

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

Interview dates: May 14, 2010 – June 1, 2010

Interviews: 1,024 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/climate/files/PolicySupportJune2010.pdf>

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

	June 2010*	Jan 2010*	Nov 2008+
Very high	17	13	21
High	27	25	33
Medium	33	31	30
Low	23	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?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Very high	34	24	-
High	37	36	-
Medium	23	29	-
Low	6	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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	14	12	13
More	36	34	45
Currently doing the right amount	36	35	29
Less	8	8	7
Much less	7	10	6

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

Your state legislators

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	15	14	16
More	36	36	47
Currently doing the right amount	33	30	25
Less	8	10	6
Much less	8	10	6

Your governor

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	16	15	16
More	35	34	46
Currently doing the right amount	33	30	26
Less	9	10	6
Much less	8	11	6

The U.S. Congress

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	19	19	26
More	35	35	41
Currently doing the right amount	26	23	20
Less	10	10	6
Much less	9	15	7

The President

	June 2010*	Jan 2010*	Nov 2008+
Much more	20	17	28
More	32	33	38
Currently doing the right amount	30	26	21
Less	9	9	6
Much less	10	15	7

*President Barack Obama

+President George W. Bush

Corporations and industry

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	38	33	41
More	28	31	32
Currently doing the right amount	22	21	17
Less	7	7	5
Much less	6	9	6

Citizens themselves

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	31	27	30
More	33	36	42
Currently doing the right amount	24	23	20
Less	7	7	5
Much less	5	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...

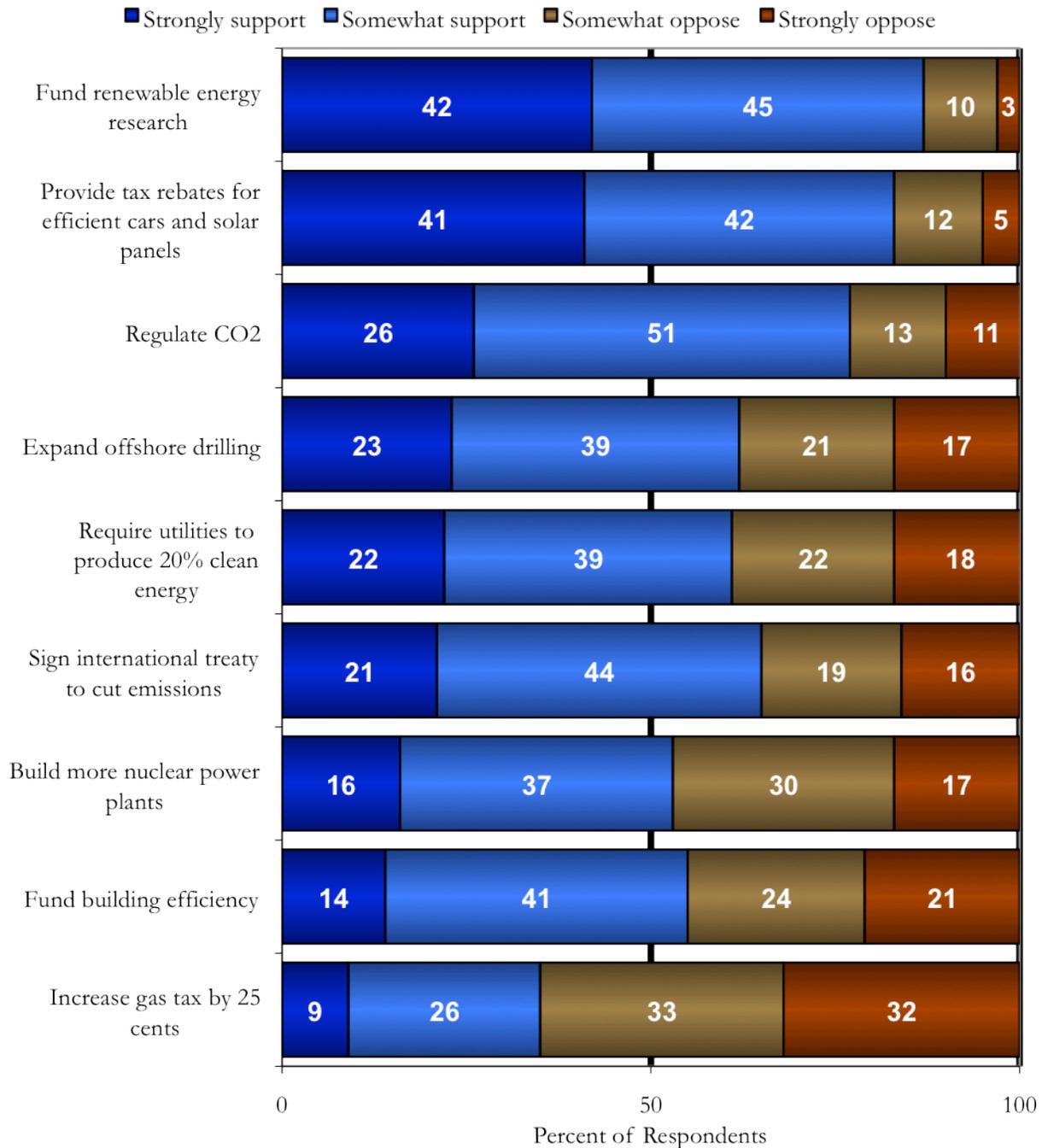
	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Regardless of what other countries do	65	57	67
Only if other industrialized countries (such as England, Germany and Japan) reduce their emissions	3	3	2
Only if other industrialized countries and developing countries (such as China, India and Brazil) reduce their emissions	8	7	7
The US should not reduce its emissions	5	7	4
Don't know	19	25	20

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A large-scale effort, even if it has large economic costs	28	26	34
A medium-scale effort, even if it has moderate economic costs	41	36	40
A small-scale effort, even if it has small economic costs	18	21	17
No effort	13	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.

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	14	14	20
Somewhat support	41	41	43
Somewhat oppose	24	22	21
Strongly oppose	21	23	16

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	26	24	30
Somewhat support	51	47	50
Somewhat oppose	13	14	13
Strongly oppose	11	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?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	22	18	31
Somewhat support	39	40	41
Somewhat oppose	22	21	17
Strongly oppose	18	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?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	21	17	25
Somewhat support	44	44	44
Somewhat oppose	19	20	19
Strongly oppose	16	19	13

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	23	21	37
Somewhat support	39	46	38
Somewhat oppose	21	21	14
Strongly oppose	17	12	11

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	16	17	23
Somewhat support	37	32	38
Somewhat oppose	30	31	24
Strongly oppose	17	20	15

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	42	41	53
Somewhat support	45	44	39
Somewhat oppose	10	11	6
Strongly oppose	3	4	2

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	41	32	38
Somewhat support	42	50	47
Somewhat oppose	12	10	11
Strongly oppose	5	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?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	9	8	9
Somewhat support	26	26	24
Somewhat oppose	33	31	30
Strongly oppose	32	34	37

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Improves economic growth and provides new jobs	56	-	-
Has no effect on economic growth or jobs	25	-	-
Reduces economic growth and costs jobs	18	-	-

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

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Protecting the environment, even if it reduces economic growth	65	63	-
Economic growth, even if it leads to environmental problems	35	37	-

Policy Preferences by Political Party

Registered Voters: Political Party

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

	Percent	Sample size
Democrat	42	354
Independent	24	202
Republican	25	209
Other ²	2	20
No party/not interested in politics ³	7	56
Total	100	841

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 ⁴	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Very High	17	24	14	7	18
High	28	41	18	18	25
Medium	31	31	36	28	30
Low	25	5	33	46	27

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	34	43	30	26	22
High	37	39	35	33	44
Medium	24	17	26	29	26
Low	6	1	9	11	7

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

³ Labeled "N/P" below.

⁴ National average of registered voters.

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	16	22	15	5	20
Somewhat support	39	48	33	34	33
Somewhat oppose	23	22	28	22	24
Strongly oppose	22	9	23	39	22

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	24	12	22
Somewhat support	51	57	39	52	60
Somewhat oppose	12	8	18	13	16
Strongly oppose	12	1	18	23	2

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	22	30	25	10	16
Somewhat support	38	41	30	36	54
Somewhat oppose	21	23	18	20	18
Strongly oppose	20	6	27	34	13

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	21	33	16	8	22
Somewhat support	43	49	38	36	55
Somewhat oppose	17	15	20	20	20
Strongly oppose	18	3	26	37	4

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	24	17	24	34	20
Somewhat support	39	32	37	51	52
Somewhat oppose	20	28	20	8	20
Strongly oppose	17	24	20	7	7

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

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	18	11	21	26	6
Somewhat support	38	32	44	42	38
Somewhat oppose	29	35	26	24	27
Strongly oppose	15	22	8	9	29

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	54	43	29	45
Somewhat support	44	37	46	52	43
Somewhat oppose	9	7	7	12	9
Strongly oppose	4	2	4	8	4

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	42	56	42	22	41
Somewhat support	42	32	44	54	48
Somewhat oppose	11	9	8	16	7
Strongly oppose	6	3	6	8	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?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	10	16	8	3	7
Somewhat support	27	28	26	27	25
Somewhat oppose	31	35	32	26	27
Strongly oppose	33	22	34	45	41

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

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Improves economic growth and provides new jobs	56	68	46	44	61
Has no effect on economic growth or jobs	24	22	26	26	29
Reduces economic growth and costs jobs	20	10	28	30	11

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	63	79	63	37	69
Economic growth, even if it leads to environmental problems	37	21	37	63	32

Methodology

These results come from nationally representative surveys of American adults, aged 18 and older. The samples were weighted to correspond with US Census Bureau parameters for the United States. The surveys were designed by Anthony Leiserowitz of Yale University and Edward Maibach and Connie Roser-Renouf of George Mason University and conducted by Knowledge Networks, using an online research panel of American adults.

- June 2010: Fielded May 14 through June 1 with 1,024 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- January 2010: Fielded December 24, 2009 through January 3, 2010 with 1,001 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- November 2008: Fielded October 7 through November 12 with 2,164 American adults. Data was collected in two waves: wave 1 from October 7 through October 20 and wave 2 from October 24 through November 12. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2 percent, with 95 percent confidence.