

Survey question wording and topline

2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
MARCH 27-APRIL 9, 2018
TOTAL N=2,541

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

LOCAL On another topic...

How much, if at all, is each of the following a problem in YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	Big problem in my <u>local community</u>	Small problem in my <u>local community</u>	Not a problem in my <u>local community</u>	No Answer
d. Air pollution				
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	23	44	32	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	19	44	36	1
e. Water pollution of lakes, rivers and streams				
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	28	47	24	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	23	43	33	1
f. Too much land development				
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	32	35	32	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	29	37	34	1

ASK ALL:

ENV1 Compared with twenty years ago, do you think the U.S. is producing...

Mar 27- Apr 9 <u>2018</u>		May 10- June 6 <u>2016</u>
76	More energy today	72
10	Less energy today	10
14	About the same amount of energy today	17
1	No Answer	1

ASK ALL:

ENV2 Do you favor or oppose EXPANDING each of the following sources of energy in our country? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
a. More offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters			
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	39	60	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	45	52	3

ENV2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
b. More nuclear power plants to generate electricity			
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	44	54	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	43	54	3
c. More coal mining			
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	37	61	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	41	57	3
d. More solar panel "farms"			
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	89	10	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	89	9	2
e. More hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called "fracking," for oil and natural gas			
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	39	58	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	42	53	5
f. More wind turbine "farms"			
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	85	13	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	83	14	3

NO ENVIR3**ASK ALL:**

ENVIR4 How would you rate each of the following priorities for America's energy policies?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Should be a top priority</u>	<u>Should be an important but lower priority</u>	<u>Should not be too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
a. Reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources					
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	69	24	5	1	1
b. Creating jobs within the energy sector					
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	58	33	8	1	1
c. Protecting the environment from the effects of energy development and use					
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	72	24	3	1	1
d. Keeping consumer energy prices low					
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	66	30	3	1	1

ENVIR4 CONTINUED...

e. Increasing reliance on renewable energy sources Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	71	24	4	1	1
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TREND FOR COMPARISON

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Right now, how would you rate each of the following priorities for America's energy policies? First, do you think **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? **[NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think [ITEM] should be a top priority for America's energy policies, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?**

	<i>Top priority</i>	<i>Important but lower priority</i>	<i>Not too important</i>	<i>Should not be done</i>	<i>DK/Ref. (VOL).</i>
a. Reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources May 3-7, 2017	48	32	10	6	4
b. Creating jobs within the energy sector May 3-7, 2017	49	36	7	3	5
c. Protecting the environment from the effects of energy development and use May 3-7, 2017	53	33	8	3	3
d. Keeping consumer energy prices low May 3-7, 2017	49	39	6	3	1
e. Increasing reliance on renewable energy sources May 3-7, 2017	52	32	9	3	4

NO ENVIR5**ASK ALL:**

ENVIR6 Which of these statements comes closest to your own view about the MOST EFFECTIVE WAY to increase reliance on renewable energy sources, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]

Mar 27- Apr 9 2018	56	Government regulations are necessary to encourage businesses and consumers to rely more on renewable energy sources
	42	The private marketplace will ensure that businesses and consumers rely more on renewable energy sources, even without government regulations
	1	No Answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Which of these statements come closest to your own view about the MOST EFFECTIVE WAY to increase reliance on renewable energy sources, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

May 3-7
2017

54	Government regulations are necessary to encourage businesses and consumers to rely more on renewable energy sources
38	The private marketplace will ensure that businesses and consumers rely more on renewable energy sources, even without government regulations
8	No answer

ASK ALL:

ENVIR7

Do you think it is possible or not possible to cut back on environmental regulations and still effectively protect air and water quality in the U.S.?

Mar 27-
Apr 9
2018

52	Yes, it is possible
48	No, it is NOT possible
1	No Answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Do you think it is possible to cut back on environmental regulations and still effectively protect air and water quality in the U.S. or do you think it's not possible to do this with fewer regulations?

May 3-7
2017

49	Yes, possible to cut back on environmental regulations and still effectively protect air and water quality
47	No, not possible to do this with fewer regulations
4	No answer

ASK ALL:

ENVIR8

How much do you think the federal government is doing to...

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>About the right amount</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
a. Protect air quality Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	8	64	27	1
b. Protect water quality of lakes, rivers and streams Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	6	69	24	1
c. Protect animals and their habitats Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	9	63	27	1
d. Protect open lands in national parks and nature preserves Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	8	57	34	1
e. Reduce the effects of global climate change Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	13	67	19	1

ASK FORM=1 [N=1,283]:

On the topic of climate change...

CLIM1A

Which of these three statements about the Earth's temperature comes closest to your view? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2; KEEP 3 AND NOT SURE LAST]**

<u>Mar 27- Apr 9 2018</u>		<u>May 10- June 6 2016</u>
47	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels	45
24	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment	26
13	There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer	14
14	Not sure	14
1	No Answer	1

ASK IF NOT SURE OR NO ANSWER (CLIM1A=8,99) [N=170]:

CLIM1B Even if you are not sure, which one of these three statements about the Earth's temperature comes closest to your view? [**SAME ORDER AS CLIM1A**]

Based on those who are not sure or did not answer CLIM1A:

Mar 27- Apr 9 <u>2018</u>		May 10- June 6 <u>2016</u>
35	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels	20
34	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment	29
25	There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer	41
6	No Answer	10

COMBINED RESPONSES CLIM1A AND CLIM1B [N=1,283]:

Mar 27- Apr 9 <u>2018</u>		May 10- June 6 <u>2016</u>
53	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels	48
29	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment	31
17	There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer	20
1	No Answer	2

ASK FORM=2 [N=1,258]:

On the topic of climate change...

CLIM2A From what you have heard or read, which of these three statements about the Earth's temperature comes closest to WHAT MOST CLIMATE SCIENTISTS SAY? [**RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2; KEEP 3 AND NOT SURE LAST**]

Mar 27- Apr 9 <u>2018</u>	
61	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels
14	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment
11	There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer
12	Not sure
1	No Answer

ASK IF NOT SURE OR NO ANSWER (CLIM2A=8,99) [N=144]:

CLIM2B Even if you are not sure, which one of these three statements about the Earth's temperature comes closest to WHAT MOST CLIMATE SCIENTISTS SAY? **[SAME ORDER AS CLIM2A]**

Based on those who are not sure or did not answer CLIM2A:

Mar 27-	
Apr 9	
<u>2018</u>	
35	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels
23	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment
36	There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer
6	No Answer

COMBINED RESPONSES CLIM2A AND CLIM2B [N=1,258]:

Mar 27-	
Apr 9	
<u>2018</u>	
66	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels
17	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment
16	There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer
1	No Answer

ASK ALL:

CLIM3 **[ASK IF SAY WARMING IS OCCURRING CLIM1A=1,2 OR CLIM1B=1,2 OR FORM=2]** From what you have heard or read, do you think it is...

[ASK GLOBAL WARMING IS NOT OCCURRING IF CLIM1A OR CLIM1B=3 OR NO ANSWER TO CLIM1B CLIM1B=99] From what you have heard or read, do you think it would be...⁹

Mar 27-	
Apr 9	
<u>2018</u>	
68	Possible to reduce the effects of global climate change
31	NOT possible to reduce the effects of global climate change
2	No Answer

⁹ Past Pew Research Center phone surveys have asked respondents if they think it is possible or not possible to reduce the effects of global warming instead of global climate change. In 2006 and 2008, this question was asked of all respondents, and in 2013, it was asked of a subset of respondents based on answers to two previous questions. Among those who said there is solid evidence the Earth is getting warmer, in [2013](#), 74% said it is possible to reduce the effects of global warming; in [2008](#), 74% said it is possible to reduce the effects of global warming; and in [2006](#), 67% said it is possible to reduce the effects of global warming. In this survey, among those who say the Earth is getting warmer, 72% say it is possible to reduce the effects of global climate change.

ASK ALL:

ENV21 How much do you, personally, care about the issue of global climate change?

Mar 27- Apr 9 <u>2018</u>		May 10- June 6 <u>2016</u>
44	A great deal	36
33	Some	38
15	Not too much	18
7	Not at all	8
1	No Answer	1

NO CLIM4**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CLIM5 AND CLIM6****ASK ALL:**

CLIM5 Do you think policies aimed at reducing the effects of global climate change generally...
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS CLIM6]

Mar 27- Apr 9 <u>2018</u>	
30	Help the U.S. economy
31	Hurt the U.S. economy
36	Make no difference for the U.S. economy
2	No Answer

ASK ALL:

CLIM6

Do you think policies aimed at reducing the effects of global climate change generally...
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS CLIM5]

Mar 27-
 Apr 9
2018
 49
 19
 30
 2

Do more GOOD than harm for the environment
 Do more HARM than good for the environment
 Make no difference for the environment
 No Answer

ASK ALL:

CLIM7

Do you think the following would make a difference or not in reducing the effects of
 global climate change? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**¹⁰

	<u>Make a difference</u>	<u>Not make a difference</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
a. Restrictions on power plant carbon emissions Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	79	20	1
b. Tougher fuel-efficiency standards for automobiles and trucks Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	71	27	1
c. Tax incentives to encourage businesses to reduce their carbon emissions Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	76	23	1
d. Tax incentives for people to drive hybrid and electric automobiles Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	61	38	1

¹⁰ Items A and B were used in a question in [a 2016 Pew Research Center survey](#). The 2016 Pew Research Center survey asked, "Thinking about the following proposals to address global climate change, how much difference, if any, do you think each can make? A big difference, a small difference, almost no difference."

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON CLIM7A-D=1 AND DISPLAY ONLY THOSE ITEMS [N=2,245]:

CLIM7BIG Which ONE of the following proposals do you think would make the BIGGEST DIFFERENCE in reducing the effects of global climate change? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS CLIM7]**

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: IF ONLY ONE ITEM CLIM7A-D=1, AUTO-PUNCH CLIM7BIG WITH THAT RESPONSE AND DO NOT DISPLAY]

Mar 27-
Apr 9
2018

34	Restrictions on power plant carbon emissions
23	Tougher fuel-efficiency standards for automobiles and trucks
32	Tax incentives to encourage businesses to reduce their carbon emissions
11	Tax incentives for people to drive hybrid and electric automobiles
1	No Answer

COMBINED RESPONSES CLIM7 AND CLIM7BIG

	Make a difference - Biggest <u>difference</u>	Make a difference - not biggest <u>not biggest</u>	Not make a difference <u>difference</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
Restrictions on power plant carbon emissions	29	49	20	1
Tougher fuel-efficiency standards for automobiles and trucks	20	52	27	1
Tax incentives to encourage businesses to reduce their carbon emissions	28	48	23	1
Tax incentives for people to drive hybrid and electric automobiles	10	52	38	1

ASK ALL:

CLIM8 One proposal to reduce the effects of global climate change would use solar geoengineering techniques – for example, spreading particles in the atmosphere to reflect sunlight and thereby lower the Earth’s temperature.

a. Do you think using these techniques would...

Mar 27-
Apr 9
2018

45	Make a difference in reducing the effects of global climate change
52	Not make a difference in reducing the effects of global climate change
3	No Answer

CLIM8 CONTINUED...

- b. Beyond the potential of these solar geoengineering techniques to reduce the effects of global climate change, overall, do you think using these techniques would...

[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

Mar 27-
Apr 9
2018
30
45
22
3

Do more GOOD than harm for the environment
Do more HARM than good for the environment
Make no difference for the environment
No Answer

ASK ALL:

CLIM9

How much, if at all, do you think global climate change is currently affecting...

		<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
a.	The United States Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	40	35	16	8	<1
b.	Your local community Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	22	37	25	15	<1

ASK IF LOCAL COMMUNITY AFFECTED A GREAT DEAL OR SOME (CLIM9b=1,2) [N=1,510]:

CLIM10 What is the MAIN way that global climate change is currently affecting your local community?

Based on those who say global climate change is currently affecting their local community a great deal or some

Mar 27– Apr 9

2017

45	Weather and temperature changes NET
18	<i>Changes in weather patterns and seasons</i>
15	<i>Temperature changes</i>
12	<i>Extreme/severe storms and weather</i>
5	<i>Droughts</i>
4	<i>Floods</i>
4	<i>Less snow and rain</i>
2	<i>Wild fires</i>
12	Damage to plants, animals and land NET
6	<i>Damage to plants and agriculture</i>
3	<i>Rising water level and erosion</i>
2	<i>Negative effects on rivers, streams and oceans</i>
2	<i>Negative effects on animals and animal behavior</i>
6	Effects on human health and infrastructure NET
2	<i>Causing health issues/allergies</i>
2	<i>Destructive to infrastructure and property</i>
1	<i>Negative effect on local economy</i>
1	<i>Shortages of resources and jobs</i>
3	Effects on energy consumption and renewable energy NET
2	<i>Increased energy use and cost</i>
1	<i>Energy (other)</i>
4	Air, water and land pollution
4	Things people see that contribute to climate change NET
3	<i>Specific actions causing pollution in their community</i>
1	<i>Too many people driving cars</i>
<1	<i>People continuing to pollute, not caring</i>
3	General negative effect
2	Other
1	Do not see effects in local community
33	Don't know/Refused

ASK IF LOCAL COMMUNITY AFFECTED A GREAT DEAL OR SOME (CLIM9b=1,2) [N=1,510]:

CLIM11 Would you say the effects of global climate change in your local community are impacting you, personally, or not?

Based on those who say their local community is affected a great deal or some

Mar 27–

Apr 9

2018

52	Yes, the effects are impacting me personally
47	No, the effects are NOT impacting me personally
2	No Answer

COMBINED RESPONSES CLIM9B AND CLIM11

Mar 27-
Apr 9
2018

59	Local community affected a great deal or some
31	Yes, the effects are impacting me personally
28	No, the effects are NOT impacting me personally
1	No Answer
40	Local community affected not too much or not at all
<1	No answer