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Floridians Warm To Solar Power Initiatives

Monday, March 17, 2008 1:00:04 PM

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Allison Walker, Generation to Generation

Seniors aren't as thrilled as the younger generation about the state promoting solar energy, according to a new statewide poll.

But, as News 13's Allison Walker explains, while seniors show the least support among the ages, overall support is still pretty solid.

Most people surveyed by Mason Dixon Polling & Research, think the state should invest in solar energy.

However, seniors -- 65 and older -- had the lowest level of support with 79 percent.

Most of the 18 to 34 year olds -- 93 percent -- said the state should invest in solar energy. For people age 35 to 49, 88 percent supported the investment. For age 50 to 64, the approval dropped to 83 percent.

But when it comes to that investment, seniors are the least willing to pay \$1 or less per month on their utility bill to make it happen. But, still, 71 percent said they would pay.

Of the youngest group, 87 percent said they would pay. For ages 35 to 49, that percentage was 86 percent and for 50 to 64, the percentage of people willing to pay was 83 percent.

Of those who opposed to that \$1 or less per month fee, about half of everyone polled said they would pay at least something, whether it was just a few quarters.

High consumer demand used up Florida's solar rebate fund about six months early. That is one reason why lawmakers and solar advocates surveyed more than 600 people to find out if they'd still pay more for solar programs.

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