



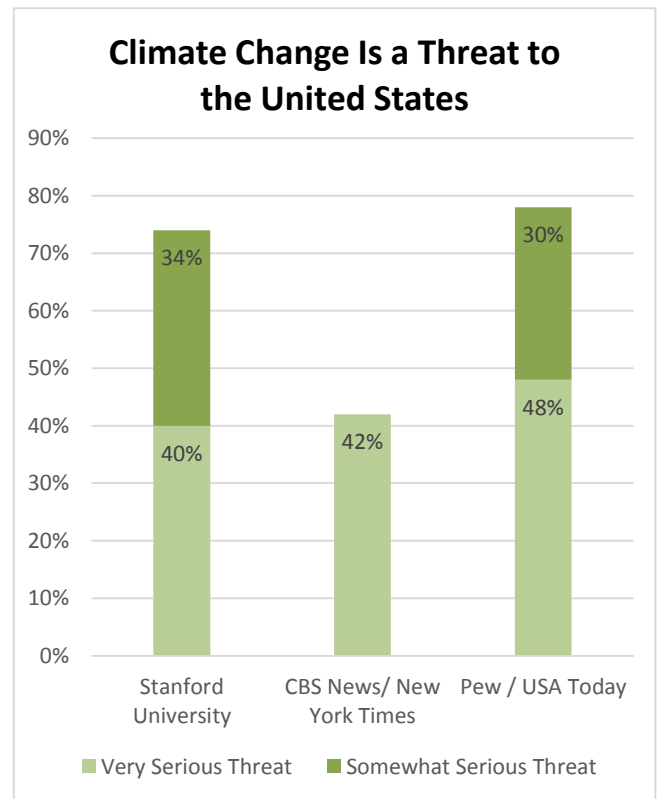
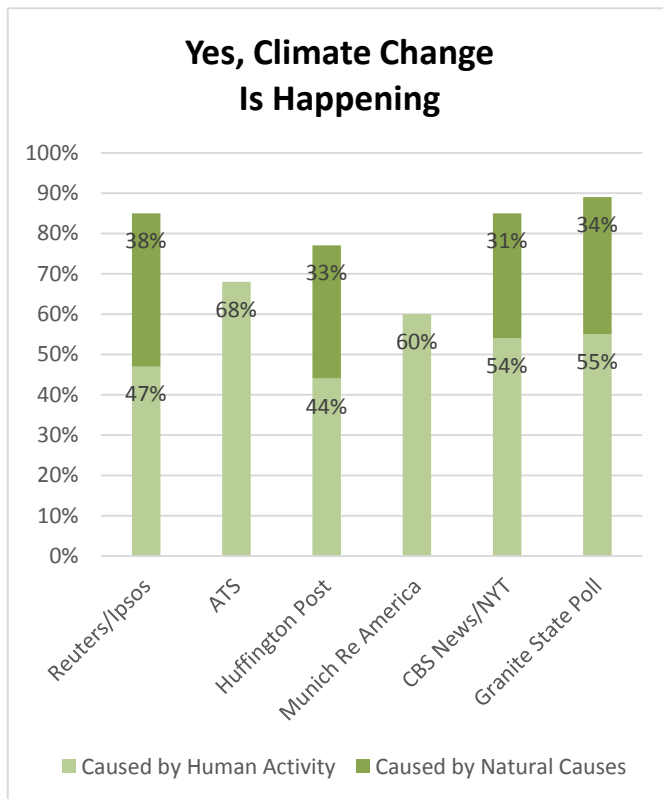
Fact Sheet

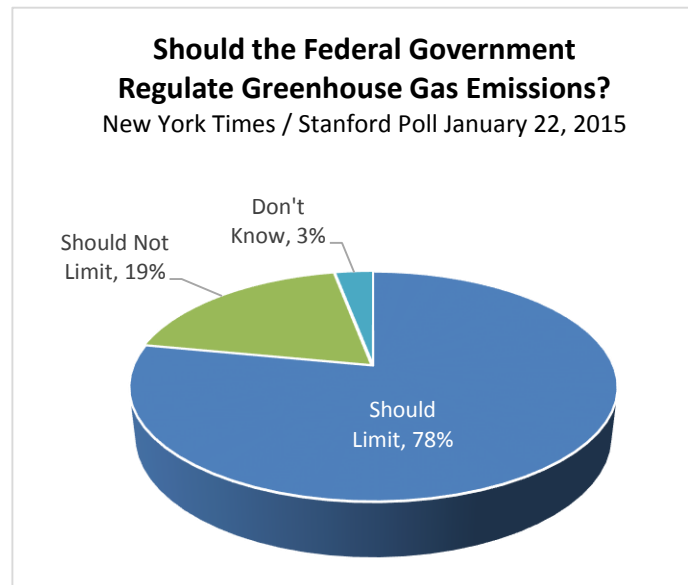
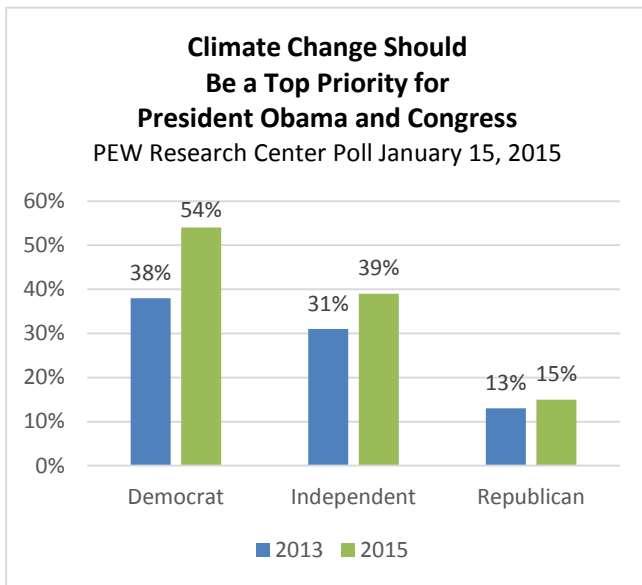
Polling the American Public on Climate Change

April 2015

This fact sheet provides information on climate change polling in the United States over the last eight months from a variety of sources. Overall the studies show:

- The number of Americans saying that climate change is happening and is caused by human actions continues to rise, but still has not reached a level comparable to the 2007 peak.
- There is a disparity among party lines when it comes to climate change, with a large majority of Democrats believing that human actions are changing the climate, while fewer Republicans hold the same belief. However, strong majorities of self-described liberal and moderate Republicans say climate change is happening.
- There is bipartisan support for the federal government to regulate greenhouse gases.





CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEYS 2014 to 2015

[Washington Post/ABC News](#)

March 26 – 29, 2015

Sample: 1,003 American adults

- **59% of responders want the next president to favor government action to address climate change.**
- 31% of those who favor action on climate change responded that it is “extremely important” to elect a president who favors government action on climate change, 37% said it is “very important,” and 27% said it is “somewhat important.”

[Saint Leo University](#)

March 15 – 19, 2015

Survey Group: 1,016 American adults

- **30% of survey respondents said they were “very concerned” about global climate change, and 43% said they were “somewhat concerned.”**
- 56% of those surveyed said it is the federal government’s responsibility to deal with problems associated with global warming; 43% said it is the state government’s responsibility, and 38% said it is the local government’s responsibility (answers were not mutually exclusive).

[Ipsos/Avaaz](#)

March 10, 2015

Sample: 1,002 American eighth grade students

- **90% of students surveyed said climate change is happening and “significantly” driven by human activity.**
- 87% of students surveyed said automobiles contribute to climate change; 56% view fossil-fuel produced electricity as a major contributor to climate change; 72% said deforestation contributes to climate change.

[Gallup](#)

March 5 – 8, 2015

Sample: 1,025 American adults

- **32% of Americans surveyed said they “personally worry” a “great deal” about global warming.**
- 52% of those identifying as Democrats said they worry a “great deal” about climate change, while 13% of respondents identifying as Republicans said they worry a “great deal” about climate change.

[Reuters/Ipsos](#)

February 13 – 24, 2015

Sample: 2,412 American adults

- **72% of those surveyed said they were “personally morally obligated” to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.**
- 66% of those surveyed said world leaders are “morally obligated” to take action to reduce CO2 emissions.

[Newswise/American Thoracic Society](#)

February, 2015

Sample: 915 American physicians

- **89% of surveyed physicians said climate change is happening; 68% said it is caused entirely or mostly by human behavior.**
- 44% of those surveyed said they felt “modestly knowledgeable about the association between climate change and health impacts,” 31% felt “moderately knowledgeable,” and 7% felt “very knowledgeable.”
- 65% of physicians thought climate change was relevant to caring for patients (41% said it is “a moderate amount” relevant to direct patient care, and 24% a “great deal” relevant to direct patient care).

[Union of Concerned Scientists/Sierra Club](#)

January 12 – 20, 2015

Sample: 1,000 voters

- **72% of those surveyed support an international climate change agreement.**
- 88% of respondents identifying as Democrats support the U.S. participating in an international climate change agreement; 73% of those identifying as Independents and 52% of those identifying as Republicans agree.
- 85% of likely voters who identified as African-American support an international climate change agreement; 79% of those identifying as Hispanic voters also support a climate change agreement.
- 65% of likely voters support reductions in carbon emissions and greenhouse gasses.

[Stanford University/ New York Times](#)

January 7 – 22, 2015

Sample: 1,006 American adults

- **44% of Americans said global warming poses a “very serious” threat for the United States, while 34% said global warming poses a “somewhat serious” threat.**
- 83% of those surveyed said global warming will be a serious problem for the world in the future.
- 78% of those surveyed said the federal government should limit the amount of greenhouse gases that U.S. businesses emit.

[PEW Research Center](#)

January 7 – 11, 2015

Sample: 1,504 American adults

- **38% of survey respondents believe climate change legislation should be a top priority for President Obama and Members of Congress; 29% of the respondents believe it is an important, but lower priority.**
- 54% of Democrats said climate change should be a top priority for President Obama and Congress, while 15% of Republicans said climate change should be a top priority.

[YouGov/Huffington Post](#)

November 1 – 3, 2014

Sample: 782 registered voters

- **44% of likely voters think climate change is a result of human activity.**
- 49% of likely voters are in favor of the federal government regulating carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions more strictly.
- 53% of voters feel it is important that Congress pass climate change legislation next year (29% say “somewhat important,” while 24% say “very important”).

[Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies](#) *six combined surveys: March 2012 - October 2014

Sample: 6,603 American adults, including 5,513 registered voters

- **44% of registered voters who self-identified as Republicans said climate change is happening.**
- 68% of registered voters who self-identified as “liberal Republicans” think climate change is happening, while 62% of those identifying as “moderate Republicans” think it is happening.

[ORC International/Munich Re America](#)

October 9 – 12, 2014

Sample: 1,008 American adults

- **60% of respondents said global warming is occurring due to man-made causes.**
- 71% of respondents said using alternative energy sources would most effectively combat climate change.

[CBS News/New York Times](#)

September 10-14, 2014

Sample: 1,000 American adults

- **54% of Americans said global warming is happening, and is caused by human behavior; 31% said global warming is happening because of natural causes.**
- 42% view global warming as an “imminent threat.”
- 61% of Democrats and 26% of Republicans said global warming is currently having a serious impact.

[ecoAmerica](#)

September 2014

Sample: 1,737 American adults

- **74% of African-Americans, 83% of Asian-Americans, and 73% of Hispanic/Latino Americans are convinced climate change is happening.**
- Of those surveyed, 87% of African-Americans, 84% of Asian-Americans, and 81% of Hispanic/Latino Americans demonstrate a “strong willingness to prepare” for the harmful impacts of global warming.

[Pew Research/USA Today](#)

August 20-24, 2014

Sample: 1,501 American adults

- **48% of those surveyed said climate change is a “major threat” to the United States; 30% said it was a “minor threat.”**
- 68% of registered Democrats view climate change as one of the greatest threats to the United States, compared to 25% of Republicans and 44% of Independents.

[Granite State Poll](#)

August 2014

Sample: 500 New Hampshire residents

- **55% of respondents said climate change is happening, and caused “mainly by human activities,” while 34% of respondents said climate change is happening, but caused “mainly by natural forces.”**
- 43% of those surveyed said that “most scientists agree that climate change is happening now, and is caused mainly by human activities.”
- 71% of those surveyed said the late summer ice on the Arctic Ocean covers less surface area than it did 30 years ago.

This fact sheet is available electronically (with hyperlinks to articles about the surveys or to the surveys themselves) at www.eesi.org/papers.

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The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 by a bipartisan Congressional caucus dedicated to finding innovative environmental and energy solutions. EESI works to protect the climate and ensure a healthy, secure, and sustainable future for America through policymaker education, coalition building, and policy development in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, agriculture, forestry, transportation, buildings, and urban planning.