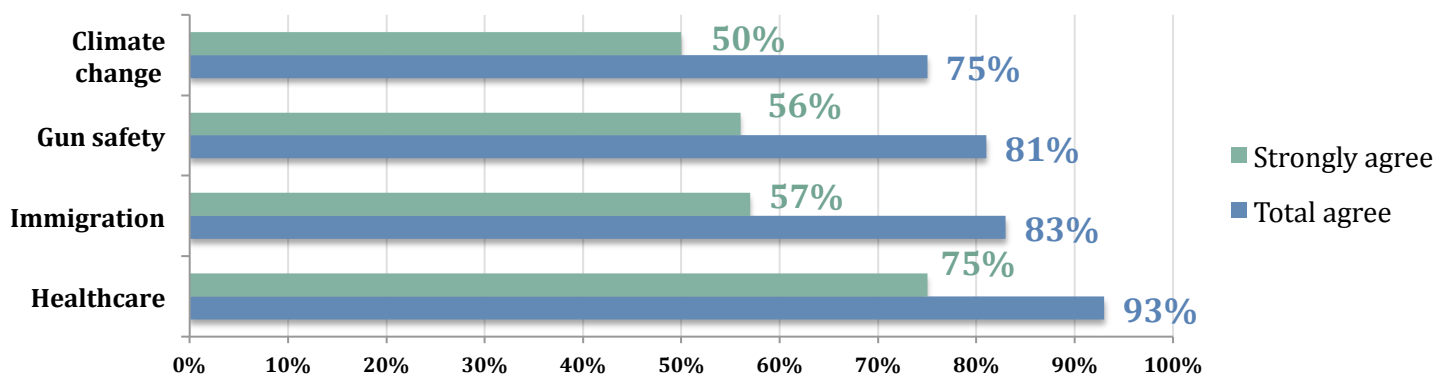


75% of Americans Say A Candidate's Stance on Climate Change Will Sway How They Vote. Climate Concern is Rising After Hurricanes.

With election season upon us, many Americans have the opportunity to voice their opinions on issues they want their leaders to act on in 2018. While issues like healthcare, immigration, and gun safety top the list of voting priorities, ecoAmerica's **November 2017 American Climate Perspectives Survey** found three-fourths of Americans report they will be voting for a candidate based on their position on climate change, with half strongly agreeing.

I plan on voting for a candidate this upcoming election season based on his or her position on the following issues.

804 respondent(s). select one



In light of the recent hurricanes that have impacted our nation, ecoAmerica asked Americans if they are now more or less concerned about climate change. While many Americans say they are just as concerned about climate before the hurricanes as they are now, over one-third are now more concerned. And, 34% of Americans who were previously not concerned about climate change prior to the hurricanes now report more concern as a result of them.

How have the recent hurricanes, Harvey, Irma, and Maria, that have devastated Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, changed your perspectives on climate change?

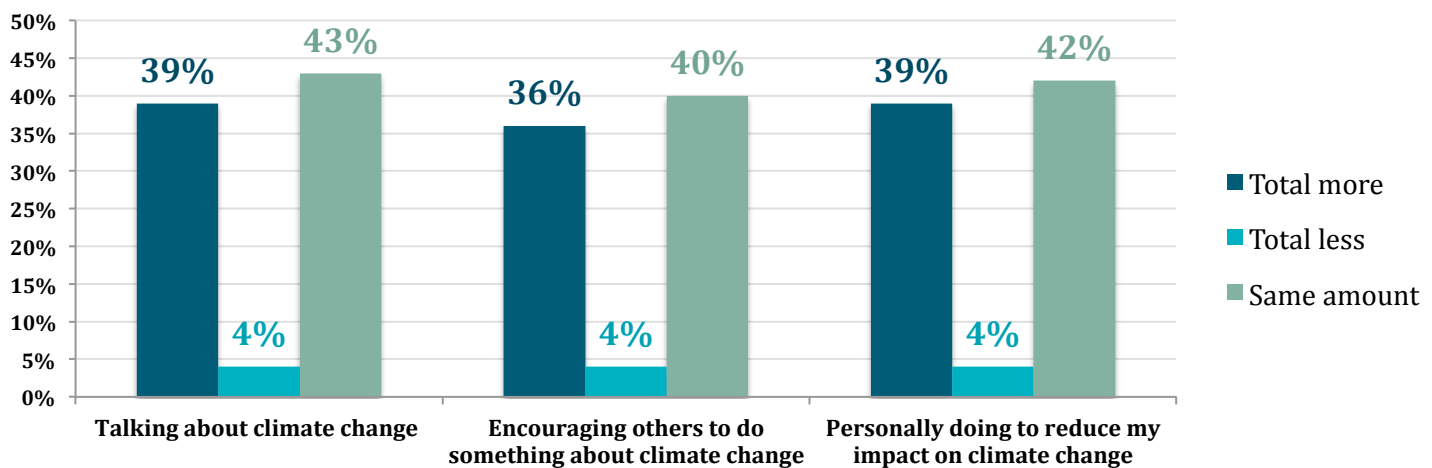
804 respondent(s). select one

| | Now I am MORE concerned | Now I am LESS concerned | Same level of concern |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Before, I was concerned about climate change | 37% | 6% | 57% |
| Before, I was not concerned about climate change | 34% | 8% | 58% |

In addition to determining intention to vote based on a candidate’s stance on climate, ecoAmerica also wanted to find out how other personal behaviors, in the categories of advocacy and action, have shifted over the last year. Findings uncover that across three categories—talking about climate change, encouraging others to do something about climate change, and personally reducing their impact—over one-third of Americans report doing these activities more than they were a year ago.

I am _____ more/less/same amount now vs. a year ago.

804 respondent(s), select one, total more vs. total less vs. same amount



Americans That Intend On Voting For Candidates Based on Their Position Towards Climate Also Report More Personal Action On Climate

While climate concern and personal action seem to be growing across most American demographics, ecoAmerica found that there is a stronger correlation between Americans who plan on voting for candidates based on their position on climate change and self-reported higher levels of personal action within the past year. Over half of Americans who report doing more about climate change—talking about it, encouraging others to do more, and personally reducing their impact—strongly agree they plan on voting for a candidate this upcoming election season based on his or her position on climate change. Significant shifts in doing more personally to act on climate drop off for those that don’t consider climate change as a factor in their voting choice. For instance, 93% of Americans who say a candidate’s position *will* influence their vote report they are talking about climate change “much more” now than a year ago, while 60% of Americans who say a candidate’s position on climate change *will not* influence their vote report they are talking about climate change “much less” now versus a year ago. Further evidence of this correlation between voting intentions and personal action on climate are shown in the table below.

I plan on voting for a candidate this upcoming election season based on his or her position on climate change.

804 respondent(s), the below table categorizes the responses from this question, grouping together Americans who “disagree,” who do not plan on voting for a candidate based on climate position, and Americans who “agree,” who plan on voting for a candidate based on climate position vs. total agree across three categories of personal action

| | Disagree* Total | Agree** Total |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| I am talking about climate change _____ now vs. a year ago | | |
| Much less | 60% | 40% |
| Much more | 7% | 93% |
| I am encouraging others to do something about climate change _____ now vs. a year ago | | |
| Much less | 50% | 50% |
| Much more | 7% | 93% |
| I am personally doing _____ to reduce my impact on climate change now vs. a year ago | | |
| Much less | 43% | 57% |
| Much more | 9% | 91% |

*Americans who indicate they do NOT plan on voting for a candidate this upcoming election based on his or her position on climate change

**Americans who indicate they DO plan on voting for a candidate this coming election based on his or her position on climate change

Americans Self-Reporting Higher Levels of Concern for Climate Post Hurricanes Also Report Doing More To Act On Climate

ecoAmerica also found a correlation between Americans that self-reported higher levels of concern following the recent hurricanes and Americans who are doing more personally to take action on climate than they were last year. Nearly two-thirds of Americans who were concerned about climate change prior to the hurricanes and say they are *more* concerned now, are talking more about climate change now versus a year ago. Furthermore, 72% Americans who said they were *not* concerned about climate change prior to the hurricanes, but are now *more* concerned report they are also talking *more* about climate change now versus a year ago. These findings demonstrate the link between concern and action.

How have the recent hurricanes, Harvey, Irma and Maria, that devastated Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, changed your perspectives on climate change?

804 respondent(s), select one, showing results for more (total)

| | Before I was <i>not</i> concerned about climate change: Now I am more concerned | Before I was concerned about climate change: Now I am more concerned |
|---|---|--|
| I am talking about climate change more now vs. a year ago | 72% | 74% |
| I am encouraging others to do something about climate change more now vs. a year ago | 63% | 66% |
| I am personally doing more to reduce my impact on climate change now vs. a year ago | 62% | 66% |

Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and fielded this survey. It was conducted online from October 5 – October 7, 2017 using Survey Monkey. The nationally representative sample of 804 adults was drawn from an online panel and respondents were screened to be over the age of 18 residing in the United States. The margin of error for the sample is +/-3.5%. In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those, which would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of respondents in a sample of 900 respondents answered, “Yes” to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage will fall within 3.5 points, or from 46.5% to 53.5%.

Suggested Citation

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For more information contact Meighen Speiser, ecoAmerica Chief Engagement Officer at meighen@ecoAmerica.org