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# Americans Divided Over Direction of Biden's Climate Change Policies

*Several climate policies receive bipartisan support, despite Republicans and Democrats differing on overall approach*

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans view climate, environmental and energy issues. For this analysis, we surveyed 10,282 U.S. adults from May 2 to 8, 2022.

Everyone who took part in the survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way, nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for this report](#), along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

# Americans Divided Over Direction of Biden's Climate Change Policies

*Several climate policies receive bipartisan support, despite Republicans and Democrats differing on overall approach*

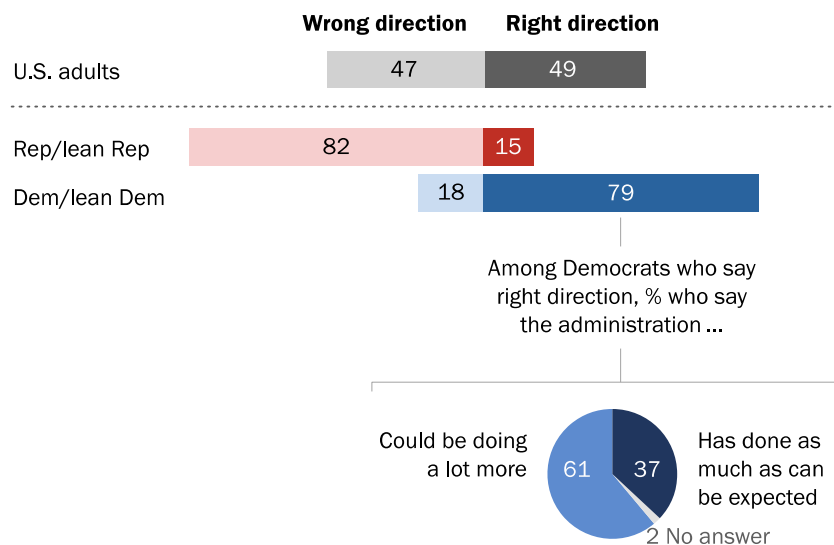
More than a year into Joe Biden's presidency, the public is divided over the administration's approach to climate change: 49% of U.S. adults say the Biden administration's policies on climate change are taking the country in the right direction, while 47% say these climate policies are taking the country in the wrong direction.

Climate change has been among the [top priorities of the Biden administration](#), whose actions on the issue include rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and passage of an infrastructure bill with funding for renewable energy. More recent legislative efforts on climate have stalled in Congress, and a Supreme Court decision in June curtailed the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate power plant emissions.

Ratings of Biden's approach to climate change – and the federal government's role dealing with the issue – are deeply partisan. A majority of Republicans and independents who lean to the GOP (82%) say Biden's climate policies are taking the country in the wrong direction. Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, most say Biden is moving the country in the right direction on climate policy (79%)

## Deep partisan divides over whether Biden's climate policies are taking country in right or wrong direction

*% of U.S. adults who say the Biden administration's policies on climate change are taking the country in the ...*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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But in a sign of Democratic frustration with progress tackling climate change, there's discontent within the party even among those who say Biden's policies are taking the country in the right direction. Among Democrats who back the direction of the administration's climate policies, 61% say the administration could be doing a lot more on climate; far fewer (37%) say they are doing about as much as can be expected.

While the public is divided over Biden's approach to climate change, a majority of Americans continue to see room for more federal action on the issue: 58% say the federal government is doing too little to reduce the effects of global climate change, compared with just 18% who say it is doing too much (22% say it is doing about the right amount). Here again, partisan differences are wide, with Democrats much more likely than Republicans to say the federal government is doing too little to reduce the effects of climate change (82% vs. 28%).

Despite these polarized attitudes, the Pew Research Center survey of 10,282 U.S. adults conducted from May 2 to 8, 2022, finds broad public agreement on some specific policies to address climate change. A large majority of Americans (90%) say they favor planting about a trillion trees to absorb carbon emissions to help reduce the effects of climate change, and 79% favor providing a tax credit to encourage businesses to develop technology to capture and store carbon emissions. Both of these policies are backed by sizable majorities of Republicans and Democrats alike.

The survey, fielded before the Supreme Court's decision limiting the EPA's [authority to regulate power plant emissions](#), finds 72% of Americans favor requiring power companies to use more energy from renewable sources, like wind and solar, and 68% back taxing corporations based on the amount of carbon emissions they produce. Partisan gaps are more pronounced on these approaches to reduce the effects of climate change, but they are not absolute. About half of Republicans – including majorities of moderate Republicans – say they favor these approaches to limiting emissions, as do most Democrats.

Climate change is making **extreme weather events** more **frequent and severe**. A majority of Americans (71%) say their community has experienced at least one of five forms of extreme weather in the past year, including severe weather such as floods or intense storms (43%), long periods of unusually hot weather (42%), droughts or water shortages (31%), major wildfires (21%), or rising sea levels that erode shorelines (16%).

Large shares of Americans who say their communities have been impacted see climate change as contributing to these extreme weather events. For example, among the 42% of Americans who say they have experienced unusually hot weather in the last year, 61% say climate change contributed a lot and 30% think it contributed a little. Across all five forms of extreme weather included in the survey, more than eight-in-ten of those who say they've been impacted view climate change as having contributed a lot or a little to the event.

### Most who say their community experienced extreme weather see climate change as a factor

*% of U.S. adults who say that their local community has experienced the following in the past 12 months*

Severe weather, like floods or intense storms



43%

Among those who say their local community experienced this, % who say climate change contributed ...

A lot    A little    Not at all



Long periods of unusually hot weather



42%



Droughts or water shortages



31%



Major wildfires



21%



Rising sea levels that erode beaches and shorelines



16%



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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Other key findings include:

**A 55% majority opposes phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035, while 43% are in favor.** Opposition is slightly higher today than it was in April 2021, when 51% opposed and 47% favored this idea. Partisans remain far apart on this proposal: 82% of Republicans and those who lean to the GOP say they oppose phasing out the production of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035, while 65% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they favor this.

**42% of U.S. adults say they are very or somewhat likely to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle (EV).** About as many (45%) say they are not too or not at all interested in an EV. Interest in purchasing an EV is about the same as it was in the spring of 2021, before gas prices in the U.S. rose sharply from an average of \$2.95 in April 2021 to \$4.55 in May 2022. Roughly seven-in-ten of those at least somewhat likely to consider an EV in the future cite saving money on gas as well as helping the environment as reasons why.

**By 53% to 45%, Americans are more likely to view stricter environmental laws as worth the cost than to say they cost too many jobs and hurt the economy.** However, this view is less widely held today than it was in September of 2019, when about two-thirds (65%) said stricter environmental laws and regulations were worth the cost. Partisan divisions on this measure have widened over the last few years. Three-quarters of Republicans now say stricter environmental laws hurt the economy, up 20 percentage points from 2019. Among Democrats, 21% now say stricter environmental laws and regulations hurt the economy, up from 14% in 2019.

**Younger Democrats are more likely than older Democrats to express frustration with the administration on climate change.** Among Democrats ages 18 to 29, 26% say the Biden administration's climate policies are taking the country in the wrong direction, compared with just 9% of Democrats 65 and older. And among Democrats who say the Biden administration is taking things in the right direction, those ages 18 to 29 are also more likely than those 65 and older to say the Biden administration could be doing a lot more on climate change (73% vs. 54%).

**Lower-income adults as well as Black and Hispanic adults are especially likely to report environmental problems in their communities.** A majority of Americans see at least one of the environmental issues mentioned in the survey, such as water pollution and excessive waste and landfills, as a problem in their area. Lower-income adults and Black and Hispanic adults are more likely to see these problems in their communities than others in the U.S. For instance, 61% of lower-income adults say air pollution is a big or moderate problem in their

local community, compared with smaller shares of middle- (45%) and higher-income adults (38%).

**Within the GOP, younger adults are more likely than older adults to see a need for federal government action or offer policy support on environmental and climate issues.** About two-thirds (64%) of Republicans ages 18 to 29 favor requiring power companies to use more energy from renewable sources; Republicans 65 and older are much less likely to support this policy (42%). This general pattern of greater support among younger Republicans is seen across many – but not all – climate and environmental policy questions.



## Large majorities of Americans remain broadly supportive of several policies to address climate change

While Americans have mixed reactions to the Biden administration's overall approach to climate policies, there continues to be broad public support for a range of specific proposals aimed at reducing the effects of climate change.

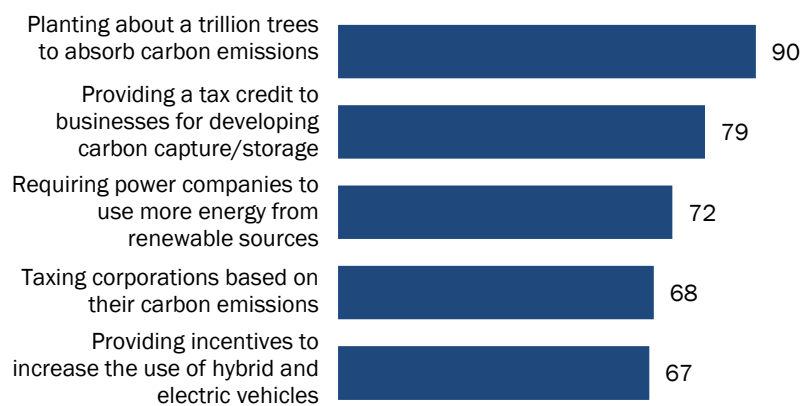
An overwhelming majority of U.S. adults (90%) support planting about a trillion trees to absorb carbon emissions. Majorities of Americans also support tax credits to businesses for developing carbon capture and storage technologies (79%) and requiring power companies to use more renewable energy (72%). About two-thirds favor taxing corporations based on their carbon emissions (68%) and incentives to increase the use of hybrid and electric vehicles (67%).

There is near consensus among both Democrats and Republicans in favor of planting large numbers of trees to help absorb carbon emissions (91% and 89%, respectively).

Majorities from both parties also support providing tax credits to businesses for developing carbon capture and storage technologies (88% of Democrats and 70% of Republicans).

### Two-thirds of Americans support incentives for more use of hybrid and electric vehicles

*% of U.S. adults who say they **favor** the following proposals to reduce the effects of climate change*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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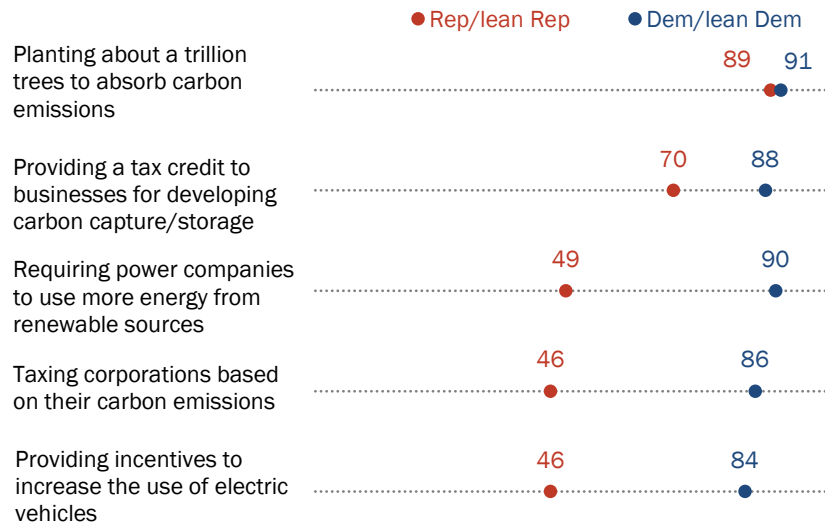
Democrats and Republicans are more divided over other climate measures. For example, 90% of Democrats favor requiring power companies to use more energy from renewable sources. In comparison, about half of Republicans favor this idea (49%), while an equal share say they oppose it.

Overwhelming majorities of Democrats also favor taxing corporations based on their carbon emissions and providing incentives for the use of electric vehicles. Slightly fewer than half of Republicans support these two measures (46% each).

Republican support for both measures has fallen since 2020. The share of Republicans who support taxing corporations based on the amount of carbon emissions they produce is down from 55% to 46% today. Support for providing tax credits to businesses for developing carbon capture technology is down 8 points, from 78% to 70%. [See Appendix for more details.](#)

## Majorities of Democrats and Republicans support tree plantings, carbon capture to address climate change

% of U.S. adults who say they **favor** the following proposals to reduce the effects of climate change



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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## Majorities of Americans say the federal government is doing too little to protect water and air quality, address climate change

On balance, Americans think the federal government is doing too little to address several key areas of environmental protection, such as air and water quality, and to reduce the effects of climate change.

A majority (63%) says the federal government is doing too little to protect water quality of rivers, lakes and streams. About half as many (31%) say the federal government is doing about the right amount in this area; a very small share (5%) say it is doing too much.

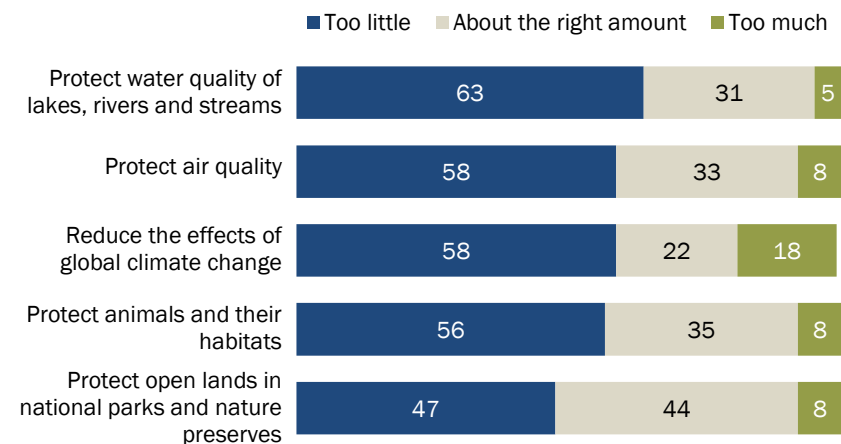
Majorities also think the federal government is doing too little to protect air quality (58%), reduce the effects of climate change (58%) and protect animals and their habitats (56%). For each of these areas of environmental protection, significantly smaller shares say the federal government is doing about the right amount.

When it comes to protecting open lands in national parks and nature preserves, opinion is more evenly divided: 47% say the federal government is doing too little, while 44% say it is doing about the right amount in this area.

Small shares say the federal government is doing too much across these five areas of environmental protection, though the share who say this about reducing the effects of climate change (18%) is slightly higher than for other areas.

### 63% of Americans say the federal government is doing too little to protect water quality

% of U.S. adults who say the federal government is doing \_\_\_ to ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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## Republicans and Democrats disagree over how much the federal government is doing to protect key aspects of the environment

Democrats remain much more likely than Republicans to say the federal government is doing too little across key aspects of the environment.

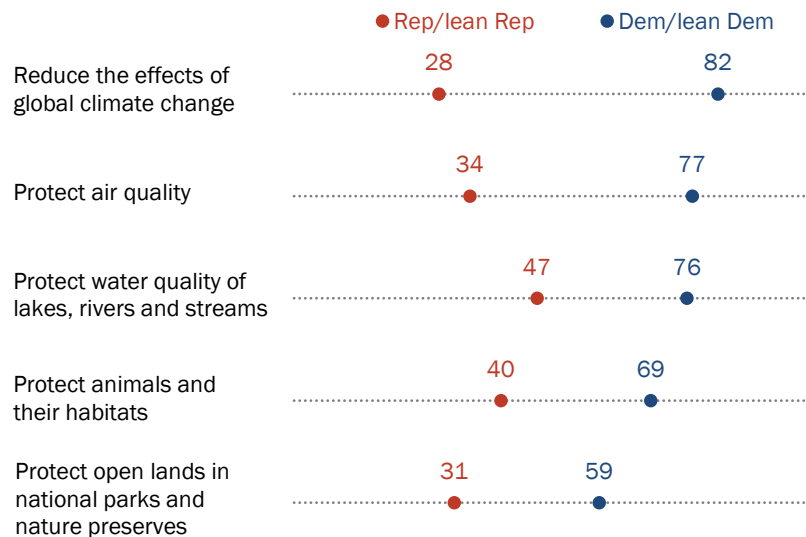
On climate change, about eight-in-ten Democrats (82%) say the federal government is doing too little, while just 13% say it is doing the right amount and few (4%) say it is doing too much. By contrast, larger shares of Republicans say the federal government is doing too much to address climate change than say it is doing too little (37% to 28%); 33% say it is doing about the right amount.

Large partisan differences also are seen across other areas of environmental protection. When it comes to protecting air quality, 77% of Democrats think the federal government is doing too little, compared with 34% of Republicans.

For more details on these views over time, [see the Appendix](#).

### Large majority of Democrats say the federal government isn't doing enough on climate change

% of U.S. adults who say the federal government is doing *too little* to ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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**On balance, Americans think stricter environmental laws are worth the cost – but a growing share see too much economic downside**

When asked for their overall views, slightly more Americans say stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost (53%) than say they cost too many jobs and hurt the economy (45%).

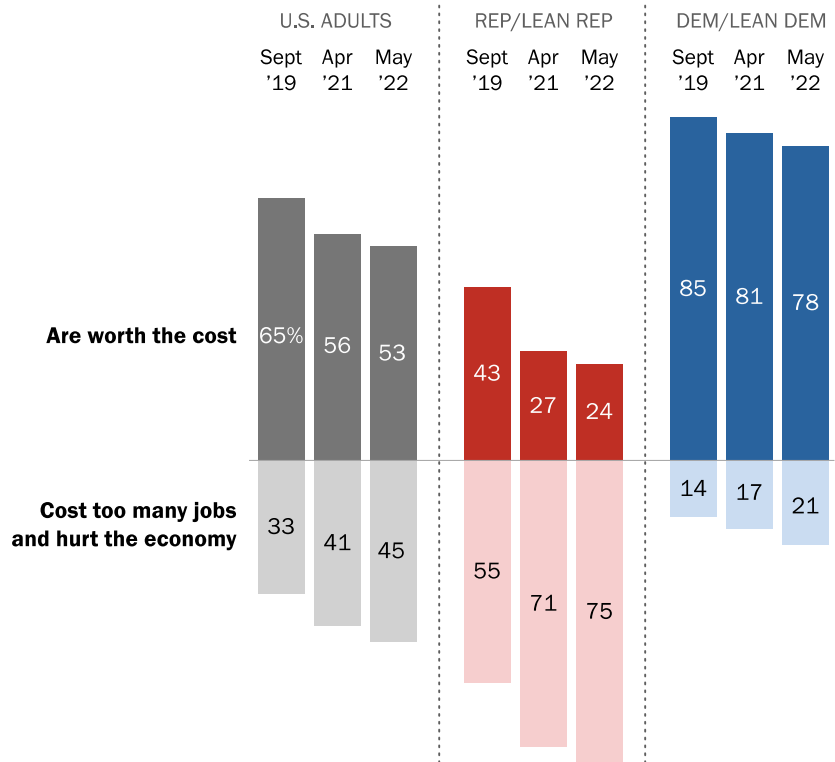
The share of Americans who say stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy is up 12 percentage points since 2019, when 33% expressed this view.

Rising concern about the economic impact of environmental laws has primarily grown among Republicans (though this view has also grown somewhat among Democrats).

Three-quarters of Republicans now say stricter environmental laws hurt the economy, up 20 points from 2019. Among Democrats, 21% now say stricter environmental laws and regulations hurt the economy, up from 14% in 2019.

**By narrow margin, Americans more likely than not to say stricter environmental laws are worth the cost**

*% of U.S. adults who say stricter environmental laws and regulations ...*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
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## About seven-in-ten Americans say their local community has experienced extreme weather in past year

Most Americans report that their local community has experienced some form of extreme weather in the past year. The most common experiences are severe weather, like floods or intense storms (43% say their community has experienced this in the past year) and long periods of unusually hot weather (42%). Smaller shares say that in the past 12 months their local community has experienced droughts or water shortages (31%), major wildfires (21%) or rising sea levels that erode beaches and shorelines (16%). In all, 71% of Americans say they experienced at least one of these five kinds of weather events in the past year.

There are pronounced regional differences in experiences with extreme weather. Those living in the West are especially likely to say their local community has faced droughts or water shortages (68%), long periods of unusually hot weather (62%) and major wildfires (59%). Among Westerners, those living in the Mountain states (77% in this region stretching from Idaho to New Mexico) are more likely to report droughts in their local community in the past year than those in the Pacific states (63% of those in California, Oregon and Washington).

## Majorities of Americans who live in the West report unusually hot weather, droughts and major wildfires in the last year

*% of U.S. adults who say that their local community has experienced each of the following in the past 12 months*

	Severe weather, like floods or intense storms	Long periods of unusually hot weather	Droughts or water shortages	Major wildfires	Rising sea levels that erode beaches and shorelines
U.S. adults	43	42	31	21	16
Northeast	47	31	14	6	20
Midwest	42	25	16	7	9
South	52	45	23	12	17
West	25	62	68	59	17

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

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Those in the Northeast, Midwest and South are more likely than those in the West to say their local community has experienced severe weather events such as floods and intense storms in the past year.

In general, partisanship shapes how people view their weather experiences, but the size of the partisan gap depends on the type of weather event. Democrats are 25 percentage points more likely than Republicans to report their local community experienced long periods of unusually hot weather (54% vs. 29%). There are more modest gaps between the shares of Democrats and Republicans who say their local community experienced droughts (34% and 27%, respectively) and major wildfires (24% vs. 19%).

These partisan differences tend to hold across regions. However, there are some notable exceptions. For instance, in the West, similar majorities of Republicans (67%) and Democrats (68%) say their local community has experienced droughts or water shortages in the last year. [See Appendix for more details.](#)

**Most Americans who say their local community has experienced extreme weather in the last year believe climate change was a contributing factor**

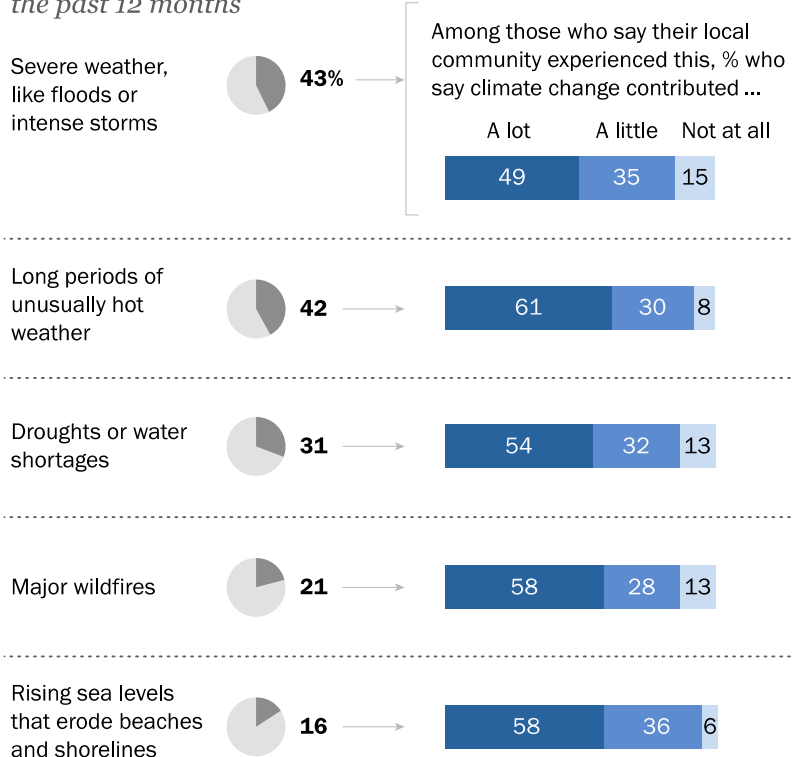
Among the 42% of Americans who say their local community has experienced long periods of unusually hot weather, 61% say climate change contributed a lot to this event, while another 30% say climate change contributed a little. Just 8% do not see climate change as having played a role.

Similarly, among those who say their local community experienced major wildfires, 58% think climate change contributed a lot and 28% say climate change contributed a little.

In fact, large shares of those who report experiencing any of these five forms of extreme weather in the past year – including droughts, floods or intense storms, and rising sea levels – believe climate change contributed either a lot or a little.

**Among those whose local communities have experienced extreme weather, most say climate change contributed a lot or a little**

*% of U.S. adults who say that their local community has experienced the following in the past 12 months*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
 Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.  
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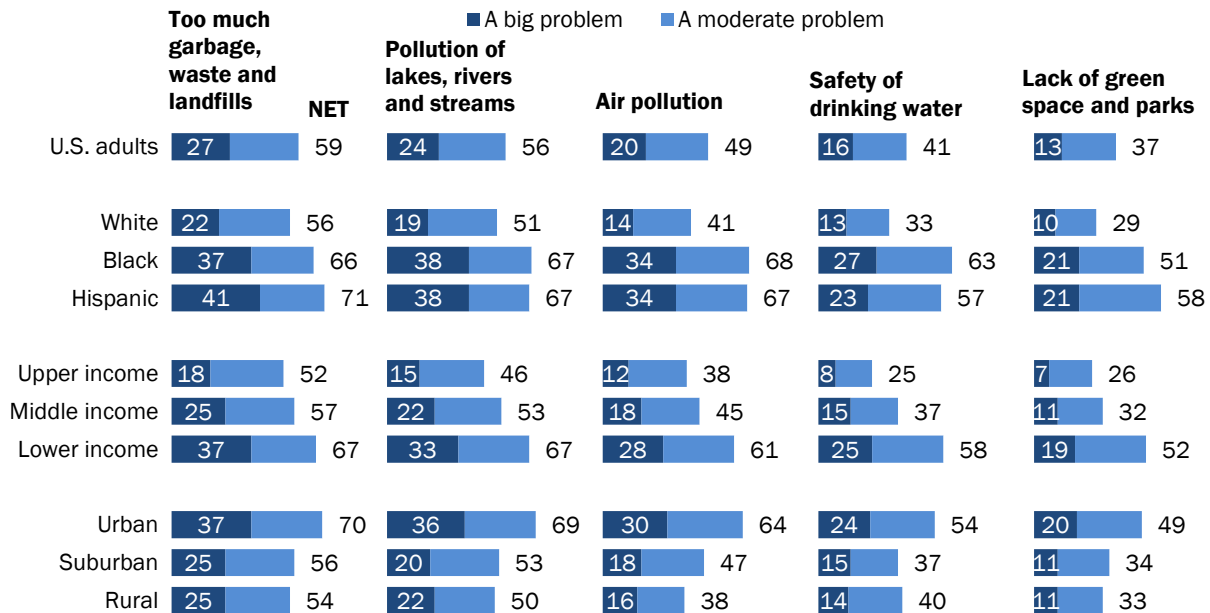


### Black and Hispanic Americans are particularly likely to report local environmental problems

Broad shares of Americans report environmental problems in their local area. A majority (59%) say too much garbage, waste and landfills is a big or moderate problem in their own community. About as many (56%) say pollution of lakes, rivers and streams is a big or moderate problem in their community.

### Lower-income Americans are more likely to say safety of drinking water is a problem in their local communities

% of U.S. adults who say \_\_\_\_ is a **big/moderate problem** in their local community



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2020 earnings.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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Roughly half of U.S. adults (49%) say air pollution is at least a moderately big problem in their communities. Fewer say that access to safe drinking water (41%) and lack of green space (37%) in their communities are problems.

Black and Hispanic Americans continue to be more likely than White Americans to report each of these environmental problems in their communities. For example, 63% of Black Americans and 57% of Hispanic Americans say safety of drinking water is at least a moderate problem in their local community, compared with only 33% of non-Hispanic White Americans. There are significant gaps by race and ethnicity when it comes to other environmental problems, including air pollution.

Studies on [environmental pollution](#) have found that Black and Hispanic Americans are exposed to air pollution from a wide variety of sources, including construction and industry, more than White Americans.

Firsthand experiences with environmental problems also differ across levels of family income. Those with lower incomes are more likely to report environmental issues in their communities than those in middle- and upper-income families. For instance, a majority of lower-income Americans (58%) say the safety of drinking water is at least a moderate problem in their local community, compared with 37% of those in middle-income and 25% of those in upper-income families. [Lower-income communities](#) are among those at the greatest risk for unsafe drinking water.

Those who live in urban areas are more likely than those in rural or suburban areas to say that these environmental issues affect their communities. The divide between rural and urban Americans is widest on the problem of air pollution. More than six-in-ten of those who live in urban areas (64%) say air pollution is a big or moderate problem for their communities, compared with 47% of those in suburban areas and 38% of those who live in rural areas.

## 55% of U.S. adults oppose phasing out gasoline cars by 2035

Americans lean against the idea of phasing out gas-powered vehicles by 2035: 55% say they oppose phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035, compared with 43% who support this proposal.

The Biden administration has [proposed regulatory efforts on emission standards](#) that would increase the sale of electric vehicles so that half of all new cars and trucks sold in the U.S. are electric by 2030. Last month, the European Parliament [supported a proposal](#) to effectively ban new gas cars and trucks by 2035.

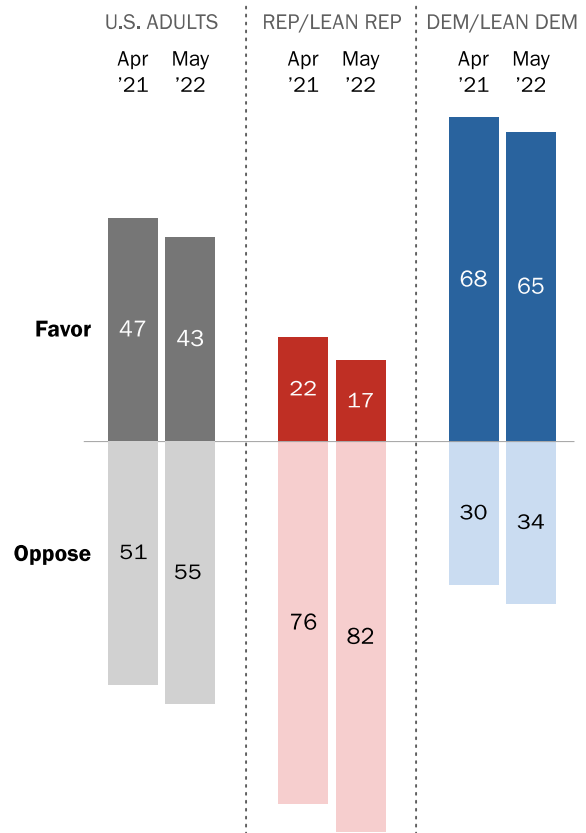
Support for phasing out gas-powered vehicles in the U.S. is down slightly from last year, when 47% of Americans favored this idea and 51% were opposed.

Democrats and Republicans continue to be deeply divided over whether to end the production of cars and trucks with internal combustion engines. About two-thirds of Democrats favor phasing out gasoline-powered cars and trucks by 2035 (65%). In contrast, just 17% of Republicans support this idea, while an overwhelming majority (82%) oppose it.

Among Democrats, a large majority of liberals (77%) favor phasing out the production of new gas-powered cars and truck by 2035. Moderate and conservative Democrats are more closely divided: 55% favor this idea, while 44% oppose it.

### 82% of Republicans oppose phasing out gasoline cars by 2035, while two-thirds of Democrats favor this

*% of U.S. adults who say they \_\_\_ phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
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## About four-in-ten Americans would seriously consider an electric car for their next purchase

When asked how likely they would be to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle (EV), 42% of Americans say they would be very or somewhat likely to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle. A slightly larger share (45%) say they would be not too or not at all likely to do this (13% say they do not plan to purchase a vehicle in the future).

The share of Americans who are very or somewhat interested in purchasing an electric car or truck is about the same as in April 2021, the last time this question was asked. Gas prices are **up sharply since then**, from an average of \$2.95 in April 2021 to \$4.55 in May 2022.

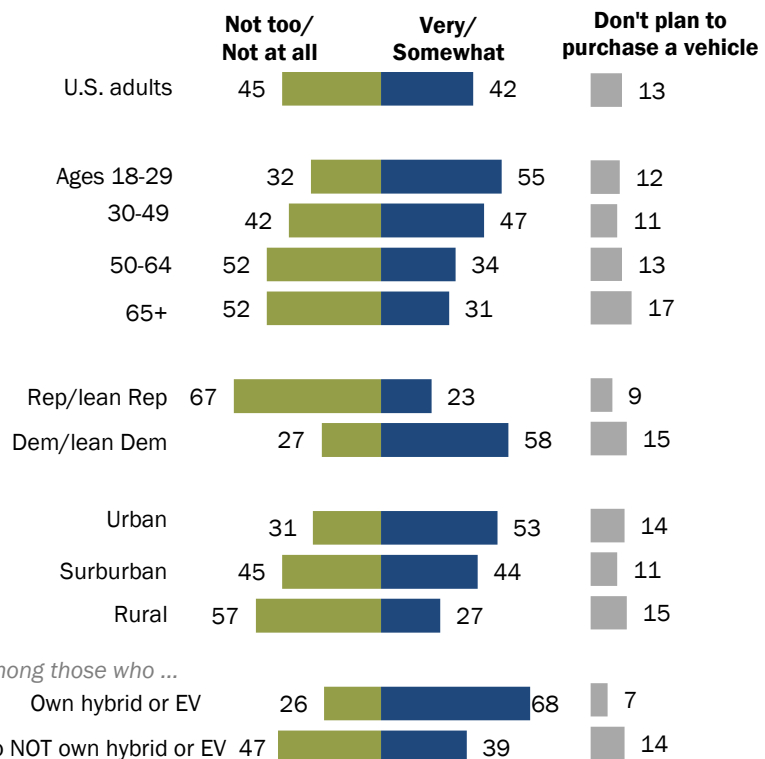
Those most inclined to consider an EV purchase in the future include younger adults, urban dwellers, Democrats and those who already own a hybrid or all-electric vehicle.

Across age groups, a majority of adults ages 18 to 29 (55%) say they are very or somewhat likely to consider an electric vehicle the next time they buy a vehicle. Smaller shares of adults ages 50 to 64 (34%) or 65 and older (31%) say the same.

Democrats are more inclined than Republicans to say they are at least somewhat likely to consider purchasing an EV. Younger adults within each

### Younger adults more likely than older adults to consider buying an electric vehicle

*% of U.S. adults who say they are \_\_\_ likely to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle the next time they purchase a vehicle*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
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party are more inclined than older adults to say they this.

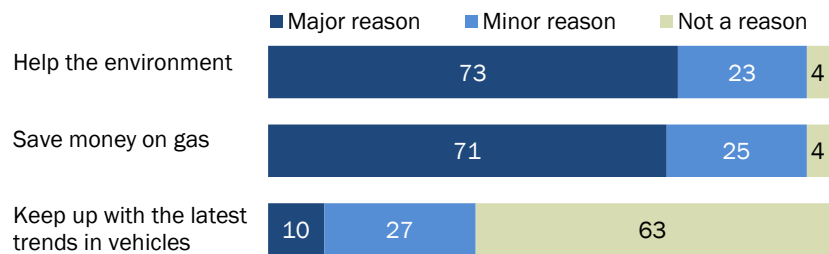
Those living in urban areas (53%) are more likely than those in suburban areas (44%) to report interest in purchasing an electric vehicle. Those living in rural areas are among the least likely to say this (27%).

The survey asked Americans who say they are at least somewhat likely to consider an electric vehicle about the reasons for their interest.

Among this group, large majorities say helping the environment (73%) and saving money on gas (71%) are major reasons why they would seriously consider purchasing an electric car. Those considering an electric car are far less likely to say keeping up with the latest trends in vehicles is a major reason they would be likely to purchase an electric vehicle (10%).

### Americans who have considered purchasing electric vehicles cite helping the environment, saving money on gas as top reasons why

Among U.S. adults who would be **at least somewhat likely** to consider purchasing an electric vehicle, % who say each of the following is a \_\_\_ reason why



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. Question based on those who say they are very or somewhat likely to consider purchasing an electric vehicle the next time they purchase a vehicle.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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Among those who say they would seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle, most Democrats (82%) say helping the environment is a major reason they would consider doing this; 17% say this is a minor reason and just 1% say this is not a reason. Among Republicans, a far smaller share of those interested in electric vehicles (46%) say helping the environment is a major reason why they would buy an electric vehicle, 41% say this is a minor reason and 13% say this is not a reason.

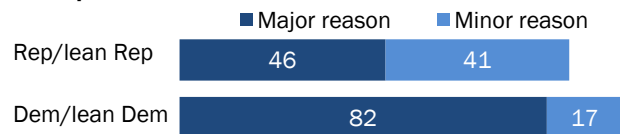
However, Republicans and Democrats agree that saving money on gas is a major reason to buy an electric car. Among those who would seriously consider purchasing an electric car, 73% of Republicans and 70% of Democrats say saving money on gas is a major reason why.

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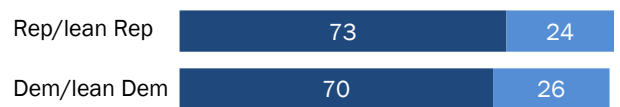
## Saving money on gas is a major factor for prospective electric vehicle buyers among both major parties

Among U.S. adults who would be **at least somewhat likely** to purchase an electric vehicle, % who say each of the following is a \_\_\_ reason why

### To help the environment



### To save money on gas



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. Question based on those who say they are very or somewhat likely to consider purchasing an electric vehicle the next time they purchased a vehicle.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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## Younger Republicans more open to federal action, policy proposals to address climate change than older Republicans

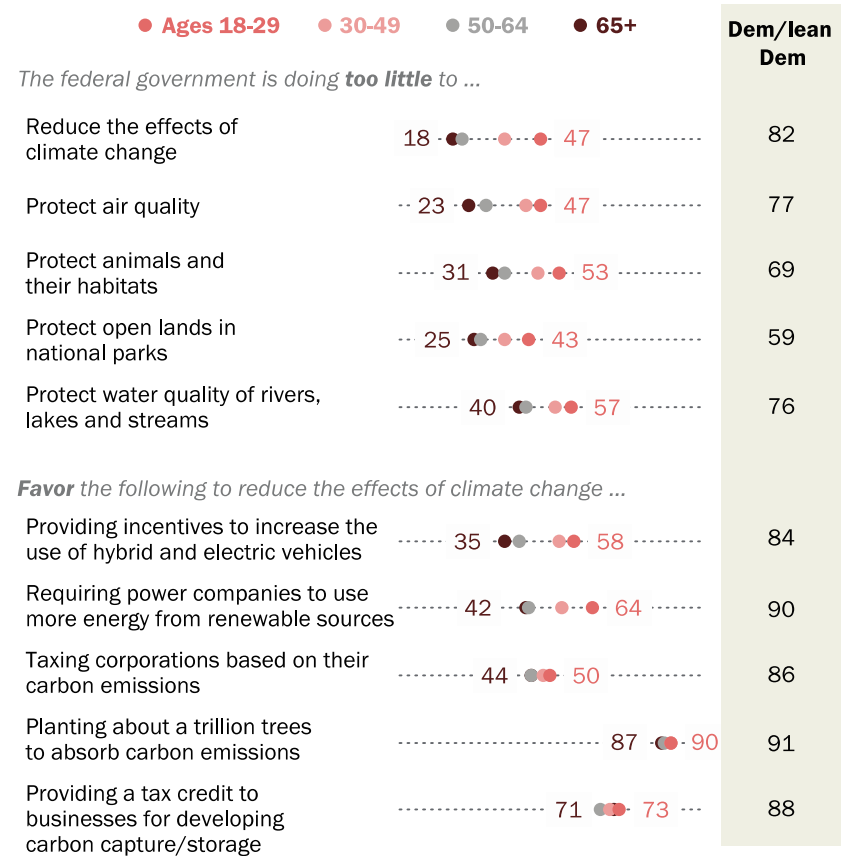
Across a range of questions about climate, energy and the environment, younger Republicans tend to be more supportive of federal government action and policy measures in these areas than older Republicans.

Republican adults under 30 are far more likely than older Republicans, ages 50 and older, to say the federal government is doing too little on key aspects of the environment. The age divide is widest when it comes to how much the government is doing on climate change: 47% of Republicans ages 18 to 29 say the federal government is doing too little to reduce the effects of climate change, compared with just 18% of Republicans 65 and older.

Republicans under 30 are also about twice as likely as Republicans 65 and older to say the federal government is doing too little to protect air quality (47% vs. 23%).

### Younger Republicans particularly likely to say federal government is doing too little on the environment

% of **Republicans/Republican leaners** who say each of the following



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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In addition, younger Republicans are more likely than older Republicans to support a range of policies aimed at reducing the effects of climate change. A 58% majority of Republicans ages 18 to 29 say they favor providing incentives to increase the use of hybrid and electric vehicles, compared with 35% of Republicans 65 and older. And younger Republicans are 22 points more likely than older Republicans to say they support requiring power companies to use more energy from renewable sources (64% vs. 42%).

Similarly, there are large age differences among Republicans over energy priorities. A majority of Republicans under 30 say that developing alternative energy sources such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply; a majority of Republicans 65 and older instead say that expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas should be the more important priority. For more on these patterns, see "[Gen Z, Millennials Stand Out for Climate Change Activism, Social Media Engagement With Issue.](#)"



## Acknowledgments

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## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted from May 2 to May 8, 2022. A total of 10,282 panelists responded out of 11,674 who were sampled, for a response rate of 88%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 10,282 respondents is plus or minus 1.6 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of

#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,597
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	937
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	470
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,423
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,620
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,693
May 29 to July 7, 2021; Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	934
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,540</b>	<b>27,414</b>	<b>11,674</b>

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. Starting in 2020, another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that do not respond to the online survey are sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults returning the paper version of the survey are invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults receive a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the four address-based recruitments, a total of 19,822 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 17,472 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 27,414 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 11,674 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>1</sup> The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. All active panel members were invited to participate in this wave.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

### **Incentives**

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or

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<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling, 2016. "AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling."

could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

### Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was May 2 to May 8, 2022. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on May 2.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on May 2. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on May 3.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

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#### Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	May 2, 2022	May 3, 2022
First reminder	May 5, 2022	May 5, 2022
Final reminder	May 7, 2022	May 7, 2022

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### Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, three ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

## Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort and then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to

recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

Some of the population benchmarks used for weighting come from surveys conducted prior to the coronavirus outbreak that began in February 2020. However, the weighting variables for panelists recruited in 2021 were measured at the time they were recruited to the panel. Likewise, the profile variables for existing panelists were updated from panel surveys conducted in July or August 2021.

This does not pose a problem for most of the variables used in the weighting, which are quite stable at both the population and individual levels. However, volunteerism may have changed over the intervening period in ways that made their 2021 measurements incompatible with the

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## Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	
Volunteerism	2019 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2021 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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available (pre-pandemic) benchmarks. To address this, volunteerism is weighted using the profile variables that were measured in 2020. For all other weighting dimensions, the more recent panelist measurements from 2021 are used.

For panelists recruited in 2021, plausible values were imputed using the 2020 volunteerism values from existing panelists with similar characteristics. This ensures that any patterns of change that were observed in the existing panelists were also reflected in the new recruits when the weighting was performed.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

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<b>Margins of error</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error in percentage points</b>
U.S. adults	10,282	+/- 1.6
White	7,210	+/- 1.8
Black	795	+/- 5.1
Hispanic	1,430	+/- 4.9
Upper income	2,523	+/- 2.9
Middle income	5,084	+/- 2.1
Lower income	2,140	+/- 3.3
Urban	2,371	+/-3.5
Suburban	5,381	+/- 2.1
Rural	2,514	+/- 3.1
Rep/lean Rep	4,874	+/-2.2
Dem/lean Dem	5,149	+/-2.2

Note: The margins of error are reported at the 95% level of confidence and are calculated by taking into account the average design effect for each subgroup. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2020 earnings. Republicans and Democrats include independents and others who lean to each of the parties.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

### **Adjusting income and defining income tiers**

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2020 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and household size. "Middle-income" adults live in families with annual incomes that are two-thirds to double the median family income in the panel (after incomes have been adjusted for the local cost of living and household size). The middle-income range for the American Trends Panel is about \$42,000 to \$125,900 annually for an average family of three. Lower-income families have incomes less than roughly \$42,000, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$125,900 (all figures expressed in 2020 dollars).

Based on these adjustments, 31% of respondents are lower income, 47% are middle income and 17% fall into the upper-income tier. An additional 5% did not offer a response to the income question or the household size question.

For more information about how the income tiers were determined, please see [here](#).

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**Dispositions and response rates**

<b>Final dispositions</b>	<b>AAPOR code</b>	<b>Total</b>
Completed interview	1.1	10,282
Logged onto survey; broke off	2.12	111
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	72
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1,206
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		3
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>11,674</b>
Completed interviews	I	10,282
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,392
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,674</b>
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		88%

<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	69%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 108	43%
Response rate to Wave 108 survey	88%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>3%</b>

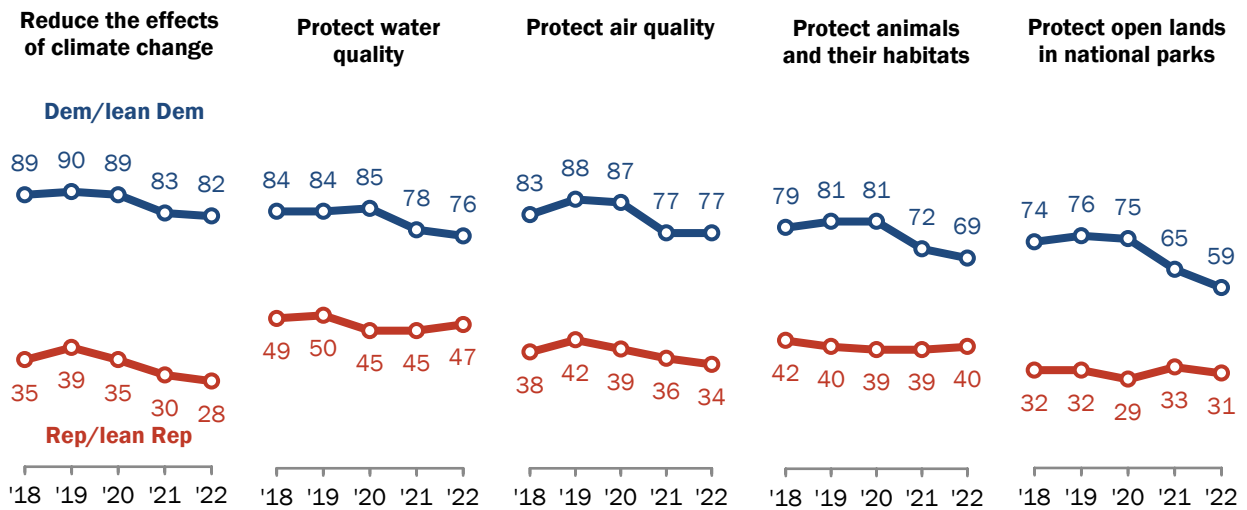
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## Appendix: Detailed charts and tables

### Democrats continue to be far more likely than Republicans to say the federal government is doing too little on climate change

% of U.S. adults who say the federal government is doing **too little** to ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

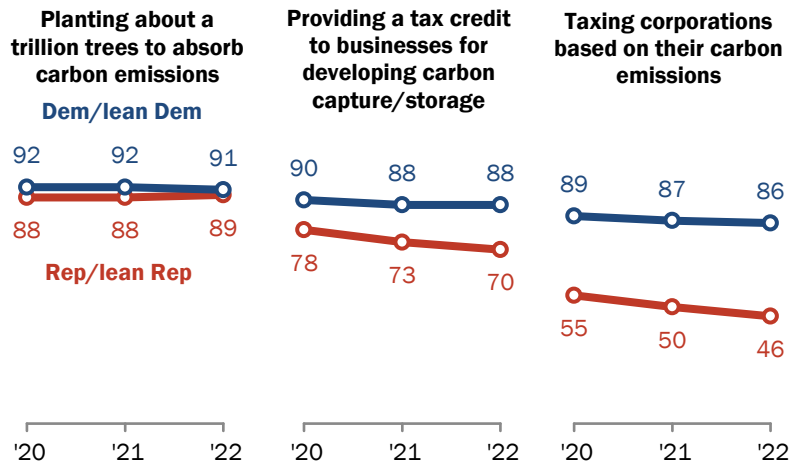
Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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## Republican support for taxing corporations based on their carbon emissions has declined

% of U.S. adults who say they **favor** the following proposals to reduce the effects of climate change



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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## Democrats and Republicans have different perceptions of some weather events

% of U.S. adults who say that their local community has experienced each of the following in the past 12 months

	U.S. adults		Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
	Rep/ lean Rep	Dem/ lean Dem	Rep/ lean Rep	Dem/ lean Dem	Rep/ lean Rep	Dem/ lean Dem	Rep/ lean Rep	Dem/ lean Dem	Rep/ lean Rep	Dem/ lean Dem
Severe weather, like floods or intense storms	35	49	32	56	36	48	46	58	17	32
Long periods of unusually hot weather	29	54	16	40	15	34	32	57	46	74
Droughts or water shortages	27	34	7	18	14	19	20	27	67	68
Major wildfires	19	24	6	7	6	9	10	14	56	62
Rising sea levels that erode beaches and shorelines	10	21	13	25	6	13	12	23	8	22

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

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## Survey question wording and topline

2022 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 108 MAY 2022  
MAY 2-8, 2022  
N=10,282

### OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

#### ASK ALL:

EVCAR2 The next time you purchase a vehicle, how likely are you to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle?

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>Not too likely</u>	<u>Not at all likely</u>	<u>I do not expect to purchase a vehicle</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 2-8, 2022	16	25	21	24	13	<1
Apr 20-29, 2021	15	24	24	23	14	<1

#### ASK IF VERY/SOMEWHAT LIKELY (EVCAR2=1,2) [N=4,481]:

EVCAR2B How much of a reason is each of the following for why you would consider purchasing an electric vehicle? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. To save money on gas May 2-8, 2022	71	25	4	<1
b. To help the environment May 2-8, 2022	73	23	4	<1
c. To keep up with the latest trends in vehicles May 2-8, 2022	10	27	63	<1

#### ASK ALL:

EVCAR3 Do you favor or oppose phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by the year 2035?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 2-8, 2022	43	55	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	47	51	3

**ASK ALL:**

EVCAR1 Do you currently have an electric or hybrid vehicle?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 2-8, 2022	9	91	<1
Apr 20-29, 2021	7	93	<1

**ASK ALL:**LAWCOST Which of these statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?  
**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE 1 AND 2]**

	<u>Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy</u>	<u>Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 2-8, 2022	45	53	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	41	56	3
Sep 3-15, 2019	33	65	2

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?**

	<i>Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy</i>	<i>Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost</i>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <i>Both/Neither/DK</i> <i>/Ref</i>
Sep 5-16, 2019	35	61	5
Jan 9-14, 2019	30	63	6
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	37	59	5
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	34	59	7
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	39	54	7
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	36	59	4
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	39	56	5
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	39	53	7
November, 2007	27	63	10
July, 2006	31	57	12
March, 2006	29	65	6
December, 2005	37	56	7
December, 2004	31	60	9
September, 2000	31	61	8
August, 1999	28	65	7
October, 1996	30	63	7
October, 1995	35	61	4
April, 1995	39	57	4
October, 1994	32	62	6
July, 1994	33	62	5

**ASK ALL:**

ENVIR8

How much do you think the federal government is doing to... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>About the right amount</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Protect air quality				
May 2-8, 2022	8	58	33	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	9	59	31	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	4	65	30	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	4	67	28	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	8	64	27	1
b. Protect water quality of lakes, rivers and streams				
May 2-8, 2022	5	63	31	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	6	63	30	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	3	67	29	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	4	68	27	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	6	69	24	1
c. Protect animals and their habitats				
May 2-8, 2022	8	56	35	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	9	57	33	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	6	62	32	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	7	62	31	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	9	63	27	1
d. Protect open lands in national parks and nature preserves				
May 2-8, 2022	8	47	44	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	7	51	41	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	5	54	40	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	5	55	39	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	8	57	34	1
e. Reduce the effects of global climate change				
May 2-8, 2022	18	58	22	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	18	59	22	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	9	65	25	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	10	67	23	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	13	67	19	1

**ASK ALL:**

LOCENV

How much of a problem, if at all, do you think each of the following is in your local community? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

		<u>A big problem</u>	<u>A moderate problem</u>	<u>A small problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Air pollution					
	May 2-8, 2022	20	29	28	22	1
	Apr 20-29, 2021	22	30	27	20	1
	<b>ASK FORM 1,3 [N=5,148]:</b>					
b.	Pollution of lakes, rivers and streams					
	May 2-8, 2022	24	31	29	14	1
	Apr 20-29, 2021	26	33	26	13	<1
	<b>ASK FORM 2,4 [N=5,134]:</b>					
c.	Safety of drinking water					
	May 2-8, 2022	16	25	24	34	<1
	Apr 20-29, 2021	17	24	24	35	1
d.	Too much garbage, waste and landfills					
	May 2-8, 2022	27	32	23	17	1
	Apr 20-29, 2021	29	34	22	15	1
e.	Lack of greenspace and parks					
	May 2-8, 2022	13	25	27	35	1
	Apr 20-29, 2021	15	25	26	34	1

**ASK ALL:**

ENVRMPCT

In the past 12 months, has your local community experienced the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Droughts or water shortages			
	May 2-8, 2022	31	69	1
b.	Long periods of unusually hot weather			
	May 2-8, 2022	42	57	1
c.	Severe weather, like floods or intense storms			
	May 2-8, 2022	43	57	<1
d.	Rising sea levels that erode beaches and shorelines			
	May 2-8, 2022	16	83	1

## ENVRMPCT CONTINUED ...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
e. Major wildfires May 2-8, 2022	21	78	<1

**ASK IF EXPERIENCED EVENT (ENVRMPCTa-e=1):**

CCXTRW1 In the past 12 months, how much do you think climate change contributed to the following in your local community? **[DISPLAY ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS ENVRMPCT, ONLY SHOW ITEMS MARKED AS YES (ENVRMPCTa-e=1)]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<b>ASK IF EXPERIENCED (ENVRMPCTa=1) [N=3,208]:</b>				
a. Droughts or water shortages May 2-8, 2022	54	32	13	<1
<b>ASK IF EXPERIENCED (ENVRMPCTb=1) [N=4,277]:</b>				
b. Long periods of unusually hot weather May 2-8, 2022	61	30	8	<1
<b>ASK IF EXPERIENCED (ENVRMPCTc=1) [N=4,371]:</b>				
c. Severe weather, like floods or intense storms May 2-8, 2022	49	35	15	<1
<b>ASK IF EXPERIENCED (ENVRMPCTd=1) [N=1,624]:</b>				
d. Rising sea levels that erode beaches and shorelines May 2-8, 2022	58	36	6	<1
<b>ASK IF EXPERIENCED (ENVRMPCTe=1) [N=2,048]:</b>				
e. Major wildfires May 2-8, 2022	58	28	13	<1



**ASK ALL:**  
CCPOLICY

Do you favor or oppose the following proposals to reduce the effects of global climate change? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Planting about a trillion trees around the world to absorb carbon emissions in the atmosphere			
May 2-8, 2022	90	9	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	90	9	2
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	90	9	1
b. Taxing corporations based on the amount of carbon emissions they produce			
May 2-8, 2022	68	30	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	70	28	2
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	73	25	1
c. Providing a tax credit to encourage businesses to develop technology which captures and stores carbon emissions so they do not enter the atmosphere			
May 2-8, 2022	79	20	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	81	17	2
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	84	15	1
d. Requiring power companies to use more energy from renewable sources, such as wind or solar, to reduce carbon emissions			
May 2-8, 2022	72	26	2
e. Providing incentives to increase the use of hybrid and electric vehicles			
May 2-8, 2022	67	32	1

**ASK ALL:**  
BIDENC4

Overall, do you think the Biden administration's policies on climate change are taking the country in the right or wrong direction?

May 2-8,  
2022

49	Right direction
47	Wrong direction
4	No answer

**ASK IF RIGHT DIRECTION (BIDENC4=1) [N=5,006]:**

BIDENC5      When it comes to the Biden administration's efforts on climate change, which comes closer to your views? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

May 2-8,  
2022

39	They have done about as much as can be expected
59	They could be doing a lot more
2	No answer

**OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**