Climate Change in the American Mind

Yale school of forestry & environmental studies



VALE PROGRAM ON Climate Change Communication

Most Americans Think Global Warming Is Happening

Think global warming is happening

Think global warming is NOT happening



Do you think global warming is happening? December 2018. Base: Americans 18+.



A Majority of Americans Think Global Warming Is Mostly Human-Caused

Think global warming is caused mostly by human activities

100% 75% 52% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% ^{58%} 54% ^{58% 62%} 57% 54% 49% 47% 50% 47% 49% 50% 37% 32% 33% 36% 33% 33% 32% 33% 34% 32% 35% 34% 35% 32% 25% 33% 30% 30% 28% 23% 0% 11/08 1/10 6/10 5/11 11/11 3/12 9/12 4/13 11/13 4/14 10/14 3/15 10/15 3/16 11/16 5/17 10/17 3/18 12/18

-Think global warming is caused mostly by natural changes in the environment

Assuming global warming is happening, do you think it is... December 2018. Base: Americans 18+.



Americans "Very Worried" About Global Warming Jumped 8 Points

Very worried Somewhat worried



How worried are you about global warming? March 2018. Base: Americans 18+.



Global Warming Should be a "Very High" Priority for the President and Congress



Do you think each of these issues should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the next president and Congress? [Global warming] Base: Registered Voters.



Registered Voters Support Climate-Friendly Energy Policies

- % who say "strongly" or "somewhat support" policy -

		Democrats			Republicans		ns	
	All Reg Voters	Total	Lib	Mod/ Con	Ind	Total	Lib/ Mod	Con
(Unweighted base)	(996)	(466)	(295)	(168)	(95)	(356)	(116)	(238)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Fund more research into renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power	88	95	98	92	84	81	81	80
Provide tax rebates for people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels	85	95	96	93	85	71	77	67
Regulate carbon dioxide (the primary greenhouse gas) as a pollutant	79	93	95	90	81	60	65	56
Require electric utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity fromrenewables, even if it costs the average household an extra \$100/year	70	87	92	80	64	48	57	42

How much do you support or oppose the following policies? December 2018. Base: Registered American Voters.



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Support for Funding Renewable Energy Research Has Increased Over the Last Five Years

- % who say "strongly" or "somewhat" support -



How much do you support or oppose the following policies: Fund more research into renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.





Most Americans Think Policies that Promote Clean Energy Will Improve Economic Growth and Create Jobs



Do you think that government policies intended to transition away from fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) and toward clean energy (solar, wind) will: (a) improve economic growth and provide new jobs, (b) reduce economic growth and cost jobs, (c) have no effect on economic growth or jobs?

December 2018. Base: 1,114 American adults. Values for political groups include registered voters only (n=966).



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Support for the Green New Deal among Registered Voters



"Some members of Congress are proposing a 'Green New Deal' for the U.S. They say that a Green New Deal will produce jobs and strengthen America's economy by accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. The Deal would generate 100% of the nation's electricity from clean, renewable sources within the next 10 years; upgrade the nation's energy grid, buildings, and transportation infrastructure; increase energy efficiency; invest in green technology research and development; and provide training for jobs in the new green economy. How much do you support or oppose this idea?"

December 2018. Base: 966 registered American voters. Weighted to U.S. Census parameters. Due to rounding and non-response, sums may not equal 100%.

Climate Change Communication



Global Warming's "Six Americas"



Global Warming's Six Americas 5 Year Change (2013-2018)



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY CENTER for CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATION

Communication



Estimated % of adults who think global warming is happening, 2018





Estimated % of adults who support funding research into renewable energy sources, 2018



United States	50%			
		85%	13%	
Support				Oppose
Strafford County, New Hampshire	50%			
		87	<mark>%</mark> 11%	
Support				Oppose
Rockingham County, New Hampshire	50%			
		85%	13%	
Support				Oppose

Estimated % of adults who support tax rebates for people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels, 2018





Estimated % of adults who support taxing fossil fuel companies while equally reducing other taxes, 2018





Estimated % of adults who prioritize environment over economy, 2018



United States	50%		
		70% 28%	
Environment	T		Economy
Strafford County, New Hampshire	50%		
		70% 27%	
Environment			Economy
Rockingham County, New Hampshire	50%		
		<mark>69%</mark> 29%	
Environment			Economy

Estimated % of adults who think my local officials should do more to address global warming, 2018



