

Renewable Energy: Social, Ethical, and Political Questions

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Nested challenges



At the global scale

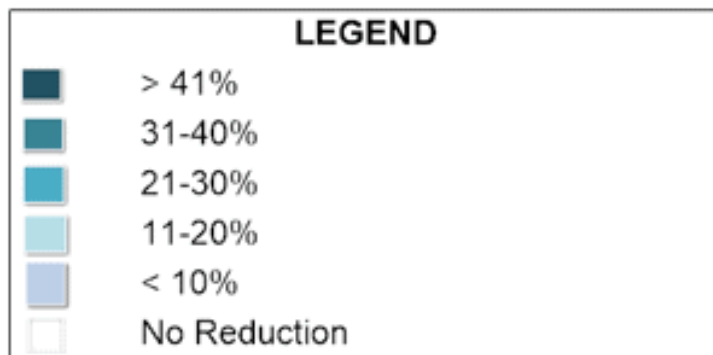
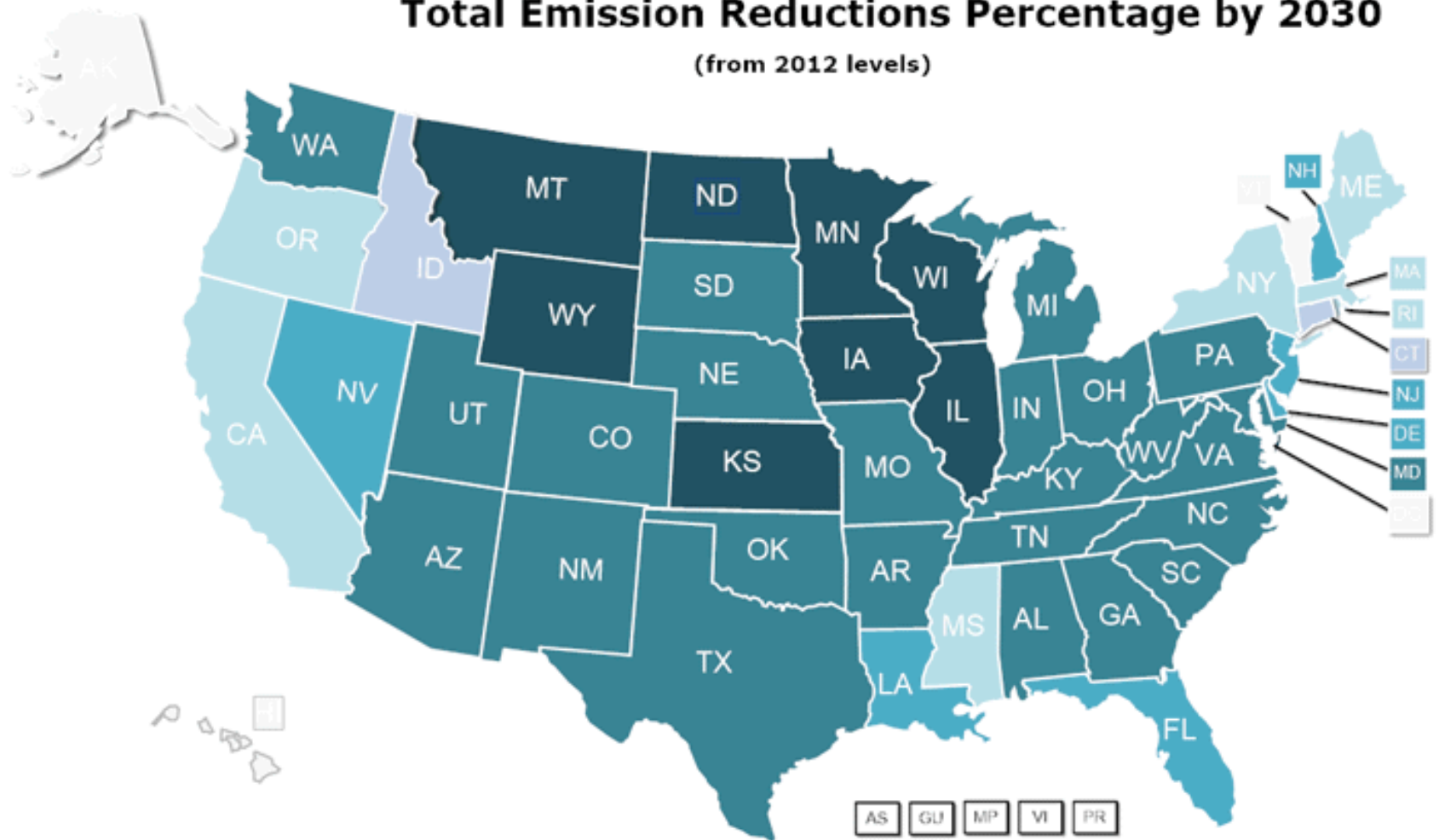


At the national scale



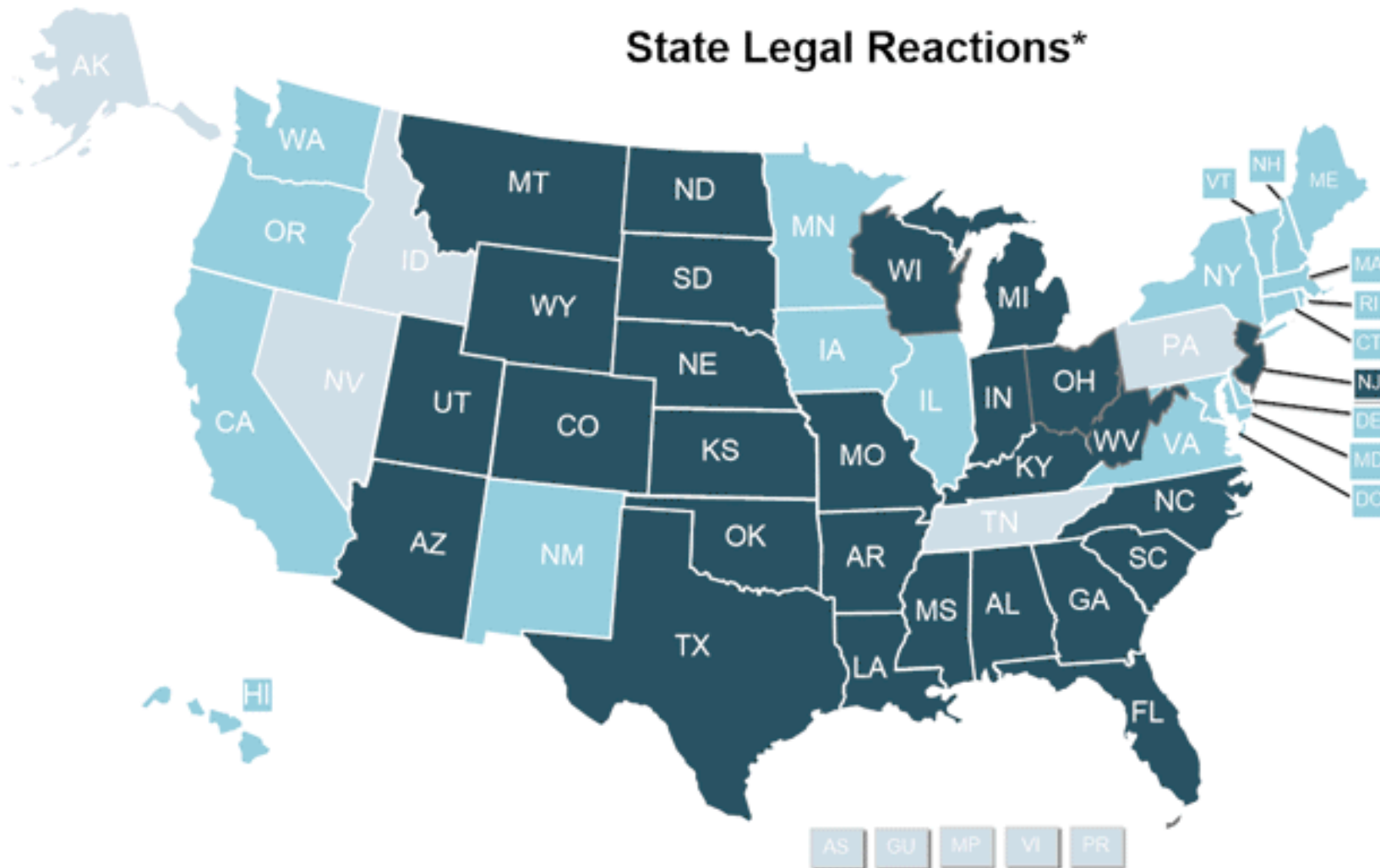
Total Emission Reductions Percentage by 2030

(from 2012 levels)



Source:
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/states-reactions-to-proposed-epa-greenhouse-gas-emissions-standards635333237.aspx>

State Legal Reactions*



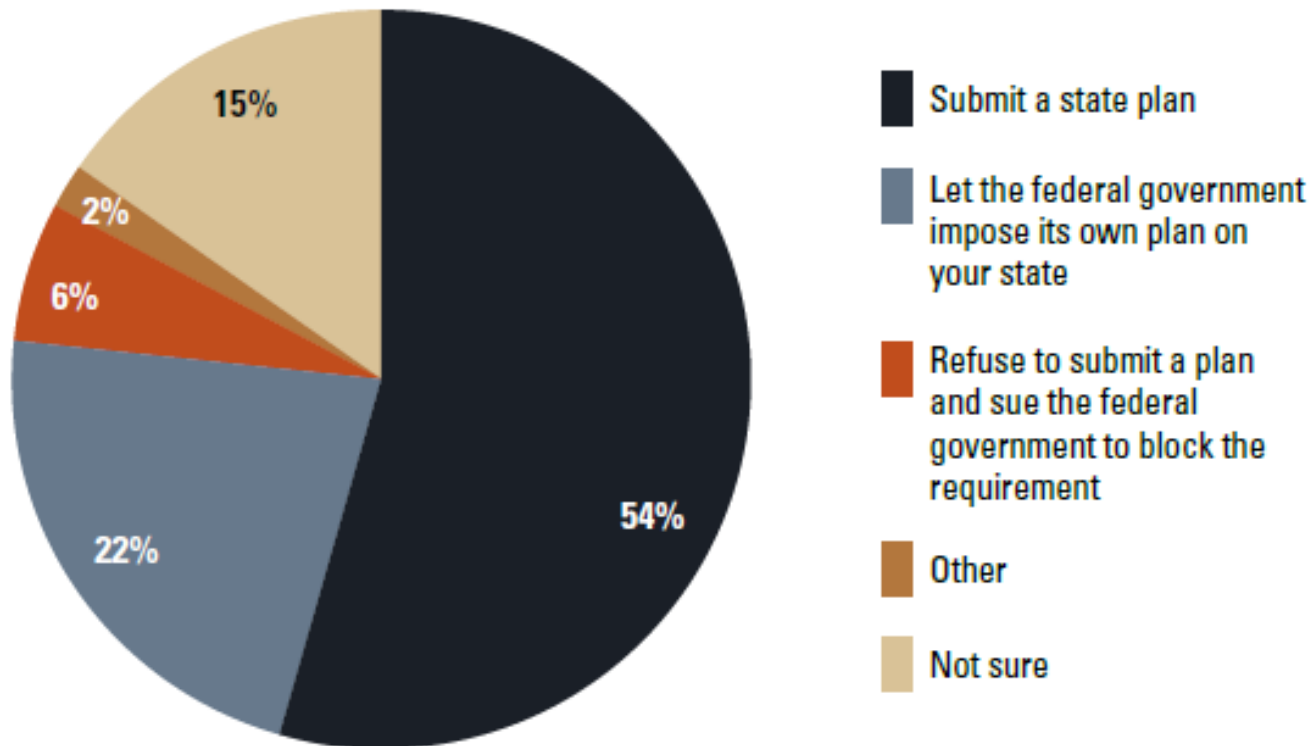
LEGEND

- Filed in opposition to EPA
- Filed in support of EPA
- No legal stance

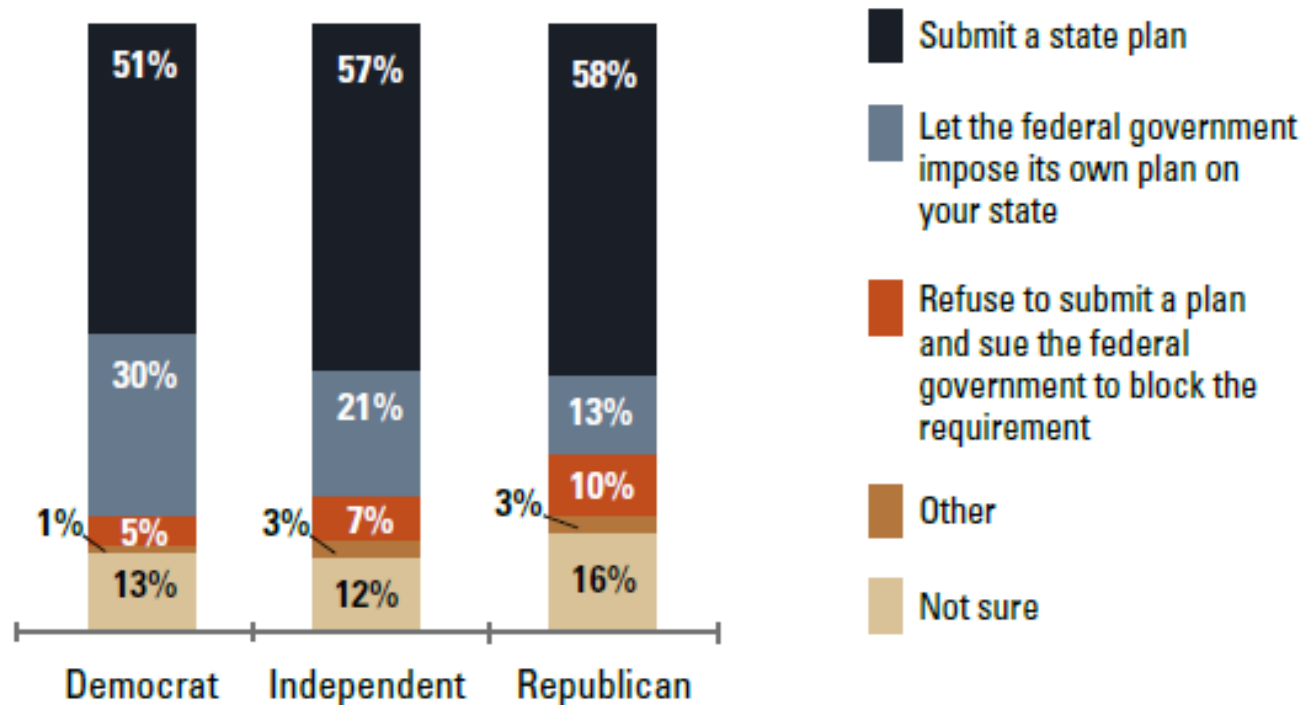
*Based on U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit case No. 15-363 as of Jan. 21, 2016

Source:
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/states-reactions-to-proposed-epa-greenhouse-gas-emissions-standards635333237.aspx>

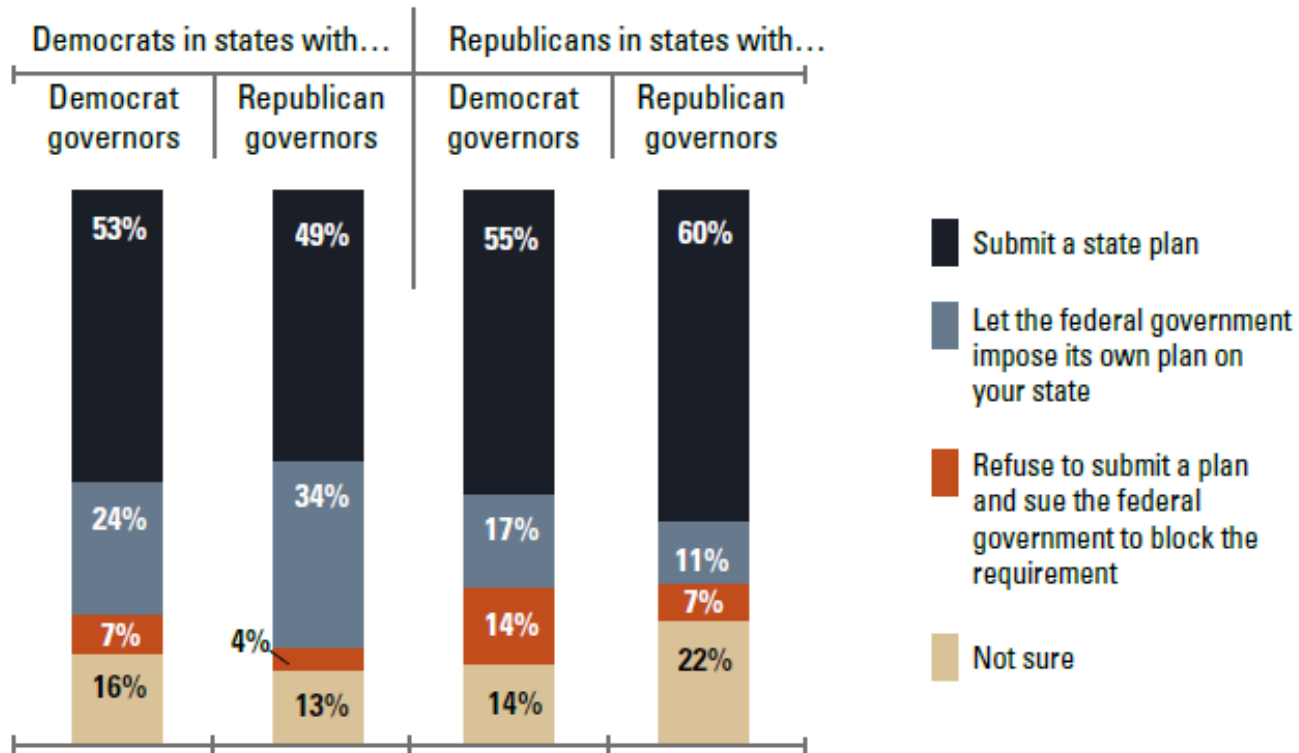
Public Preferences for Clean Power Plan response



By partisanship



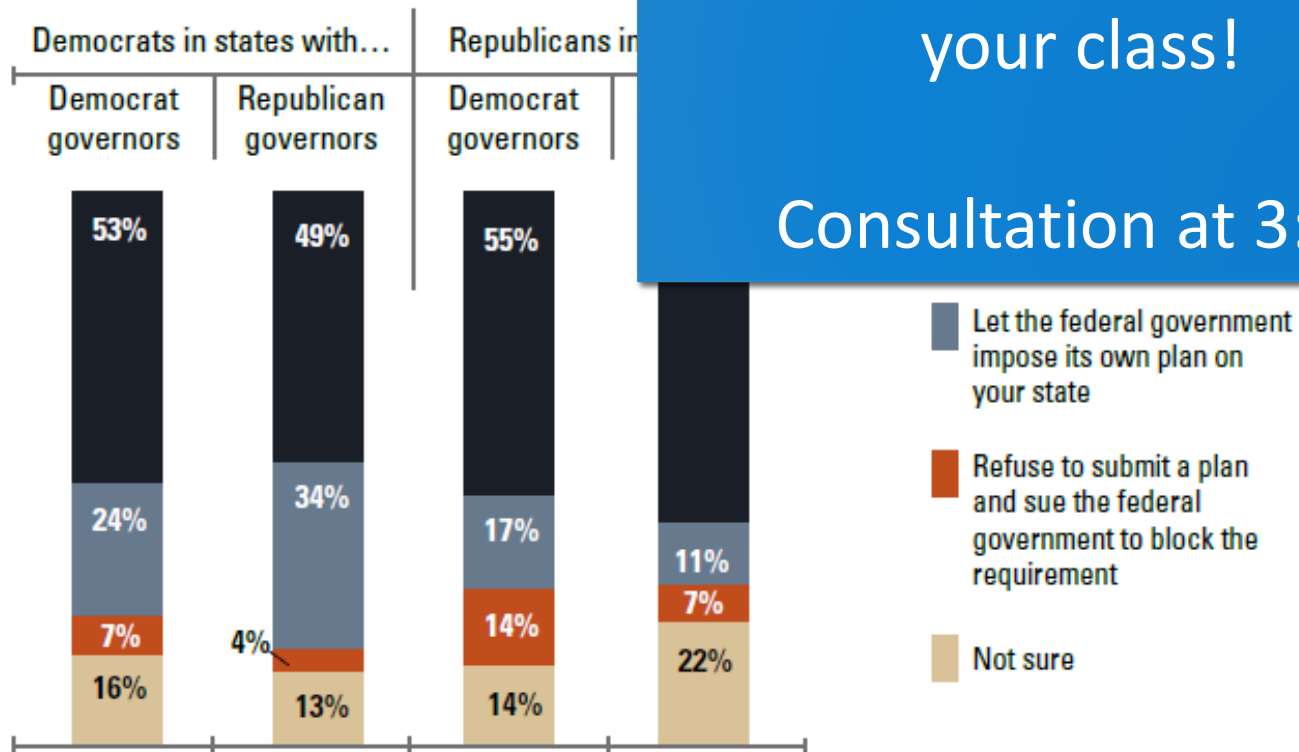
Political calculations trickle down



Political calculations trickle down

You can use NSEE data in
your class!

Consultation at 3:30



At the sub-national/state scale

Who gets to decide where renewables are sited?



At the sub-national/state scale

Where will renewable energy be sited?



Source:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/windpower/10500929/Wind-turbines-policy-is-all-at-sea.html>
<http://cleantechnica.com/2011/10/12/hydrogen-storage-fuel-cell-system-to-smooth-out-intermittent-wind-power-in-germany/>

At the sub-national/state scale

Where will renewable energy be sited?



Source: <http://www.industrytap.com/wind-turbines-that-predict-which-way-the-wind-blows/12506>

Closing thoughts: Looking beyond climate

Landowners with turbines...

- 69% disagree wind energy limits climate change
- Invest twice as much in farm improvements
- More likely to pass farm to children