



George Mason University
Center for Climate Change Communication

Climate Change in the American Mind: Public Support for Climate & Energy Policies in January 2010

Interview dates: December 24, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Interviews: 1,001 Adults (18+)

Margin of error: +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Totals may occasionally sum to more than 100 percent due to rounding.

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<http://environment.yale.edu/uploads/PolicySupportJan2010.pdf>

Q154¹. Do you think global warming should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

	2010*	2008+
Very high	13	21
High	25	33
Medium	31	30
Low	31	17

* 2010 Question wording = Do you think global warming should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

+ 2008 Question wording = Here are some issues now being discussed in Washington, D.C. Do you think each of these issues should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the next president and Congress?

Q155. Do you think that developing sources of clean energy should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

	2010	2008
Very high	24	-
High	36	-
Medium	29	-
Low	11	-

(Questions 156-161 to be released separately.)

Q162-168. Do you think each of the following should be doing more or less to address global warming?

Your local government officials

	2010	2008
Much more	12	13
More	34	45
Currently doing the right amount	35	29
Less	8	7
Much less	10	6

Your state legislators

	2010	2008
Much more	14	16
More	36	47
Currently doing the right amount	30	25
Less	10	6
Much less	10	6

¹ Items are listed in the order they were asked despite occasional non-sequential item numbers.

Your governor

	2010	2008
Much more	15	16
More	34	46
Currently doing the right amount	30	26
Less	10	6
Much less	11	6

The U.S. Congress

	2010	2008
Much more	19	26
More	35	41
Currently doing the right amount	23	20
Less	10	6
Much less	15	7

The President

	2010*	2008+
Much more	17	28
More	33	38
Currently doing the right amount	26	21
Less	9	6
Much less	15	7

*President Barack Obama

+President George W. Bush

Corporations and industry

	2010	2008
Much more	33	41
More	31	32
Currently doing the right amount	21	17
Less	7	5
Much less	9	6

Citizens themselves

	2010	2008
Much more	27	30
More	36	42
Currently doing the right amount	23	20
Less	7	4
Much less	8	5

Q169. People disagree whether the United States should reduce greenhouse gas emissions on its own, or make reductions only if other countries do too. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view? The United States should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions...

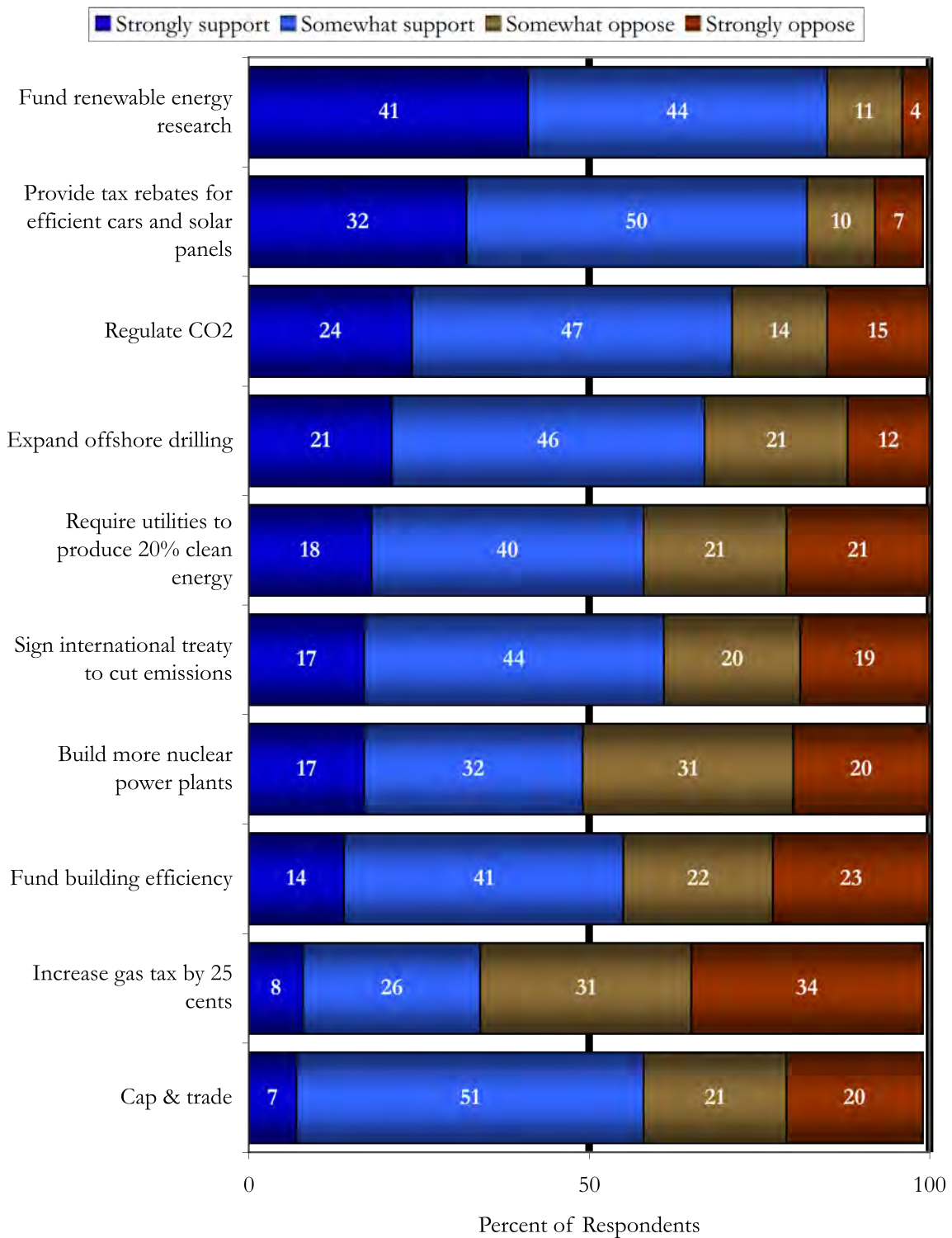
	2010	2008
Regardless of what other countries do	57	67
Only if other industrialized countries (such as England, Germany and Japan) reduce their emissions	3	2
Only if other industrialized countries and developing countries (such as China, India and Brazil) reduce their emissions	7	7
The US should not reduce its emissions	7	4
Don't know	25	19

Q170. How big of an effort should the United States make to reduce global warming?

	2010	2008
A large-scale effort, even if it has large economic costs	26	34
A medium-scale effort, even if it has moderate economic costs	36	40
A small-scale effort, even if it has small economic costs	21	17
No effort	18	9

Specific Policies

For specific questions, see the tables below this chart.



Q171. How much do you support or oppose establishing a special fund to help make buildings more energy efficient and teach Americans how to reduce their energy use? This would add a \$2.50 surcharge to the average household's monthly electric bill.

	2010	2008
Strongly support	14	19
Somewhat support	41	43
Somewhat oppose	22	21
Strongly oppose	23	16

Q172. How much do you support or oppose regulating carbon dioxide (the primary greenhouse gas) as a pollutant?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	24	30
Somewhat support	47	50
Somewhat oppose	14	13
Strongly oppose	15	7

Q173. How much do you support or oppose requiring electric utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity from wind, solar, or other renewable energy sources, even if it cost the average household an extra \$100 a year?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	18	31
Somewhat support	40	41
Somewhat oppose	21	17
Strongly oppose	21	11

Q174. How much do you support or oppose signing an international treaty that requires the United States to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide 90% by the year 2050?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	17	24
Somewhat support	44	44
Somewhat oppose	20	19
Strongly oppose	19	13

Q175. How much do you support or oppose providing financial aid and technical support to developing countries that agree to limit their greenhouse gas emissions?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	12	-
Somewhat support	37	-
Somewhat oppose	28	-
Strongly oppose	24	-

Q176. How much do you support or oppose providing financial aid and technical support to developing countries to help them prepare for the impacts of global warming?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	8	-
Somewhat support	35	-
Somewhat oppose	30	-
Strongly oppose	27	-

Q177. How much do you support or oppose expanding offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	21	37
Somewhat support	46	38
Somewhat oppose	21	14
Strongly oppose	12	11

Q178. How much do you support or oppose building more nuclear power plants?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	17	23
Somewhat support	32	38
Somewhat oppose	31	24
Strongly oppose	20	15

Q179. How much do you support or oppose funding more research into renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	41	54
Somewhat support	44	38
Somewhat oppose	11	6
Strongly oppose	4	2

Q180. How much do you support or oppose providing tax rebates for people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	32	38
Somewhat support	50	47
Somewhat oppose	10	11
Strongly oppose	7	4

Q181. How much do you support or oppose increasing taxes on gasoline by 25 cents per gallon and returning the revenues to taxpayers by reducing the federal income tax?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	8	9
Somewhat support	26	24
Somewhat oppose	31	30
Strongly oppose	34	37

Q182. How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called “cap and trade” that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard...

	2010	2008
A lot	12	-
A little	28	-
Nothing at all	60	-

Q186. In the proposed cap and trade system, the government would set an overall limit on global warming pollution (the cap), and the free market would figure out the best way to stay within the limit (through the trading of permits among companies that emit global warming pollution). How much would you support or oppose this system?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	7	-
Somewhat support	51	-
Somewhat oppose	21	-
Strongly oppose	20	-

Q187. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if it significantly reduced global warming pollution, but raised your household energy costs by 15 dollars a month?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	10	-
Somewhat support	30	-
Somewhat oppose	29	-
Strongly oppose	32	-

Q188. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if it significantly reduced global warming pollution, but raised your household energy costs by 50 cents a day?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	9	-
Somewhat support	34	-
Somewhat oppose	28	-
Strongly oppose	30	-

Q189. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if every American household received a yearly [rebate/bonus] of \$180 to offset their higher energy costs?

Rebate

	2010	2008
Strongly support	16	-
Somewhat support	46	-
Somewhat oppose	15	-
Strongly oppose	23	-

Bonus

	2010	2008
Strongly support	20	-
Somewhat support	46	-
Somewhat oppose	14	-
Strongly oppose	20	-

Q193. If your household received an annual energy [rebate/bonus] of \$180 from a cap and trade system, how likely is it that you would spend this money on energy efficiency improvements in your home?

Rebate

	2010	2008
Very likely	12	-
Somewhat likely	44	-
Somewhat unlikely	21	-
Very unlikely	23	-

Bonus

	2010	2008
Very likely	14	-
Somewhat likely	45	-
Somewhat unlikely	22	-
Very unlikely	19	-

Q194. If the government offered to double your annual [rebate/bonus] to \$360 if you spent it all on energy efficiency improvements, how likely would you be to accept that offer?

Rebate

	2010	2008
Very likely	26	-
Somewhat likely	42	-
Somewhat unlikely	13	-
Very unlikely	19	-

Bonus

	2010	2008
Very likely	33	-
Somewhat likely	38	-
Somewhat unlikely	13	-
Very unlikely	15	-

Q192. A cap and trade system will likely cause some job losses, for example in coal mining, but is expected to create jobs in industries like wind and solar power. Overall, do you think that the cap and trade bill will:

	2010	2008
Create more jobs than are lost	22	-
Lose more jobs than are created	24	-
Create and lose an equal number of jobs	15	-
Don't know	39	-

Q190. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if some of the revenues were used to help build more nuclear power plants in the United States?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	9	-
Somewhat support	35	-
Somewhat oppose	33	-
Strongly oppose	24	-

Q191. How much would you support building a nuclear power plant in your local area?

	2010	2008
Strongly support	14	-
Somewhat support	27	-
Somewhat oppose	25	-
Strongly oppose	34	-

(Questions 192-238 to be released separately.)

Q239. Schools should teach our children about the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to global warming.

	2010	2008
Strongly agree	27	-
Somewhat agree	43	-
Somewhat disagree	14	-
Strongly disagree	16	-

Q240. Our government should establish programs to teach Americans about global warming.

	2010	2008
Strongly agree	18	-
Somewhat agree	42	-
Somewhat disagree	19	-
Strongly disagree	21	-

Q241. Our government should establish programs to help Americans reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.

	2010	2008
Strongly agree	15	-
Somewhat agree	50	-
Somewhat disagree	18	-
Strongly disagree	17	-

Q242. Our government should establish programs to teach Americans how to save energy.

	2010	2008
Strongly agree	20	-
Somewhat agree	52	-
Somewhat disagree	17	-
Strongly disagree	11	-

Q243. Overall, do you think that protecting the environment...

	2010	2008
Improves economic growth and provides new jobs	67	-
Reduces economic growth and costs jobs	33	-

Q244. When there is a conflict between environmental protection and economic growth, which do you think is more important?

	2010	2008
Protecting the environment, even if it reduces economic growth	63	-
Economic growth, even if it leads to environmental problems	37	-

Policy Preferences by Political Party

Registered Voters: Political Party

Q254. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...

	Percent	Sample size
Democrat	34	277
Independent	25	199
Republican	29	233
Other ²	3	25
No party/not interested in politics ³	9	74
Total	100	815

Registered Voters: Policy Preferences

Q154. Do you think global warming should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Very high	14	20	19	5	1
High	26	40	24	12	23
Medium	29	35	21	31	29
Low	32	6	38	52	47

Q155. Do you think that developing sources of clean energy should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Very high	24	35	27	11	9
High	37	47	30	31	39
Medium	28	17	29	44	21
Low	11	1	14	14	31

Q171. How much do you support or oppose establishing a special fund to help make buildings more energy efficient and teach Americans how to reduce their energy use? This would add a \$2.50 surcharge to the average household's monthly electric bill.

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	15	21	20	7	2
Somewhat support	40	51	35	30	40
Somewhat oppose	22	19	23	25	28
Strongly oppose	24	9	23	39	31

² "Other" responses are not reported below due to their small sample size.

³ Labeled "N/P" below.

Q172. How much do you support or oppose regulating carbon dioxide (the primary greenhouse gas) as a pollutant?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	25	34	29	14	15
Somewhat support	48	58	37	47	49
Somewhat oppose	11	7	13	14	13
Strongly oppose	16	2	21	25	24

Q173. How much do you support or oppose requiring electric utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity from wind, solar, or other renewable energy sources, even if it cost the average household an extra \$100 a year?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	18	23	25	10	3
Somewhat support	39	46	31	34	54
Somewhat oppose	21	20	24	24	10
Strongly oppose	22	11	20	32	33

Q174. How much do you support or oppose signing an international treaty that requires the United States to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide 90% by the year 2050?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	17	25	22	7	3
Somewhat support	42	55	34	35	43
Somewhat oppose	20	17	16	26	28
Strongly oppose	21	3	28	33	25

Q175. How much do you support or oppose providing financial aid and technical support to developing countries that agree to limit their greenhouse gas emissions?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	12	19	15	6	0
Somewhat support	36	51	29	26	40
Somewhat oppose	26	24	25	28	27
Strongly oppose	27	7	32	41	33

Q176. How much do you support or oppose providing financial aid and technical support to developing countries to help them prepare for the impacts of global warming?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	8	16	9	1	0
Somewhat support	33	51	26	20	32
Somewhat oppose	29	24	28	34	34
Strongly oppose	30	10	37	45	34

Q177. How much do you support or oppose expanding offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	23	9	24	37	16
Somewhat support	45	51	36	47	50
Somewhat oppose	20	21	27	12	27
Strongly oppose	12	19	14	5	7

Q178. How much do you support or oppose building more nuclear power plants?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	19	8	25	26	13
Somewhat support	31	36	27	31	27
Somewhat oppose	30	33	24	29	47
Strongly oppose	20	23	25	14	13

Q179. How much do you support or oppose funding more research into renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	44	49	55	31	27
Somewhat support	45	46	32	57	42
Somewhat oppose	8	4	8	9	20
Strongly oppose	4	1	6	4	11

Q180. How much do you support or oppose providing tax rebates for people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	34	40	39	27	20
Somewhat support	50	57	40	53	44
Somewhat oppose	10	3	14	10	23
Strongly oppose	7	1	7	10	14

Q181. How much do you support or oppose increasing taxes on gasoline by 25 cents per gallon and returning the revenues to taxpayers by reducing the federal income tax?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	8	12	12	3	3
Somewhat support	25	34	19	22	22
Somewhat oppose	31	29	34	27	46
Strongly oppose	36	26	35	47	29

Q182. How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called “cap and trade” that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard...

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
A lot	14	4	25	14	5
A little	31	37	34	28	16
Nothing at all	56	59	41	58	78

Q186. In the proposed cap and trade system, the government would set an overall limit on global warming pollution (the cap), and the free market would figure out the best way to stay within the limit (through the trading of permits among companies that emit global warming pollution). How much would you support or oppose this system?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	8	11	9	4	3
Somewhat support	50	67	47	39	32
Somewhat oppose	21	16	15	28	38
Strongly oppose	21	6	29	29	27

Q187. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if it significantly reduced global warming pollution, but raised your household energy costs by 15 dollars a month?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	10	15	14	1	3
Somewhat support	28	37	28	17	22
Somewhat oppose	30	30	27	37	25
Strongly oppose	32	18	30	46	50

Q188. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if it significantly reduced global warming pollution, but raised your household energy costs by 50 cents a day?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	9	12	14	3	5
Somewhat support	32	50	27	25	11
Somewhat oppose	28	26	17	29	47
Strongly oppose	32	12	42	43	37

Note: A split sample (n = 402 for rebate and n = 412 for bonus) was used for questions 189, 193 & 194

Q189⁴. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if every American household received a yearly [rebate/bonus] of \$180 to offset their higher energy costs?

Rebate

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly support	18	27	17	8
Somewhat support	44	50	32	40
Somewhat oppose	15	13	16	17
Strongly oppose	24	10	35	35

Bonus

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly support	21	26	30	9
Somewhat support	46	58	38	52
Somewhat oppose	13	11	13	14
Strongly oppose	21	5	20	25

Q193. If your household received an annual energy [rebate/bonus] of \$180 from a cap and trade system, how likely is it that you would spend this money on energy efficiency improvements in your home?

Rebate

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very likely	13	19	13	9
Somewhat likely	44	54	32	40
Somewhat unlikely	20	16	16	18
Very unlikely	23	11	39	32

Bonus

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very likely	13	13	16	10
Somewhat likely	44	52	49	41
Somewhat unlikely	22	29	18	16
Very unlikely	21	5	17	33

⁴ “N/P” responses are not reported for questions 189, 193 & 194 due to their small sample size.

Q194. If the government offered to double your annual [rebate/bonus] to \$360 if you spent it all on energy efficiency improvements, how likely would you be to accept that offer?

Rebate

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very likely	28	33	30	19
Somewhat likely	41	47	31	44
Somewhat unlikely	12	9	13	8
Very unlikely	19	11	26	29

Bonus

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very likely	35	43	44	19
Somewhat likely	37	40	32	50
Somewhat unlikely	13	13	11	11
Very unlikely	16	5	14	21

Q192. A cap and trade system will likely cause some job losses, for example in coal mining, but is expected to create jobs in industries like wind and solar power. Overall, do you think that the cap and trade bill will:

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Create more jobs than are lost	24	33	28	16	7
Create and lose an equal number of jobs	16	14	16	20	13
Lose more jobs than are created	25	13	32	33	24
Don't know	35	40	25	32	56

Q190. How much would you support or oppose a cap and trade system if some of the revenues were used to help build more nuclear power plants in the United States?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	9	9	12	6	10
Somewhat support	35	40	32	36	28
Somewhat oppose	31	35	23	36	33
Strongly oppose	25	17	33	22	29

Q191. How much would you support building a nuclear power plant in your local area?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	15	9	18	15	23
Somewhat support	28	27	32	27	23
Somewhat oppose	23	28	17	25	21
Strongly oppose	35	37	34	33	34

Q243. Overall, do you think that protecting the environment:

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Improves economic growth and provides new jobs	68	86	64	55	49
Reduces economic growth and costs jobs	33	14	36	46	51

Q244. When there is a conflict between environmental protection and economic growth, which do you think is more important?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Protecting the environment, even if it reduces economic growth	62	77	59	45	75
Economic growth, even if it leads to environmental problems	38	23	41	55	25