

**What do Americans think is the biggest threat from global warming?
Data tables**

Table 1. Percentage of respondents ($n = 1,037$) who mentioned the following themes in their answer to the open-ended question “What do you think is the greatest threat that global warming poses to the United States, if any?”

Theme	% Who Mentioned	Example Quotes
Weather extremes and changes	20%	<p>“Dangerous weather patterns causing wildfires and flooding”</p> <p>“Extreme weather that will devastate large areas and cause some places to become unlivable”</p> <p>“Extreme weather patterns, like too much or too little rain, very cold winters or very hot summers, wild fires etc”</p> <p>“Weather issues such as droughts, hurricanes & fires which will affect the lives & livelihoods of millions of Americans”</p> <p>“Extreme weather that causes human suffering”</p>
Global warming is not a threat	7%	<p>“I don’t think global warming is real”</p> <p>“Global warming is weather and we aren't going to change it. Period.”</p> <p>“Global warming is not man made!!”</p> <p>“Global warming is a political scheme”</p> <p>“World temperatures have always changed. Too much time and effort that could be put toward problems we can control.”</p> <p>“This is a natural event that has been going on since the beginning of time. No threat to anyone.”</p>
Pollution	6%	<p>“Carbon dioxide”</p> <p>“Vehicle emissions”</p> <p>“Gas emissions”</p> <p>“Fossil fuels”</p> <p>“Pollution of our air, land and water”</p> <p>“Waste disposal”</p> <p>“Plastic waste”</p>
Other	6%	<p>“There are too many extremely significant impacts to choose one”</p> <p>“Effects everything”</p> <p>“Impossible to answer”</p> <p>“The government”</p> <p>“People”</p> <p>“Humans”</p>
Don’t know	6%	<p>“Don’t know”</p> <p>“I don’t know enough to answer this”</p> <p>“Not sure”</p>

Environmental harms	5%	<p>“Deforestation”</p> <p>“Environmental degradation”</p> <p>“Icebergs melting”</p> <p>“Changing of the seasons are shifting, changing in a bad way, and causing issues with the eco system”</p> <p>“What we are doing to our oceans”</p> <p>“Loss of animal species, destruction of coastline and aquatic species”</p>
Food and water shortages	4%	<p>“Hotter and dryer temperatures ruining agriculture”</p> <p>“The destruction of prime agricultural land and lack of water resources”</p> <p>“Wide scale famine”</p> <p>“I think the most immediate threat is to agriculture and the food supply caused by disruptions in weather, producing droughts, floods”</p>
Action on global warming (responses opposing climate action)	4%	<p>“Throwing away money trying to prove that it exist. When we have bigger priorities.”</p> <p>“Artificially scaring people by exaggerating the effects of climate change”</p> <p>“Liberal activists causing problems for the rest of us”</p>
Economic and social changes	4%	<p>“Displacement of large portions of the population the economic collapse of the U.S.”</p> <p>“Property damage and destruction”</p> <p>“Social unrest and upheaval”</p> <p>“Destruction of infrastructure - compromised transportation, supply chain, energy, health care”</p> <p>“Higher energy costs in the summer months”</p> <p>“Mass migration which will overwhelm all pertinent systems and likely lead to anger and violence fueled by misplaced nationalism”</p>
Health harms	3%	<p>“What the pollution and weather changes are doing to people’s health”</p> <p>“Dramatically reducing the quality of life for the poor and disadvantaged”</p> <p>“Death from extreme conditions”</p> <p>“The well being of the people”</p>
Inaction on global warming	2%	<p>“People who don't believe it is happening”</p> <p>“Lack of action”</p> <p>“Donald Trump and the Republican party”</p> <p>“Ignoring it that it is happening and political agendas that promote fossil fuels”</p>
No response	38%	--

Table 2. Percentage of Democrats and Republicans who mentioned the following themes in their answer to the open-ended question “What do you think is the greatest threat that global warming poses to the United States, if any?”

Theme	Democrats	Republicans
<i>n</i>	444	414
Weather extremes and changes	30%	10%
Pollution	7%	5%
Environmental harms	6%	3%
Food and water shortages	6%	4%
Economic and social changes	6%	3%
Health harms	5%	1%
Inaction	5%	0%
Other	4%	6%
Don't know	4%	7%
Global warming is not a threat	0%	16%
Action (responses opposing climate action)	0%	9%
No response	35%	40%

Table 3. Percentage of Global Warming’s Six Americas who mentioned the following themes in their answer to the open-ended question “What do you think is the greatest threat that global warming poses to the United States, if any?”

Theme	Alarmed	Concerned	Cautious	Disengaged	Doubtful	Dismissive
<i>n</i>	247	315	176	44	126	126
Weather extremes and changes	37%	28%	11%	2%	4%	0%
Pollution	8%	8%	5%	0%	3%	2%
Health harms	7%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Food and water shortages	7%	5%	4%	0%	2%	0%
Environmental harms	6%	6%	7%	0%	3%	0%
Economic and social changes	6%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%
Other	5%	6%	4%	9%	6%	7%
Inaction	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Don't know	2%	4%	8%	11%	13%	1%
Global warming is not a threat	1%	0%	4%	0%	22%	34%
Action (responses opposing climate action)	0%	0%	5%	4%	10%	18%
No response	26%	37%	49%	73%	35%	37%