



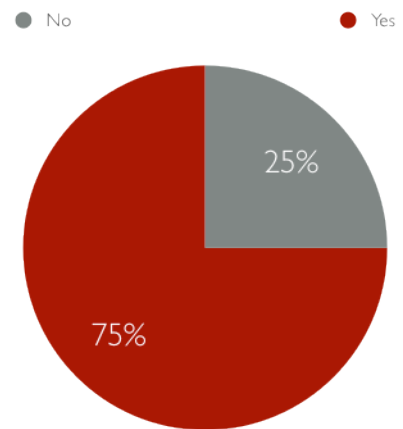
Polling Demonstrates Strong Support for State and Federal Government Action on Climate and Energy Policies

The polling data detailed in this memo is from a nationwide, random sample poll of 1,874 respondents conducted Feb. 7-19, 2013. The poll had a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percent and was conducted by GfK Custom Research on behalf of the Georgetown Climate Center and the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. Respondents were recruited for their participation through probability-based sampling, and households were provided with access to the Internet and hardware if needed. Respondents completed the survey online.

A Strong Belief in Climate Change Puts Focus on the Need for Action

- 75% of Americans believe there is solid evidence that the average temperature has been getting warmer in recent decades.
- Belief in global warming crosses all party lines with 88% of Democrats and 61% of Republicans saying there is solid evidence that the average temperature has been getting warmer in recent decades.
- Belief that there is solid evidence of global warming is consistent within the U.S. and greater than 70% in the Northeast, South, Midwest, and West.
- Belief in climate change is consistent across a broad range of demographic groups.

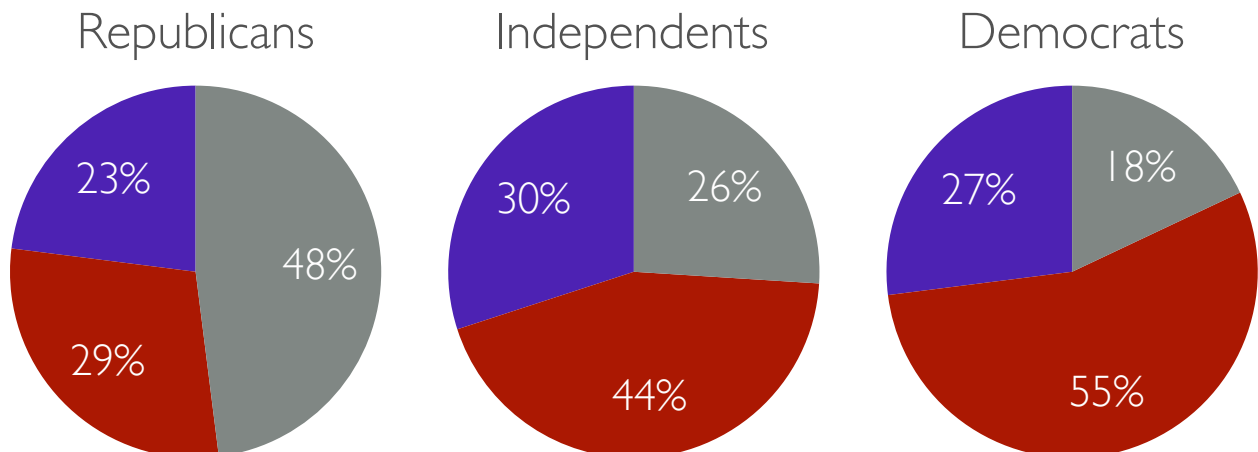
Belief in Global Warming



Understanding Climate Change Beliefs

- While 3 in 4 Americans believe there is solid evidence that the temperature is getting warmer, there remains less certainty among the public about what is causing global warming. 46% say the average temperature is getting warmer mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels; 27% say the average temperature is getting warmer mostly due to natural patterns in the environment; and 28% say they don't know.

● Mostly because of natural patterns ● Mostly because of human activity ● Don't Know



A Call for Government Action on Climate and Clean Energy Policy

Addressing Our Energy Challenge Is A Major Priority

- 94% of Americans believe addressing energy issues should be an important priority for the country. 59% say it should be a very important priority.
- Americans also overwhelmingly want government at all levels to act to address our energy challenge. 92% believe the federal government should play an active role in addressing our energy challenge (66% say the federal government should play a very active role). 95% say state government should play an active role in addressing our energy challenge (58% say state government should play a very active role). Finally, 88% believe local government should play an active role in addressing our energy challenge (49% say local government should play a very active role).

The Public Wants EPA Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Despite the political rhetoric that has often surrounded this issue, both Democrats and Republicans are overwhelmingly supportive of EPA action to reduce carbon pollution.

Collectively, **87% of Americans say they want the EPA to move forward with action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from power plants and large industries. (**78% of Republicans and 94% of Democrats support EPA action.**)

Overall, the 87% of respondents who support EPA action said they want the agency to establish and enforce targets for greenhouse gas emissions through one of two suggested pathways. Both pathways (outlined below) would result in the same outcome – a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Only 13% said that Congress should prevent EPA from enforcing regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Support for EPA Action

87% of respondents support EPA action to establish and enforce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for power plants and large industries.

- 51% support EPA taking an approach that provides flexibility to states, agreeing with the following statement: “The EPA should give states flexibility to adopt different clean energy policies as long as those policies meet national greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and states are held accountable for their progress.”
- 36% support EPA taking a more centralized approach, agreeing with the following statement: “The EPA should require all power plants and large industrial emitters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or face fines and penalties.”

13% of respondents oppose EPA action, agreeing with the following statement, “Congress should prevent the EPA from enforcing regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

Despite the politics that are likely to surround EPA action on this issue, Americans from both political parties overwhelmingly do not want Congress to obstruct EPA action. **Only 22% of Republicans and 6% of Democrats want Congress to try to prevent EPA action on the issue.**

Strong Support for State Renewable Portfolio Standards

- With greater than 5-to-1 support levels, Americans say they would support state government adopting a policy “requiring 25% of all electricity to come from clean energy sources by 2025.” 59% supported the statement with only 13% opposed.
- 60% also said they would support the federal government adopting a policy “requiring 25% of all electricity to come from clean energy sources by 2025.” Only 15% are opposed.

Support for Oil Reduction Goals

- 64% of Americans support the federal government “setting a goal to reduce oil usage by 50 percent to be less dependent on foreign oil and to encourage investment in alternative energy technology.” Only 14% are opposed.
- 54% of Americans support the federal government adopting a policy to “increase taxes on big oil companies to pay for investments in infrastructure to better withstand extreme weather and sea-level rise from climate change.” Only 18% are opposed.

Support for a Federal Tax on Carbon Pollution

- The level of public support for a tax on the carbon pollution that causes climate change depends on how money from the tax would be used.
- If funds were used to invest in less polluting alternative energy, the public expresses overwhelming support. (53% favor with only 15% opposed).
- If funds were used to help pay down the national debt or prepare for climate change impacts, a plurality supports the tax by a two-to-one margin.
- Although it achieved plurality support, the public was less inclined to support a carbon tax if funds were used to offset existing income taxes. In all questions, respondents were given the option to say they neither supported nor opposed the tax.

