



# Climate Change: The Elephant in the Room

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# Climate Change Anniversaries

It's not just the Oil Embargo's Anniversary!

- **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (soon) of the first **First World Climate Conference**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> major global climate change conference (Feb 1979)
- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the **U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting Nov 1988, endorsed by Gen Assembly in Dec
- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the ***Global Warming Prevention Act***
  - **First major Congressional bill** to address climate change (but did not pass)

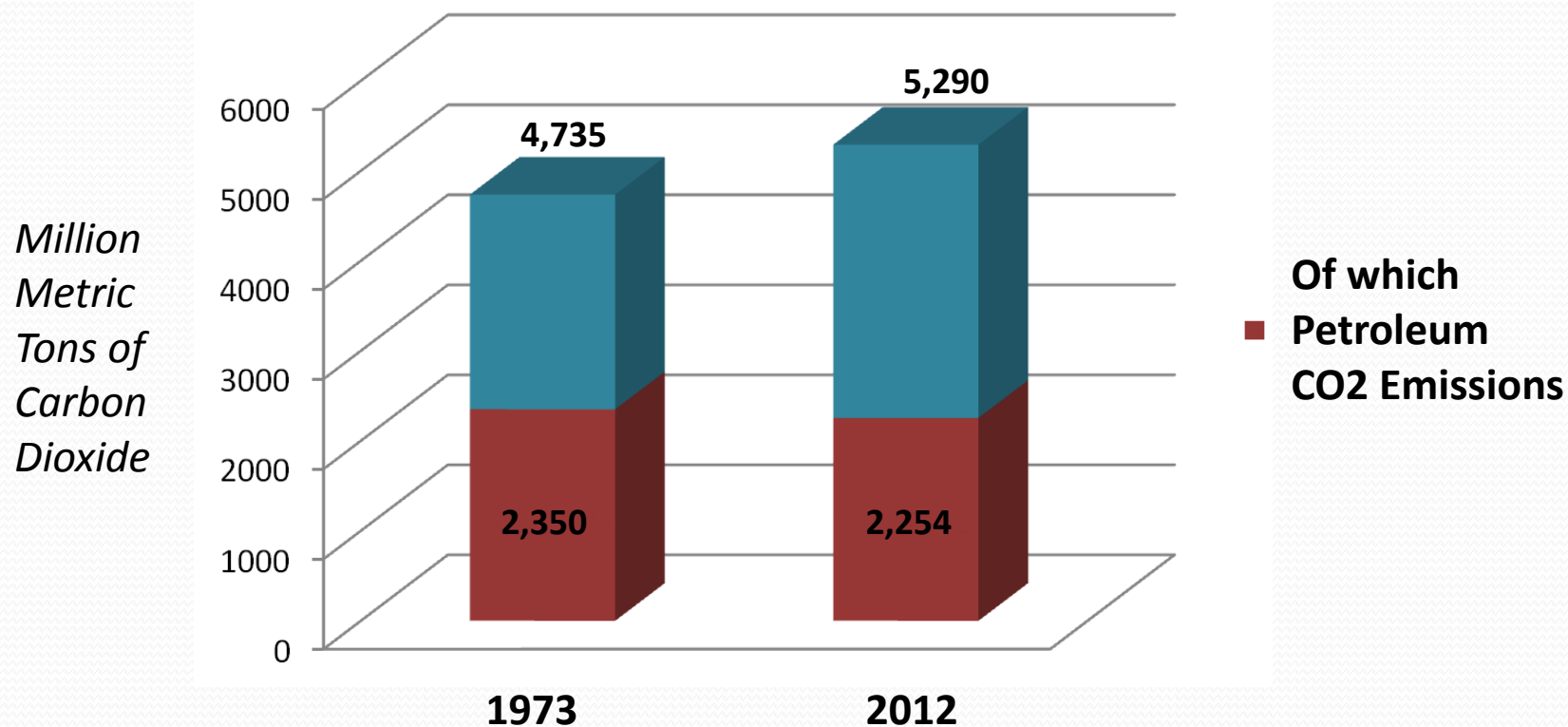
# Moving Away From Fossil Fuels: An Urgent Need

- Fossil fuels (oil and coal) are responsible for the **CO2 emissions** that are causing climate change
- Fossil fuels are also partly responsible for the **super-pollutants** (such as methane from natural gas production and black carbon from diesel vehicles) that are also heavy contributors to climate change (to the tune of 40%)
- IPCC: no more than **1 trillion metric tons of carbon** can be burned if we want to keep warming below 3.6 F

**We've already burned 0.5 trillion tons...**

# Oil Represents 42.6% of U.S. CO2 Emissions From Energy

**U.S. Carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumption**  
*(U.S. Energy Information Administration)*



# The Case For Action Is Clear

- **IPCC Report Assessing Climate Change Science**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Report released Sept 30
- 259 climate scientists from 39 different countries
- Input from thousands of government officials and experts
- Draws on 9,200 peer-reviewed studies and publications
- Representatives from 195 governments signed off.
- Operates by consensus, which leads to conservatism. YET:

=> **Warming of the climate is unequivocal**

=> **Extremely likely [95% confidence] that human influence dominant cause of observed warming**

# The Global Community Is Worried

- 194 Countries and the European Union have ratified the **U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change**
  - **George H.W. Bush signed the Convention for the U.S.**
  - The U.S. was the **first industrialized nation to ratify** the framework on October 15, 1992 (21<sup>st</sup> anniversary!)



# The Feds Are Worried

- "For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change" — President Obama
- U.S. Government Accountability Office: Climate Change Represents a "High Risk" for the U.S. government.
  - Climate Change made the *2013 High Risk Report* (1st time)
  - April 2013 report: Future Federal Adaptation Efforts Could Better Support Local Infrastructure Decision Makers
- National Climate Assessment expected early 2014
- Proposed Federal legislation:
  - *e.g. STRONG Act*—Senators Gillibrand and Wicker

# Cities Are Worried

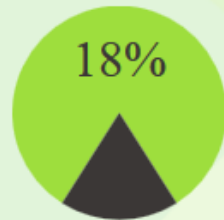
- Cities, which produce 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions, are taking the lead:
  - The **C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group** includes 58 of the world's largest cities, chaired by Mike Bloomberg
  - The **U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement** includes 1,060 mayors
  - **Resilient Communities for America (RC4A)** includes 91 top mayors and county leaders



# C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group



58  
affiliated cities



of the global GDP



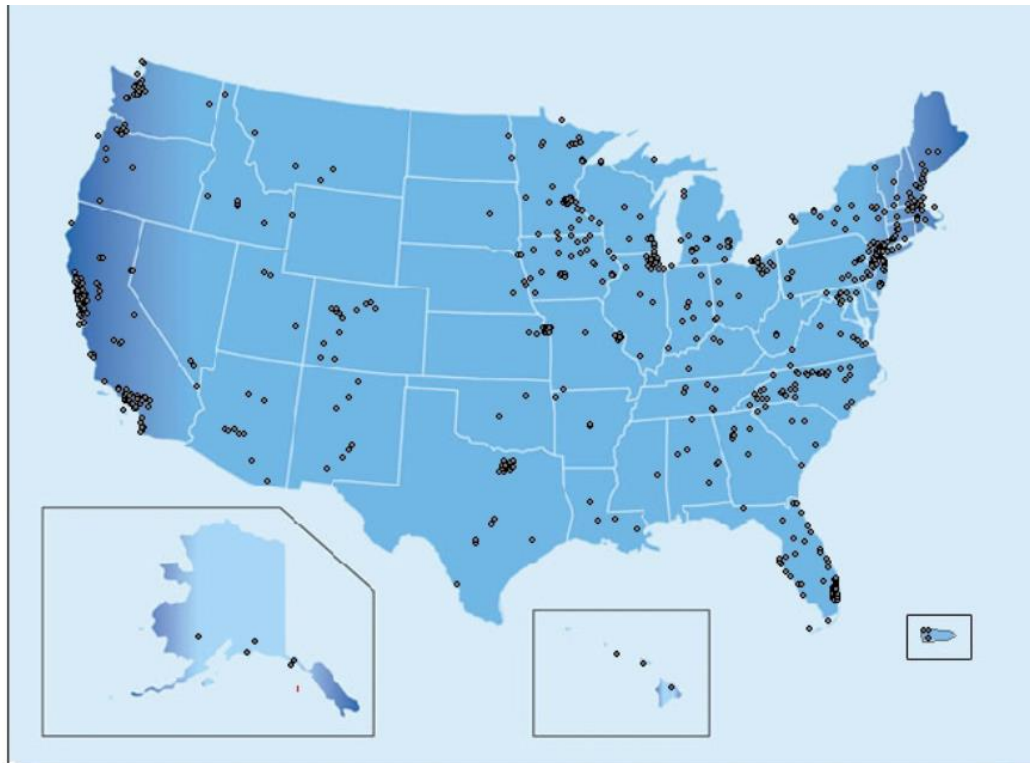
1 in 12  
people worldwide

4,734

COLLECTIVE  
ACTIONS to  
combat climate  
change

# U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

**1,060 cities have signed on  
Representing 3 out of 10 Americans**



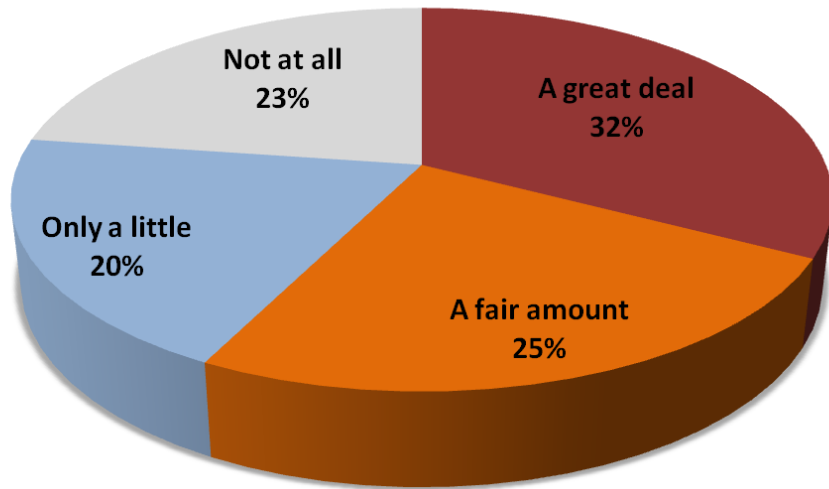
# Business & Academia Are Worried

- 650+ companies support the **Climate Declaration** (BICEP / CERES)
  - *Tackling climate change is one of America's greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century (and it's simply the right thing to do)*
  - Iconic brands such as GM, Microsoft, Nike, Unilever....
- The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)
  - Commit to eliminate net GHG emissions from specified campus operations; promote research & educational efforts on climate change
  - 674 signatories to date
  - 517 submitted Climate Action Plans

# The Public Is Worried

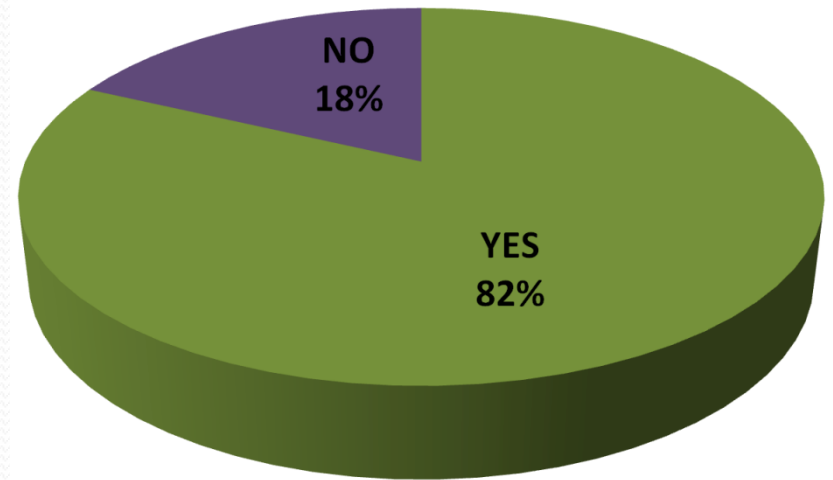
**How much do you personally worry about global warming?**

*(Gallup poll, April 2013)*



**People and organizations should prepare for the damage likely to be caused by sea level rise and storms**

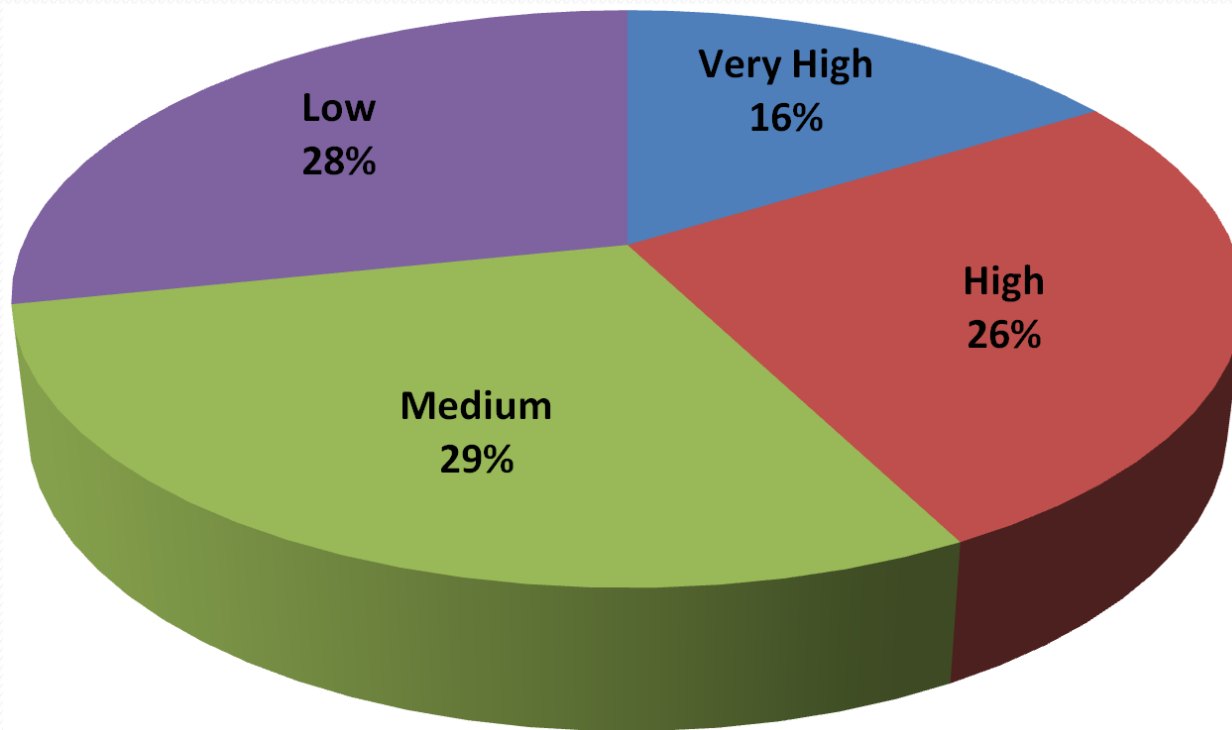
*(Stanford Woods Institute, March 2013)*



# The Public Wants Action

**What kind of priority should global warming  
be for the president and Congress?**

*(Yale Project on Climate Change Communication, April 2013)*



# The Administration Is Acting

- National Climate Plan
- New fuel efficiency and emissions standards for cars and light trucks (corporate average fuel economy (CAFE)):
  - Will double to 54.5 miles per gallon (MPG) by 2025.
  - Expected to save 163-170 billion gallons of fuel and generate over \$450 billion in net economic benefits.
- Draft Rules for limiting carbon pollution from new power plants (should be definitively issued by fall 2014):
  - Power plants represent 40% of energy-related emissions of greenhouse gases (2012)
- R,D&D investments for biofuels, electric drive, and transit
- Tax incentives and Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)

# Moving Away From Fossil Fuels: A No Brainer

