

October 13, 2011

**To: Environmental Law and Policy Center**  
**From: Steve Leopoldo, Fako & Associates, Inc.**  
**Re: Chicago Clean Energy Plan Survey Summary of Key Findings**

The following is a summary of key findings of the survey conducted among registered voters within the City of Chicago regarding pollution issues and clean energy proposals.

**Chicago’s Voters Support Stricter Air Pollution Laws**

- Seventy-two percent (72% Total Support) of Chicago voters would support the City of Chicago enacting Air Pollution laws that exceed minimum standards set by the State of Illinois and Federal Government. This support is intense, with 42% strongly supporting higher standards. Less than a quarter of the electorate would oppose higher standards (22% Total Opposed).
- An intense 72% (50% Strongly Support) of the electorate supports specifically requiring coal power plants in Chicago to reduce their particle emissions by 90% and carbon dioxide by 50%. Only 18% would oppose these reductions.

**Table 1  
 Opinion of Clean Energy Proposal  
 by City Region**

Opinion	All Voters	N/Lakefront Wards	NW Side Wards	West Side Wards	SW Side Wards	South Side Wards	Hispanic Wards
Total Support	72%	75	64	71	70	73	79
Total Oppose	18%	17	23	14	21	18	12
Undecided	10%	7	13	15	9	9	9

**Table 2  
 Opinion of Clean Energy Proposal  
 by Race**

Opinion	All Voters	White	Hispanic	African American	All Minorities
Total Support	72%	71	77	78	78
Total Oppose	18%	21	11	12	12
Undecided	10%	8	12	10	10

- After hearing an informed question (**See Figure 1**) that presented balanced statements in favor of, and in opposition, to the clean energy proposal, an overwhelming majority of Chicago voters support the plan (64% Total Support) with strong intensity (41% Strongly Support).

**Table 3  
Informed Opinion of Clean Energy Proposal  
by City Region**

Opinion	All Voters	N/Lakefront Wards	NW Side Wards	West Side Wards	SW Side Wards	South Side Wards	Hispanic Wards
Total Support	64%	66	55	61	61	65	71
Total Oppose	27%	27	35	33	28	23	14
Undecided	10%	7	9	6	11	11	14

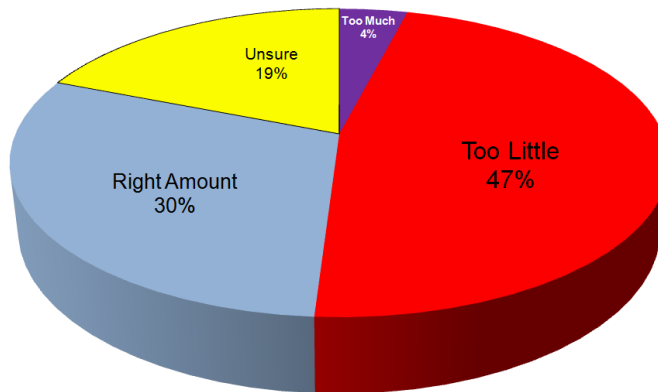
**Table 4  
Informed Opinion of Clean Energy Proposal  
by Race**

Opinion	All Voters	White	Hispanic	African American	All Minorities
Total Support	64%	64	66	66	65
Total Oppose	27%	28	17	26	24
Undecided	10%	8	17	8	10

**Voters Feel the City of Chicago is Not Doing Enough to Reduce Air Pollution**

Nearly half (47%) of all Chicago voters feel the City of Chicago is doing too little to reduce air pollution.

**Graph 1  
City's Level of Effort to Reduce Air Pollution  
Among All Voters**



- Voters who feel the City is doing too little most significantly include those under the age of 50 (59% Too Little), especially women <50 (68%), minorities (55%), Democrats (52%), moderates (52%) and those living in the South Side wards (56%) and traditionally Hispanic wards (61%).

**Chicago's Voters Believe Protecting the Environment is Good for the Economy**

- A clear majority of voting Chicagoans (56%) believe that protecting the environment is good for the economy while only 17% feel they are bad for the economy and one-fifth (21%) feel they have little or no impact.
- When combined with those who feel protections have little to no impact on the economy (21%), the net effect is over three fourths of Chicago voters expressing that protecting the environment will either be good or cause no significant harm to the economy (77%).

## **Appendix and Methodology**

**Figure 1**  
**Informed Question**

And, as we have just discussed, there is a proposal that would require the Fisk and Crawford coal power plants in Chicago to reduce their particle emissions and carbon dioxide. **[Rotate Statements]**

**Supporters** of the plan say that the Fisk and Crawford coal power plants are outdated, don't meet air quality standards for new power plants, are located in more densely populated city neighborhoods than other plants in the country, and create pollution that is causing serious health problems, like heart attacks, asthma attacks, and premature death and fueling global climate change. They say these dirty plants send their profits to a California Corporation, sell their electricity out of state and do not provide power to Chicago, but emit thousands of tons of pollution and toxins that causes deadly diseases and acid rain that cost taxpayers over \$120 million dollars per year. Supporters also say that federal and state standards are not strong enough to protect public health and we need to upgrade pollution controls now.

**Opponents** of the proposal say it will force the shutdown of the Fisk and Crawford power plants, costing nearly 200 jobs that are badly needed in this economy. They say it will destabilize the city's power grid, threaten the electric reliability in Chicago and could lead to power outages and brownouts. They also say it will not do more to protect our health and environment than proposed federal regulations or existing state rules that will require pollution reductions at the plants. Opponents of the plan also say the power plants have invested over sixty million dollars to reduce pollution and are working to continue to make the plants run cleaner and more efficiently, creating hundreds of local jobs and improving the reliability of electricity.

Now, knowing this information, would you **support** or **oppose** **[Rotate Choices]** a plan that would require coal power plants in Chicago to reduce their particle emissions by 90% and carbon dioxide by 50%?

**Methodology:** The Chicago Clean Power Coalition commissioned the survey. Fako & Associates, Inc. (F&A), of Lisle, Illinois conducted the survey by telephone on October 3 – 5, 2011 using professional live interviewers. F&A interviewed a random sample of six hundred and two (602) registered voters within the City of Chicago by telephone. The age and gender groups were weighted to bring these groups closer into proportion with known demographics based on historical voting turnout and known demographics. Five hundred and six (506) of the weighted interviews were conducted by landline telephone, representing 84% of those surveyed. Ninety-three (93) of the weighted interviews were conducted by cellular / wireless telephone, representing 15% of the survey population. A screening process was used to ensure that only registered voters living within the City of Chicago participated in the survey. The interviews lasted an average of six (6) minutes. Scientific sampling techniques using a listed sample of registered voters were used to give all residents living within a landline telephone-equipped household within the City of Chicago an equal chance of being interviewed. Interviews were also conducted using a listed sampling of cellular listings within the City of Chicago. Cellular interviews were screened to ensure voters reside within the City of Chicago. Interviews were conducted in proportion to, historical voter turnout and known demographics. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.99% at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if the survey were replicated the results would be consistent for 95 out of 100 cases. The margin of error is higher among the various sub-groups.