



FACT SHEET

Recent Polling on Public Perceptions of Climate Change

July 2008

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll: June 26-29, 2008; sampled 1026 adults nationwide

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

- **49% feel that the protection of the environment should be given priority even at the risk of curbing economic growth.**

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll: June 4-5, 2008; sampled 1035 adults nationwide

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

- **54% believe that global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by emissions from cars and industrial facilities such as power plants and factories.**
- **52% would favor a plan to reduce global warming where the government sets up a cap and trade system for polluting industries.**

Yale University/University of Miami/National Science Foundation, Decision Research, Inc./Center for Research on Environmental Decisions: May 2008; sampled 1077 Floridians

http://209.85.215.104/search?q=cache:IIIHJeXhK_cJ:environment.yale.edu/uploads/FloridaGlobalWarmingOpinion.pdf+yale+climate+poll&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=us&client=firefox-a

- **80% of Floridians interviewed believe that during the next 50 years, global warming will cause worse storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts and water shortages.**
- **69% believe it is somewhat or very likely that parts of the Florida coast will need to be abandoned due to rising sea levels over the next 50 years.**
- **66% say that their state legislators should be doing more to address global warming.**
- **30% believe global warming is already having dangerous impacts on people in Florida now.**

The Harris Poll: April 15, 2008; sampled 2529 adults nationwide

http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=898

- **67% believe humans are contributing to an increase in global temperatures and 40% say the human contribution is substantial.**
- **30% believe global warming will present a threat to them and their families within their lifetime.**

Gallup Poll: March 6-9, 2008; sampled 1012 adults nationwide

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

- 80% feel they understand the problem of global warming very well or fairly well.
- 66% worry a great deal or a fair amount about global warming or the “greenhouse effect.”
- 61% feel that the effects of global warming are already occurring.
- 40% feel that global warming will pose a serious threat to them or their way of life in their lifetime.
- 34 % believe that life on earth will continue without major environmental disruptions only if we take additional, immediate, and drastic action concerning the environment.

CBS News/New York Times: December 11, 2007; sampled 1133 adults

http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/politics/20071211_POLL.pdf

- **55% think global warming is a serious environmental problem and that it is having a serious impact now.**

The Harris Poll: November 7, 2007; sampled 1052 adults nationwide

http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=828

- **81% think that as the world’s leading industrial country, the United States needs to take the lead when it comes to controlling greenhouse gases and pollution.**
- 87% think that since emerging countries such as India and China will soon pass the United States as the largest contributor of greenhouse gases, what ever is done to control these gases should be undertaken by almost all industrial countries.
- 71% believe that increased carbon dioxide and other gases will, if unchecked, lead to global warming and increased temperatures.
- 53% think there is too little government regulation and involvement in the area of environmental protection.

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll: October 20, 2007; sampled 1212 adults nationwide

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/20/warming.poll/index.html>

- **66% believe the United States should do what it can to reduce global warming even if other nations ignore it – compared to 52% in 2001.**
- 16% believe the United States needs to reduce harmful gases only if other nations did – compared to 34% in 2001.
- 56% think global warming has been proven and can be largely blamed on human endeavors, such as power plants and factories.

Yale University/Gallup/ClearVision Institute: October 1, 2007; sampled 1011 adults

<http://www.yale.edu/opa/newsr/07-10-01-03.all.html>

- **68% support a new international treaty requiring the United States to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide 90 percent by the year 2050.**
- 62% believe that life on earth will continue without major disruptions only if society takes immediate and drastic action to reduce global warming.
- 85% support requiring automakers to increase the fuel efficiency of cars, trucks and SUVs to 35 miles per gallon, even if it meant a new car would cost up to \$500 more.
- 82% support requiring electric utilities to produce at least 20 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources, even if it cost the average household an extra \$100 a year.
- 40% say a presidential candidate's position on global warming will be either extremely important or very important when casting their ballots.

Associated Press/Stanford University: September 25, 2007; sampled 1001 adults nationwide

http://woods.stanford.edu/docs/surveys/GW_200709_AP_survey.pdf

- **84% believe that the world's temperature has been going up slowly over the past 100 years.**
- 42% would rate the condition of the natural environment in the world today as "poor" or "very poor."
- 52% think the world's natural environment will be in worse shape 10 years from now.
- 59% think it will be a very serious problem if nothing is done to reduce global warming in the future.
- 84% want a great deal done to help the environment during the next year, by President Bush, the U.S. Congress, American businesses, and/or the American public.

BBC World Service: September 24, 2007; sampled 22,182 adults in 21 countries

http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/sep07/BBCClimate_Sep07_rpt.pdf

- **90% say that action is necessary to address global warming. Among those, 65% say it is necessary to take major steps starting very soon.**
- 79% say that human activity, including industry and transportation, is a significant cause of climate change.
- 73% support an agreement in which developing countries would limit their emissions in return for financial assistance and technology from developed countries. Support in the United States was 70%.

Public Policy Institute of California: July 2007; sampled 2003 adult California residents

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S_707MBS.pdf

- **84% of Californians interviewed support the 2002 state law requiring automakers to cut emissions in new cars sold in the state.**
- 78% support the state law (AB 32) that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.
- 66% believe the effects of global warming have already begun.
- 54% see global warming as a very serious threat to the economy and quality of life for California's future.
- 84% favor spending more government money to develop renewable energy such as solar, geothermal, and wind power.
- 78% favor spending more government money to develop alternative fuel sources, such as biofuels and ethanol, for automobiles.

Transatlantic Trends: September 6, 2007; sampled 13,000 adults in 13 countries (Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.)

http://www.transatlantictrends.org/trends/doc/Transatlantic%20Trends_all_0920.pdf

- **70% of Americans feel they are likely to feel the effects of global warming in the next 10 years – compared to 85% of Europeans.**
- 54% of Americans support reducing energy dependence on other countries even if prices rose sharply at home to ensure a stable energy supply – compared to 38% of Europeans.
- 24% of Americans supported increasing cooperation with energy-producing countries even if their governments were undemocratic to ensure a stable energy supply – compared to 31% of Europeans.

Newsweek: August 2, 2007; sampled 1002 adults nationwide

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

- **38% think global warming is the most important environmental problem facing the world today – compared to 12% in 2000.**
- 52% think that there is agreement among most climate scientists that the earth has been warming in recent years.
- 46% believe climate change is already happening because of global warming.
- 42% think the economic costs to the country to address climate change would be high but worth the sacrifice.

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll: May 9, 2007; sampled 1028 adults nationwide

<http://i.a.cnn.net/cnn/2007/images/06/15/may.poll.pdf>

- **54% believe global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by emissions from cars and industrial facilities such as power plants and factories.**

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This is an updated version of a factsheet published on May 4, 2007. Polling information from April 2006 through April 2007 can be accessed at: http://eesi.org/briefings/2007/energy_climate/5-4-07_Climate_polling/Climate%20Polling%20Fact%20Sheet_5.4.07.pdf

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