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Survey: Americans warming to power plants

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The number of Americans who support power plant development in their hometown rose dramatically over the past year, according to research conducted by The Saint Consulting Group.

The Hingham, Mass.-based consultancy said its 2007 Saint Index survey gauges current attitudes toward real estate development.

The group said their research found thirty-eight percent of American adults support a local power plant project, compared to just 23 percent in 2006 -- a 15 percent rise.

"Where power plants and quarries were the second most-opposed land uses a year ago, even Wal-Mart, shopping malls and casinos drew more opposition as local development projects this year," The Saint said in a release on the findings. "Landfills remained the most reviled local land use by Americans, matched by casinos this year."

Despite the growth in support, a majority of Americans still oppose power plants. Fifty-seven percent of American adults said they oppose construction of a new power plant in their community, but that is down from last year, when 74 percent were opposed, said the group.

The third annual Index interviewed a representative sample of 1,000 Americans, age 18 and older.

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