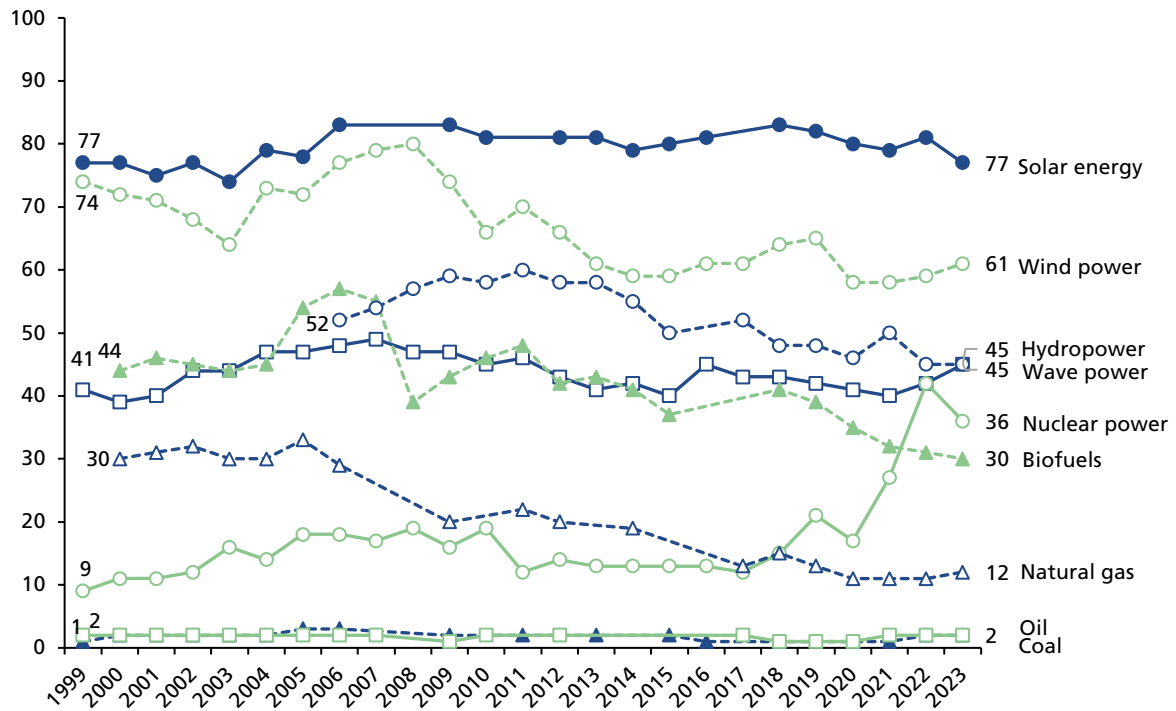
	V	S	MP	C	L	KD	M	SD	Other
2012	91	86	92	89	81	91	79	81	100
2013	87	83	94	78	82	75	76	79	70
2014	86	80	94	88	83	78	79	68	85
2015	91	82	94	88	68	72	77	67	85
2016	92	81	96	88	75	74	79	70	86
2017	87	83	93	91	80	78	82	69	76
2018	93	83	96	91	85	89	81	70	72
2019	94	85	94	91	85	79	81	74	84
2020	88	83	96	90	81	80	80	65	66
2021	86	85	87	89	74	63	77	60	60
2022	91	85	93	88	77	59	74	48	47
2023	93	88	96	86	92	68	76	54	55

**Comment:** The question reads: 'In general, what is your attitude towards the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are 'Very positive', 'Rather positive', 'Neither positive nor negative', 'Rather negative', 'Very negative' and 'No opinion'. The table shows the share of respondents that are 'Very positive' or 'Rather positive' as having a positive attitude towards wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The question about party affiliation reads: 'Which party do you like the best today?'. The party abbreviations stand for: the Left Party (V), the Social Democratic Party (S), the Green Party (MP), the Centre Party (C), the Liberal Party (L), the Christian Democrats (KD), the Moderate Party (M) and the Sweden Democrats (SD).

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2012–2023.



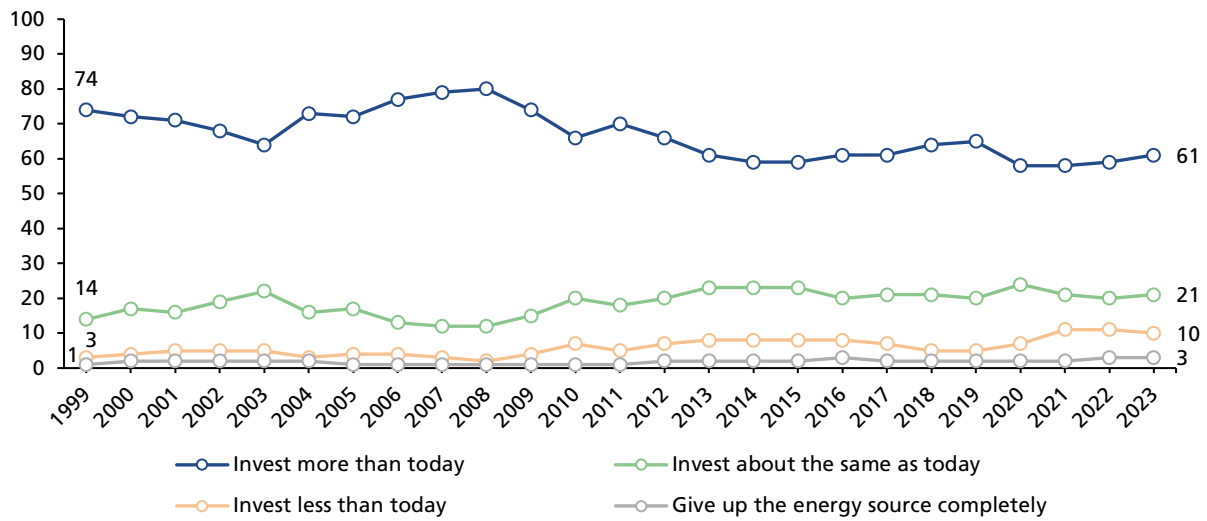
**Figure 5 Share that wants to invest more in different energy sources, 1999–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: ‘During the next 5-10 years, how much should we in Sweden invest in the following energy sources?’. The response options are: ‘More than today’, ‘About the same as today’, ‘Less than today’, ‘Completely abolish the energy source’ and ‘No opinion’. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. Not all energy sources have been part of the National SOM Survey annually. The figure shows the share of respondents who want to invest more in each energy source, respectively. For biofuels and natural gas, the results were 29 and 21 percent respectively in the National SOM Survey 1999. The relatively low numbers are not included in the figure since we suspect that they are caused by contextual effects in the questionnaire. The number of respondents varies between approximately 1 450 and 1 750 for the survey years.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 1999–2023.

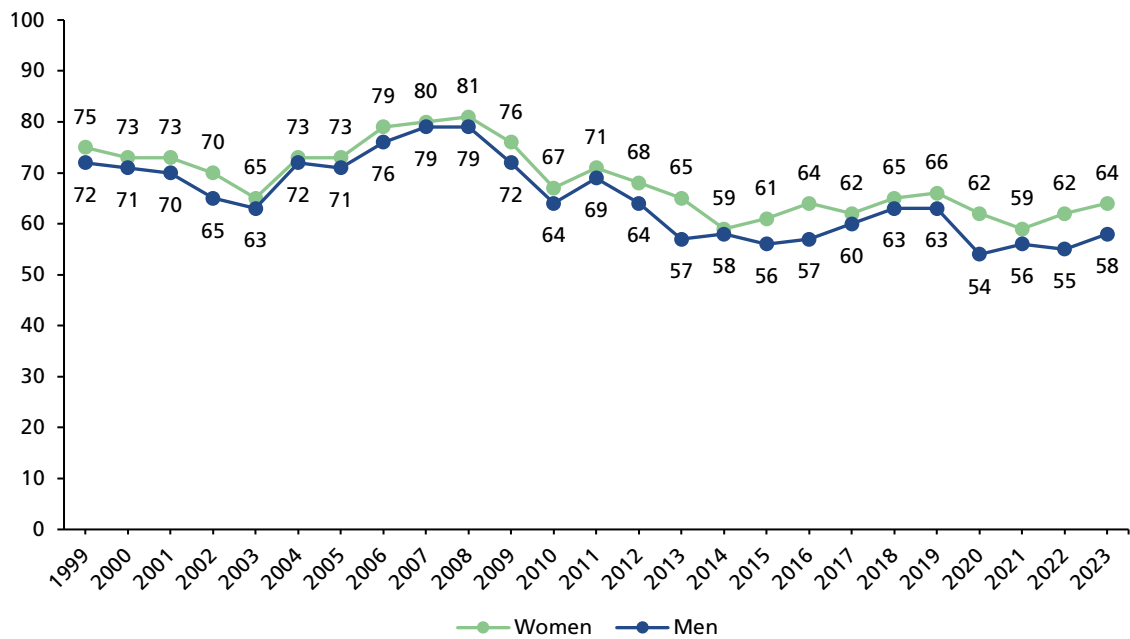
**Figure 6 Share that wants to invest more, invest about the same as today, invest less, or completely give up wind energy as an energy source, 1999–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'During the next 5-10 years, how much should we in Sweden invest in the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are: 'More than today', 'About the same as today', 'Less than today', 'Completely abolish the energy source' and 'No opinion'. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The number of respondents varies between approximately 1 450 and 1 750 for the survey years.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 1999–2023.

**Figure 7 Invest more in wind power by gender, 1999–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'During the next 5-10 years, how much should we in Sweden invest in the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are: 'More than today', 'About the same as today', 'Less than today', 'Completely abolish the energy source' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents who want to invest more in wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 1999–2023.

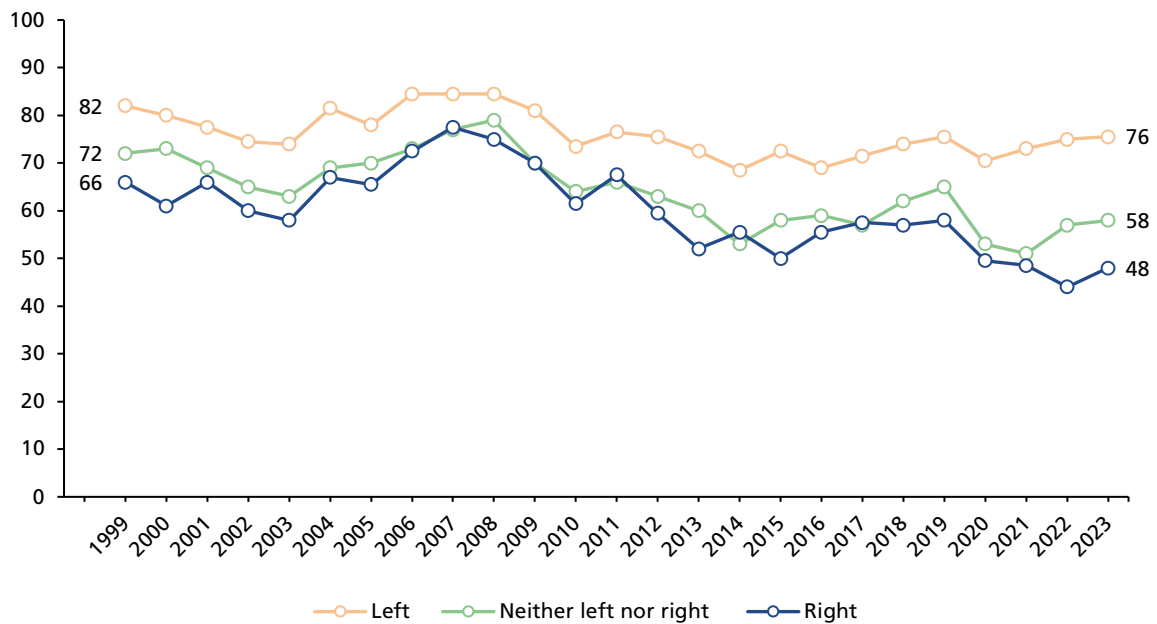
**Figure 8 Invest more in wind power by age, 1999–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'During the next 5-10 years, how much should we in Sweden invest in the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are: 'More than today', 'About the same as today', 'Less than today', 'Completely abolish the energy source' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents who want to invest more in wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 1999–2023.

**Figure 9 Invest more in wind power by ideology, 1999–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'During the next 5-10 years, how much should we in Sweden invest in the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are: 'More than today', 'About the same as today', 'Less than today', 'Completely abolish the energy source' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents who want to invest more in wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The question about subjective placement on an ideological left-right scale reads: 'The concept of a political left-right scale is often used to describe a person's political opinions. Where would you place yourself on such a scale?'. The figure shows respondents that are 'Clearly to the left' or 'Somewhat to the left' as 'Left', and respondents that are 'Somewhat to the right' or 'Clearly to the right' as 'Right'.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 1999–2023.

**Table 3 Invest more in wind power by party affiliation, 1999–2023 (percent)**

	V	S	MP	C	L	KD	M	SD	Other
1999	86	72	87	80	84	72	63	-	72
2000	81	72	84	90	81	69	59	-	86
2001	85	70	87	80	78	72	62	-	73
2002	80	66	86	79	70	70	48	-	64
2003	75	62	77	76	63	66	54	-	67
2004	82	70	92	82	69	68	65	-	75
2005	74	73	90	82	72	68	67	-	61
2006	82	78	89	89	67	83	70	68	72
2007	88	78	94	85	81	80	78	68	74
2008	86	81	88	93	77	77	77	68	73
2009	82	76	79	79	78	77	68	66	74
2010	84	62	84	71	64	71	62	51	68
2011	69	71	86	82	67	64	67	65	58
2012	85	70	78	64	59	71	60	56	89
2013	78	65	77	50	60	55	52	58	58
2014	72	57	75	61	52	59	58	46	57
2015	67	64	79	59	51	40	53	48	52
2016	79	60	86	65	52	48	61	45	50
2017	77	60	79	69	59	45	60	47	54
2018	77	65	82	68	66	57	60	52	44
2019	80	65	84	73	74	60	59	55	58
2020	70	62	81	65	61	46	55	46	54
2021	74	64	76	58	51	51	53	40	54
2022	79	68	82	66	49	44	52	37	46
2023	77	71	81	68	67	54	53	35	46

**Comment:** The question reads: 'During the next 5-10 years, how much should we in Sweden invest in the following energy sources? Wind power'. The response options are: 'More than today', 'About the same as today', 'Less than today', 'Completely abolish the energy source' and 'No opinion'. The table shows the share of respondents who want to invest more in wind power. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The question about party affiliation reads: 'Which party do you like the best today?'. The party abbreviations stand for: the Left Party (V), the Social Democratic Party (S), the Green Party (MP), the Centre Party (C), the Liberal Party (L), the Christian Democrats (KD), the Moderate Party (M) and the Sweden Democrats (SD).

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 1999–2023.

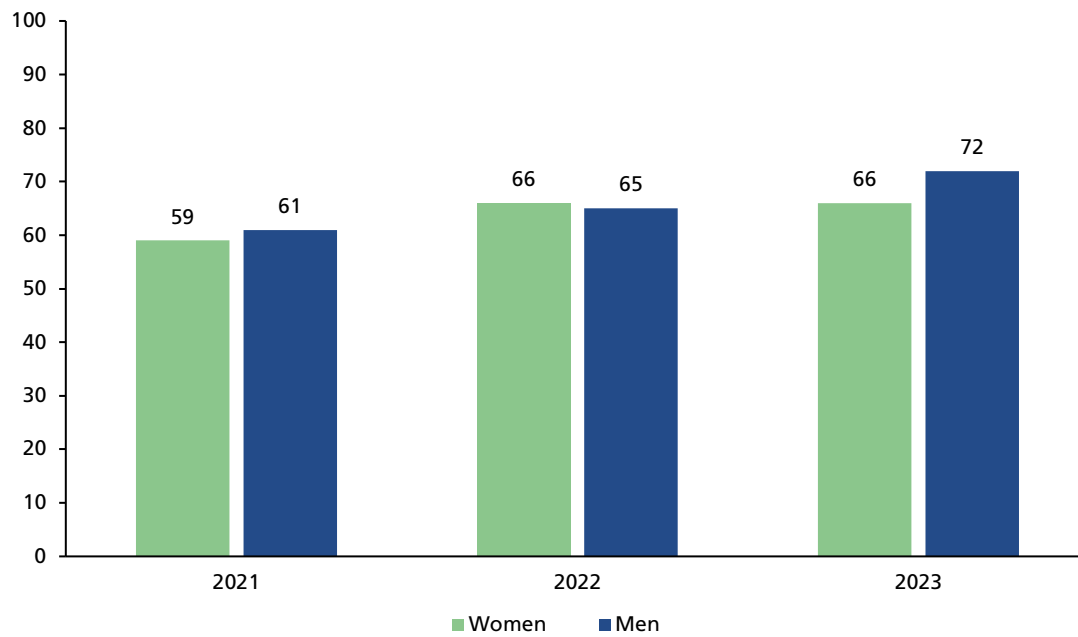
**Table 4 Invest more in offshore wind power, 2021–2023 (percent)**

What is your opinion on the following proposal? Sweden should invest more in offshore wind power	2021	2022	2023
Very good proposal	26	38	37
Fairly good proposal	34	28	32
Neither good nor bad proposal	28	12	11
Fairly bad proposal	7	5	4
Very bad proposal	6	4	5
No opinion	–	13	12
Total percent	100	100	100
Number of respondents	1 527	1 724	1 667
Share good proposal	60	66	69
Share bad proposal	13	14	9
Balance measure	+47	+52	+59

**Comment:** The wording of the question and the response options are presented in the table. Percentages are based on all respondents who answered the question. In 2021, the response option “No opinion” was not offered, which may affect comparability to some extent. The balance measure was calculated by subtracting the percentage of those who consider investing more in offshore wind power a fairly or very bad proposal from the percentage of those who consider it a fairly or very good proposal.

**Source:** The national SOM-survey 2021–2023.

**Figure 10 Positive attitude towards investment in offshore wind power by gender, 2021–2023 (percent)**

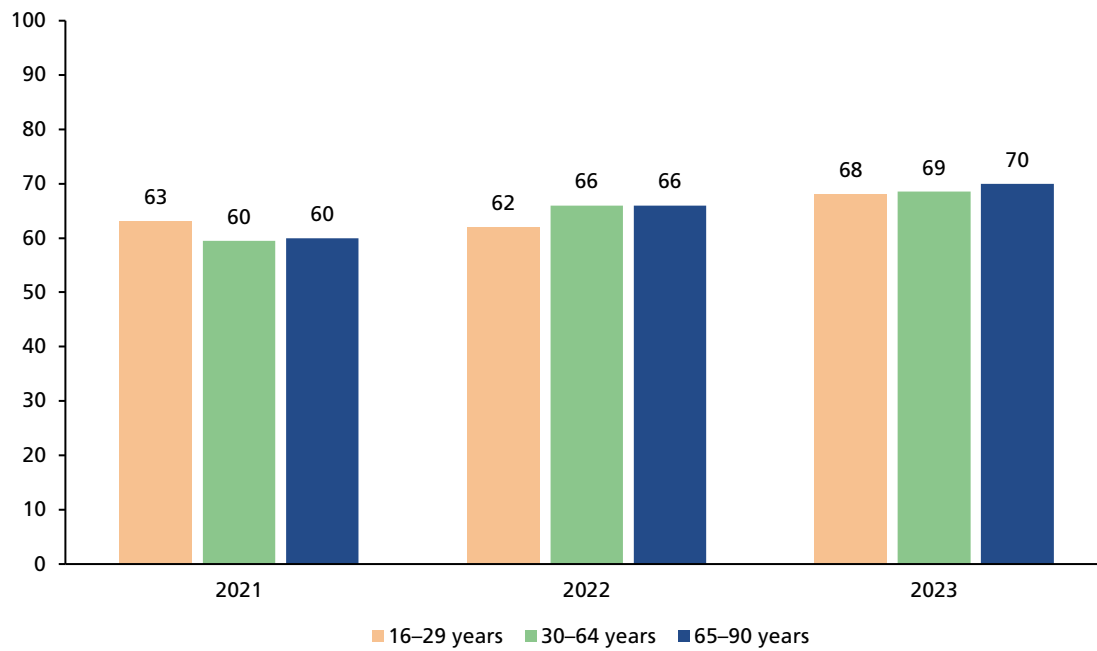


**Comment:** The question reads: 'What is your opinion on the following proposal? Sweden should invest more in offshore wind power'. The response options are 'Very good proposal', 'Fairly good proposal', 'Neither good nor bad proposal', 'Fairly bad proposal', 'Very bad proposal' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents that think investing in more offshore wind power is a good proposal. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2021–2023.



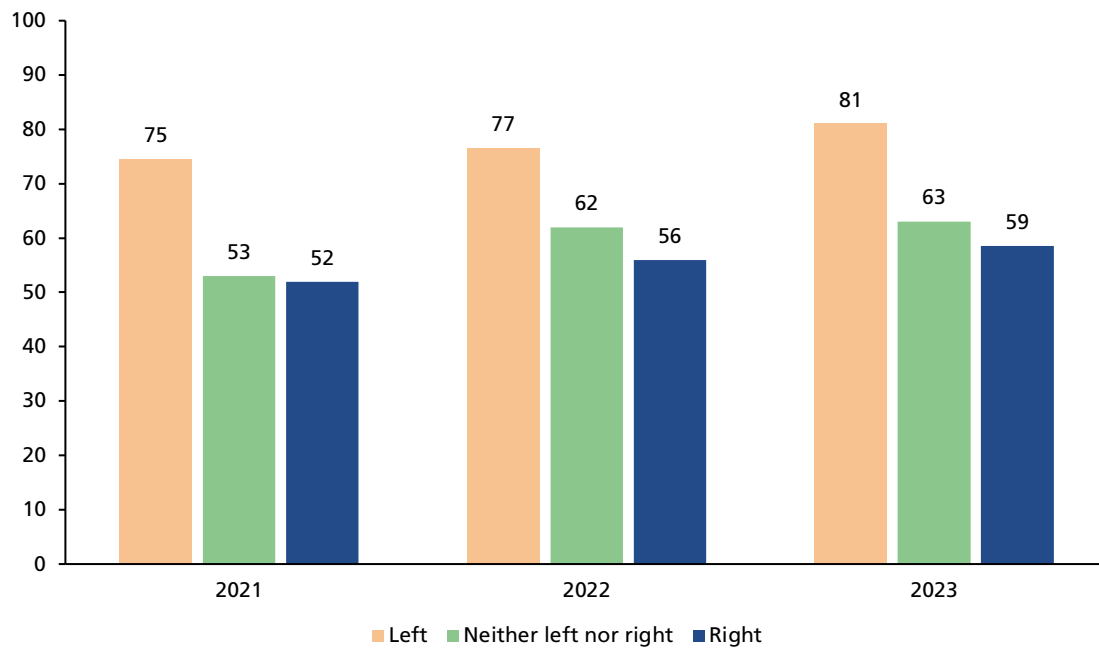
**Figure 11 Positive attitude towards investment in offshore wind power by age, 2021–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'What is your opinion on the following proposal? Sweden should invest more in offshore wind power'. The response options are 'Very good proposal', 'Fairly good proposal', 'Neither good nor bad proposal', 'Fairly bad proposal', 'Very bad proposal' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents that think investing in more offshore wind power is a good proposal. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2021–2023.

**Figure 12 Positive attitude towards investment in offshore wind power by ideology, 2021–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question reads: 'What is your opinion on the following proposal? Sweden should invest more in offshore wind power'. The response options are 'Very good proposal', 'Fairly good proposal', 'Neither good nor bad proposal', 'Fairly bad proposal', 'Very bad proposal' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents that think investing in more offshore wind power is a good proposal. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The question about subjective placement on an ideological left-right scale reads: 'The concept of a political left-right scale is often used to describe a person's political opinions. Where would you place yourself on such a scale?'. The figure shows respondents that are 'Clearly to the left' or 'Somewhat to the left' as 'Left', and respondents that are 'Somewhat to the right' or 'Clearly to the right' as 'Right'.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2021–2023.

**Table 5 Positive attitude towards investment in offshore wind power by party affiliation, 2021–2023 (percent)**

	2021	2022	2023
<b>Party affiliation</b>			
Left Party (V)	80	79	79
Social Democratic Party (S)	64	71	74
Green Party (MP)	79	87	90
Centre Party (C)	68	83	78
Liberals (L)	60	60	80
Christian Democrats (KD)	61	49	79
Moderate Party (M)	53	63	62
Sweden Democrats (SD)	47	47	51
Other	50	55	50

**Comment:** The question reads: 'What is your opinion on the following proposal? Sweden should invest more in offshore wind power'. The response options are 'Very good proposal', 'Fairly good proposal', 'Neither good nor bad proposal', 'Fairly bad proposal', 'Very bad proposal' and 'No opinion'. The figure shows the share of respondents that think investing in more offshore wind power is good proposal. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The question about party affiliation reads: 'Which party do you like the best today?'.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2021–2023.

**Table 6 Attitude towards establishing wind power near place of residence, 2000–2023 (percent)**

Residence and survey year	Very positive	Fairly positive	Neither positive nor negative	Fairly negative	Very negative	Total percent	Number of respondents	Balance measure
<b>Permanent residence</b>								
2000	13	28	32	13	14	100	1 609	+14
2003	12	21	34	15	18	100	1 719	±0
2005	14	29	31	14	12	100	1 638	+17
2007	15	31	32	10	12	100	1 581	+24
2010	13	25	31	15	16	100	1 564	+7
2013	12	28	29	15	16	100	1 538	+9
2015	14	26	32	13	15	100	1 616	+12
2021	11	23	27	17	22	100	1 505	-5
2022	14	22	29	15	20	100	1 714	+1
2023	13	23	30	15	19	100	1 654	+2
<b>Holiday residence</b>								
2000	14	25	34	14	13	100	884	+12
2003	13	21	32	14	20	100	814	±0
2005	15	30	31	12	12	100	824	+21
2007	16	30	31	10	13	100	800	+23
2010	14	24	27	16	19	100	788	+3
2013	15	27	26	13	19	100	763	+10
2015	16	25	29	14	16	100	789	+11
2021	11	22	27	17	23	100	871	-7
2022	16	21	28	14	21	100	984	+2
2023	16	22	28	14	20	100	916	+4

**Comment:** The question for permanent residence reads: 'What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your permanent residence?'. The question for holiday residence reads: 'What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your holiday residence?'. The response alternatives are shown in the table. Percentages are based on all respondents who answered the question (those who stated they do not own a holiday residence have been excluded from the analysis). The balance measure was calculated by subtracting the percentages of those who are very or fairly negative from the percentages of those who are very or fairly positive

**Source:** The national SOM Survey 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

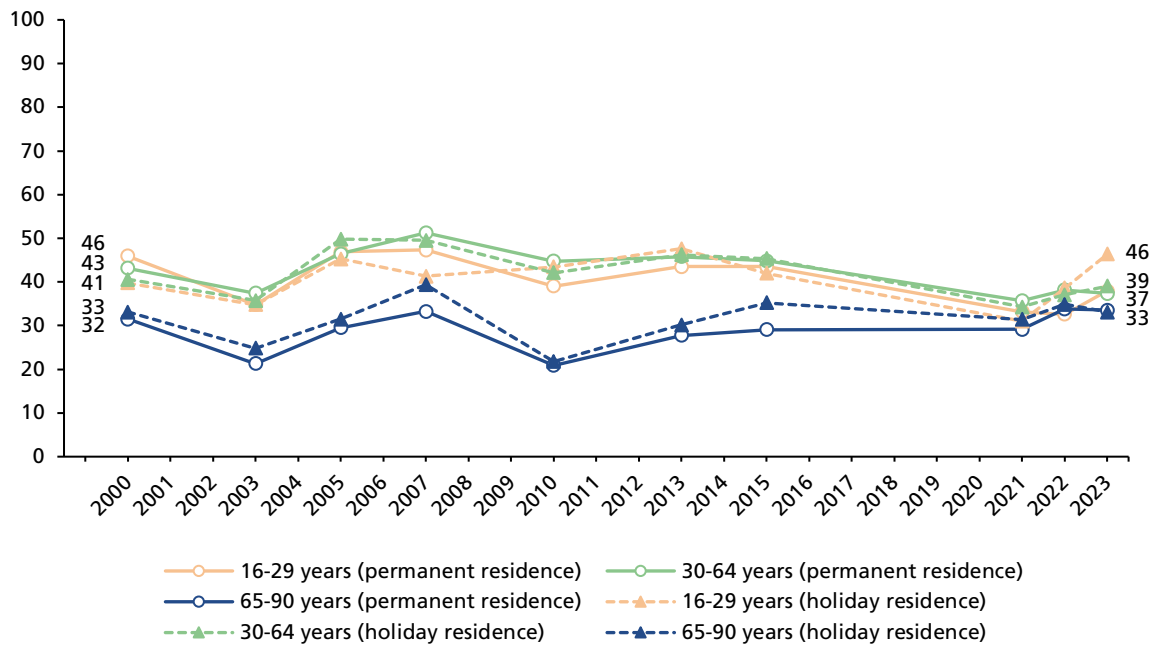
**Figure 13 Positive attitude towards establishing wind power near place of residence by gender, 2000–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question for permanent residence reads: 'What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your permanent residence?'. The question for holiday residence reads: 'What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your holiday residence?'. The response options for both questions are 'Very positive', 'Rather positive', 'Neither positive nor negative', 'Rather negative', and 'Very negative'. The figure shows the share of respondents that are 'Very positive' or 'Rather positive' as having a positive attitude towards wind power near their place of residence. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered each question. The number of respondents for the question about permanent residency varies between approximately 1 400 and 1 700 for the survey years, and for the question about holiday residency it varies between approximately 700-900.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

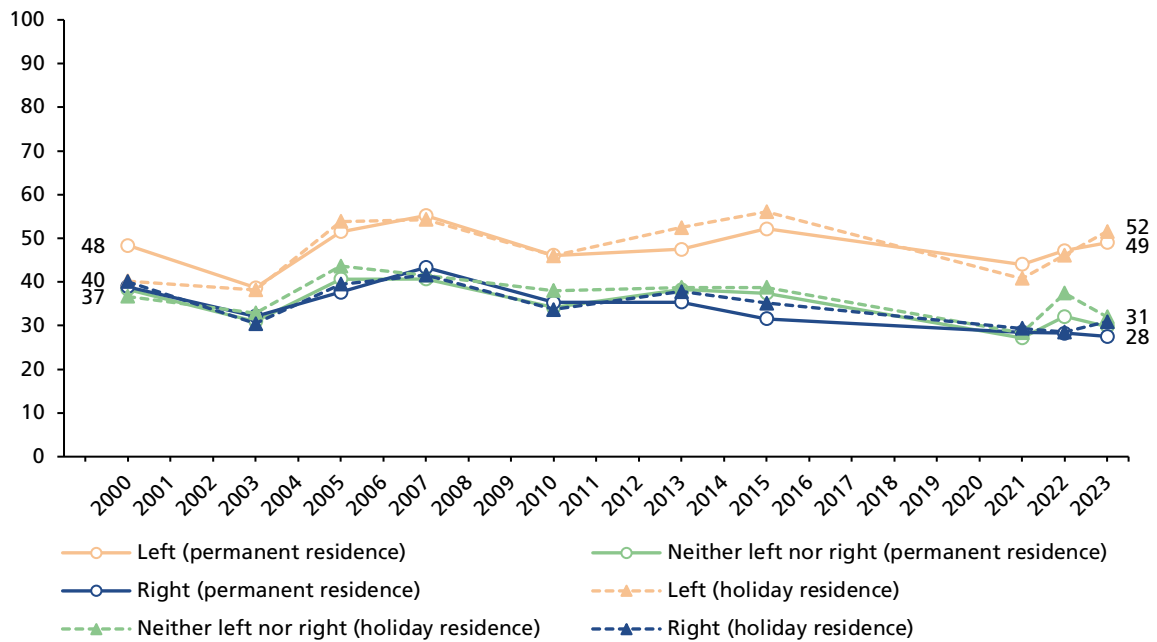
**Figure 14 Positive attitude towards establishing wind power near place of residence by age, 2000–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question for permanent residence reads: ‘What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your permanent residence?’. The question for holiday residence reads: ‘What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your holiday residence?’. The response options for both questions are ‘Very positive’, ‘Rather positive’, ‘Neither positive nor negative’, ‘Rather negative’, and ‘Very negative’. The figure shows the share of respondents that are ‘Very positive’ or ‘Rather positive’ as having a positive attitude towards wind power near their place of residence. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered each question. The number of respondents for the question about permanent residency varies between approximately 1 400 and 1 700 for the survey years, and for the question about holiday residency it varies between approximately 700-900.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

**Figure 15 Positive attitude towards establishing wind power near place of residence by ideology, 2000–2023 (percent)**



**Comment:** The question for permanent residence reads: ‘What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your permanent residence?’. The question for holiday residence reads: ‘What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your holiday residence?’. The response options for both questions are ‘Very positive’, ‘Rather positive’, ‘Neither positive nor negative’, ‘Rather negative’, and ‘Very negative’. The figure shows the share of respondents that are ‘Very positive’ or ‘Rather positive’ as having a positive attitude towards wind power near their place of residence. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered each question. The number of respondents for the question about permanent residency varies between approximately 1 400 and 1 700 for the survey years, and for the question about holiday residency it varies between approximately 700-900. The question about subjective placement on an ideological left-right scale reads: ‘The concept of a political left-right scale is often used to describe a person’s political opinions. Where would you place yourself on such a scale?’. The figure shows respondents that are ‘Clearly to the left’ or ‘Somewhat to the left’ as ‘Left’, and respondents that are ‘Somewhat to the right’ or ‘Clearly to the right’ as ‘Right’.

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

**Table 7 Positive attitude towards establishing wind power near place of residence by party affiliation, 2000–2023 (percent)**

Survey year	Residence	V	S	MP	C	L	KD	M	SD	Other
2000	Permanent	51	40	50	59	37	53	38	-	42
		41	34	39	59	40	37	40	-	53
2003	Permanent	48	30	37	39	37	40	25	-	29
		50	33	35	42	27	44	24	-	31
2005	Permanent	51	44	58	54	36	46	37	-	39
		53	46	53	53	47	47	39	-	42
2007	Permanent	61	44	69	58	41	37	44	-	40
		67	44	63	49	37	42	44	-	34
2010	Permanent	56	36	54	55	40	30	31	28	47
		59	36	51	61	42	33	28	35	56
2013	Permanent	62	38	54	46	36	35	35	37	39
		74	40	55	64	33	46	38	32	43
2015	Permanent	51	43	63	40	39	29	32	30	48
		53	42	69	44	40	26	36	34	39
2021	Permanent	50	36	53	36	29	27	26	26	28
		46	35	45	42	32	29	28	22	29
2022	Permanent	52	41	57	41	36	24	33	19	34
		49	42	63	50	31	15	32	19	42
2023	Permanent	55	41	60	42	39	34	29	20	24
		59	39	68	49	50	44	33	20	23

**Comment:** The question for permanent residence reads: 'What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your permanent residence?'. The question for holiday residence reads: 'What is your stance on establishing wind power close to your holiday residence?'. The response options for both questions are 'Very positive', 'Rather positive', 'Neither positive nor negative', 'Rather negative', and 'Very negative'. The table shows the share of respondents that are 'Very positive' or 'Rather positive' as having a positive attitude towards wind power near their place of residence. The percentage base consists of all respondents who answered the question. The question about party affiliation reads: 'Which party do you like the best today?'. The party abbreviations stand for: the Left Party (V), the Social Democratic Party (S), the Green Party (MP), the Centre Party (C), the Liberal Party (L), the Christian Democrats (KD), the Moderate Party (M) and the Sweden Democrats (SD).

**Source:** The National SOM Survey 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2021, 2022 and 2023.



## **EECC – Swedish Opinion on Environment, Energy and Climate Change**

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**Swedish Opinion in Environment, Energy and Climate Change** is a research project at the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg. The project seeks to contribute to the knowledge supply of environmental public opinion and collect data for the benefit of the public, decision-makers and researchers. In collaboration with the SOM Institute at the University of Gothenburg, the project conducts systematic measurements of attitudes to environmental, energy and climate issues. The 2023 SOM Survey with questions on the environment, energy and climate includes 3,750 randomly selected respondents from all over Sweden. The project is funded by the Swedish Energy Agency.

