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# Climate Change Fact Sheet

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## Recent Polling on Public Perceptions of Climate Change April 2006-2007

### CBS News/New York Times

[http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/national/20070424\\_poll.pdf](http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/national/20070424_poll.pdf)

April 26, 2007 Sample: 1052 adults nationwide

- **49% believe global warming is having a serious impact now – up 14 points since 2001.**
- 36% think the impact of global warming will be felt some time in the future.
- 52% want global warming to be a high priority for government leaders.
- 92% favor requiring car manufacturers to produce cars that are more energy efficient.
- 75% are would be willing to pay more electricity if it were generated by renewable energy sources.
- 58% oppose an increased federal tax on gasoline in order to cut down on energy consumption and reduce global warming.

### Center for American Progress

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/environment\\_poll.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/environment_poll.html)

April 18, 2007 Sample: 1000 registered voters nationwide

- **76% of people believe the effects of global warming are apparent now.**
- 60% want immediate action on global warming.
- 65% say our energy policy is seriously off on the wrong track.
- 79% believe that shifting to new, alternative energy production will help America's economy and create jobs.
- 71% favor the expansion of clean alternative fuels rather than expansion of oil and coal production.
- 57% of Americans believe raising car and truck mileage standards will save, not cost, people money.

### Washington Post/ABC News/Stanford University

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/polls/postpoll\\_environment\\_042007.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/polls/postpoll_environment_042007.html)

April 10, 2007 Sample: 1002 adults nationwide

- **86% think that global warming will be a serious problem if nothing is done to reduce it in the future.**
- 33% think global warming is the single biggest environmental problem the world faces at this time – compared to 16% in 2006.
- 54% think that weather patterns in the county they live in have been more unstable in the last three years.
- 84% think that global warming is probably happening.
- 41% think that the rise in the world's temperatures is being caused mostly by things people do – compared to 31% in 2006.
- 70% think the government should do more than it's doing now to try to deal with global warming.

### Gallup

<http://www.galluppoll.com/content/default.aspx?ci=1615>

March 14, 2007 Sample: 1009 adults nationwide

- **59% think the effects of global warming have already begun to happen.**
- 19% think global warming will not happen in their lifetime but will affect future generations.
- 41% worry a great deal about global warming – up 15 points since 2004.
- 54% feel they understand the global warming issue fairly well – 22% say they understand it very well.
- 35% think the seriousness of global warming reported in the news is generally underestimated, 29% think it is generally correct and 33% think it is generally exaggerated.
- 61% believe increases in the Earth's temperature over the last century are due more to the effects of pollution from human activities than to natural changes in the environment.

### **Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy**

<http://www.yale.edu/envirocenter/YaleEnvironmentalPoll2007Keyfindings.pdf>

March 5, 2007 Sample: 1017 adults nationwide

- **63% think our country is in as much danger from environmental hazards such as air pollution and global warming as it is from terrorists.**
- 62% believe the environment in the United States is getting worse – compared to 52% in 2005.
- 62% agree that we need more laws to enforce energy efficiency.
- 90% support building more wind-turbine farms and say it is a good idea to build more solar power facilities.
- 78% would consider buying a vehicle powered by an alternative fuel like ethanol.

### **National Journal**

[http://syndication.nationaljournal.com/images/203Insiderspoll\\_NJlogo.pdf](http://syndication.nationaljournal.com/images/203Insiderspoll_NJlogo.pdf)

February 3, 2007 Sample: 113 members of Congress

- **95% of congressional Democrats say they believe that human activity is causing global warming.**
- 13% of congressional Republicans say they believe that human activity is causing global warming — dropped by 10 points since April 2006.
- 88% of congressional Democrats and 19% of congressional Republicans would support mandatory limits on carbon dioxide emissions.
- 83% of congressional Democrats and 42% of congressional Republicans would support a cap-and-trade carbon dioxide emissions-reduction program.
- 50% of congressional Democrats and 3% of congressional Republicans would support a carbon tax.

### **FOX News/Opinion Dynamics Corp.**

[http://www.foxnews.com/projects/pdf/020207\\_global\\_warming\\_web.pdf](http://www.foxnews.com/projects/pdf/020207_global_warming_web.pdf)

February 2, 2007 Sample: 900 registered voters nationwide

- **82% believe global warming exists – an increase of five points since 2005.**
- 47% feel they understand the issue of global warming “somewhat well” and 32% “very well”.
- 41% of those who believe that global warming exists think that it is caused by people’s behavior while 38% believe it is caused by both people’s behavior and normal climate patterns.

### **CNN/Opinion Research Corp.**

<http://www.pollingreport.com/enviro.htm>

January 21, 2007 Sample: approx. 500 adults nationwide

- **57% say global warming is a proven fact.**
- 38% say global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven.
- 75% think the government should put new restrictions on emissions from cars and industrial facilities such as power plants and factories in an attempt to reduce the effects of global warming.

### **CBS News**

[http://www.cbsnews.com/htdocs/pdf/012207\\_bush\\_poll.pdf](http://www.cbsnews.com/htdocs/pdf/012207_bush_poll.pdf)

January 21, 2007 Sample: 1168 adults nationwide

- **70% think global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now.**

### **NBC News/Wall Street Journal**

<http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/poll-01-22-07.pdf>

January 20, 2007 Sample: 1007 adults nationwide

- **34% think that global climate change has been established as a serious problem and immediate action should be taken – up five points since 2006.**
- 30% think that some action should be taken while 25% say that we don’t know enough about climate change and that more research is necessary before we take any actions.

### **Mellman Group**

<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/information/nhpollresults.pdf>

December 2006 Sample: 400 Democratic and 400 Republican primary election voters in New Hampshire.

- **94% of Democratic and 70% of Republican primary voters see global warming as a serious threat.**
- 84% of Democratic and 56% of Republican primary voters think global warming is happening now.
- 80% of Democratic and 52% of Republican primary voters think global warming is mainly the result of human pollution.
- 86% of Democratic and 75% of Republican primary voters favor taking action to reduce greenhouse gases emissions.
- 96% of Democratic and 82% of Republican primary voters think it is important to take action now to reduce global warming emissions.

## Rasmussen Reports

<http://www.rasmussenreports.com/Political%20Tracking/Dailies/GlobalWarming.htm>

December 19, 2006 Sample: 1000 likely voters

- **46% believe that global warming is caused primarily by human activities.**
- 45% say it is the result of long-term planetary trends.
- 47% of those who see human activity as the cause of global warming are more likely to see a conflict between environmental protection and economic growth.
- 53% say that environmental issues will be very important in terms of how they will vote in Election 2008.

## Zogby International Post-Election Survey

<http://www.zogby.com/templates/printnews.cfm?id=1194>

November 16, 2006 Sample: 19,356 adults nationwide

- **58% of voters agreed their elected officials should make combating global warming a high priority.**
- 75% of mid-term elections voters say Congress should pass legislation promoting renewable and alternative energy sources as an effective way to reduce global warming pollution.
- 58% of under-30 voters say a candidate's position on global warming was important to their vote.
- 62% of Hispanic voters say global warming was important in their voting.

## Leiserowitz, A., & Craciun, J. — Alaskan Opinions on Global Warming

<http://www.decisionresearch.org/pdf/AKGlobalWarmingReport.pdf>

October 31, 2006 Sample: 1016 adults in Alaska

- **81% of Alaskans are convinced that global warming is happening.**
- 43% of Alaskans are completely convinced and 38% are mostly convinced that global warming is happening.
- 71% of Alaskans think that global warming is a serious threat to people in Alaska.
- 76% of Alaskans think global warming is a serious threat to plants and animals.
- 83% of Alaskans believe global warming is already causing or accelerating the loss of sea ice.
- 76% of Alaskans believe global warming is already causing or accelerating forest fires.
- 81% of Alaskans favor having the federal government regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

## Public Policy Institute of California

[http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/documents/2006-07\\_PPIC.ORG\\_STATEWIDE\\_SURVEY.PDF](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/documents/2006-07_PPIC.ORG_STATEWIDE_SURVEY.PDF)

July 2006 Sample: 2501 adults in California

- **79% of Californians believe it is necessary to take steps right away to counter the effects of global warming.**
- 65% of Californians want the state to address global warming independently from the federal government – up 11 points from 2005.
- 49% say global warming is a very serious threat to the state's economy and quality of life.
- 63% of California residents believe the effects of global warming are already under way – a six point increase from 2005.
- 67% of Californians say that gasoline prices are causing them financial hardship.
- 81% support the government spending more money to develop alternative energy sources for automobiles.
- 61% of Californians say the federal government is not doing enough to protect the environment and 46% say the same about the state government.

## CBS News/New York Times

[http://www.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/politics/20060509\\_POLL\\_RESULTS.pdf](http://www.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/politics/20060509_POLL_RESULTS.pdf)

May 10, 2006 Sample: 1241 adults nationwide

- **41% have heard or read a lot about global warming – an increase of 14 points since 2003.**
- 66% of those who have heard/read a lot or some about global warming think it is causing a serious impact now – up seven points since 2003.

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*The Environmental and Energy Study Institute is a non-profit organization established in 1984 by a bipartisan, bicameral group of members of Congress to provide timely information on energy and environmental policy issues to policymakers and stakeholders and develop innovative policy solutions that set us on a cleaner, more secure and sustainable energy path.*