

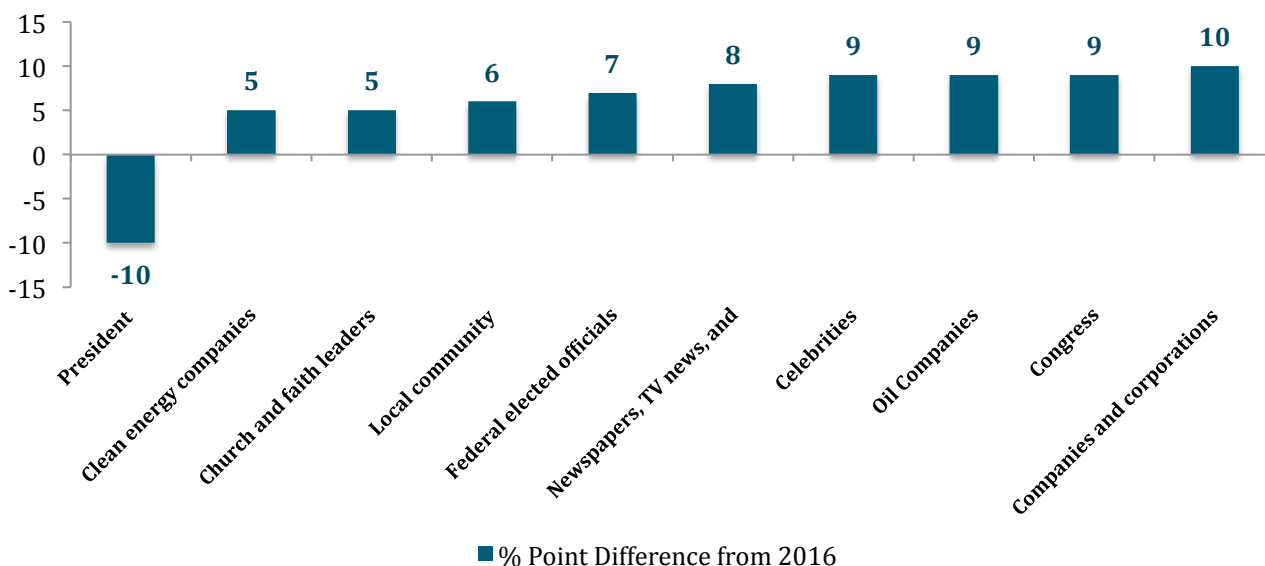
## 1 Year In: Trump Administration Stirring Climate Attitudes and Action

As the anniversary of the inauguration approaches, the Trump administration is adding to dozens of climate and environmental policy rollbacks by eliminating climate change from the list of national security threats. Most of what Americans heard from the Trump administration on climate in 2017 was focused on dismissing climate change as a man-made problem, undermining the legitimacy of news organizations covering the issue, announcements about regulation rollbacks, and exiting the Paris Agreement. Eschewing support for climate solutions, the rhetoric centered on jobs, the economy, reviving the coal industry, and opening up new areas for oil exploration, which all seem to have impacted American attitudes and actions in dramatic ways.

The **January 2018 American Climate Perspectives Survey**, by ecoAmerica and Lake Research Partners, found notable year-over-year changes of key climate attitudes and actions. The survey found significant shifts, both upward and downward, in trust, energy, hope, and action. **The largest decrease was a ten-point decline in trust of the President as a source of information on climate change.** The *largest increases were in climate action.*

### As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust each of the following?:

802 respondent(s), Percentage point change from 2016 of “A lot / Some” Total Trust, shifts over 5 points

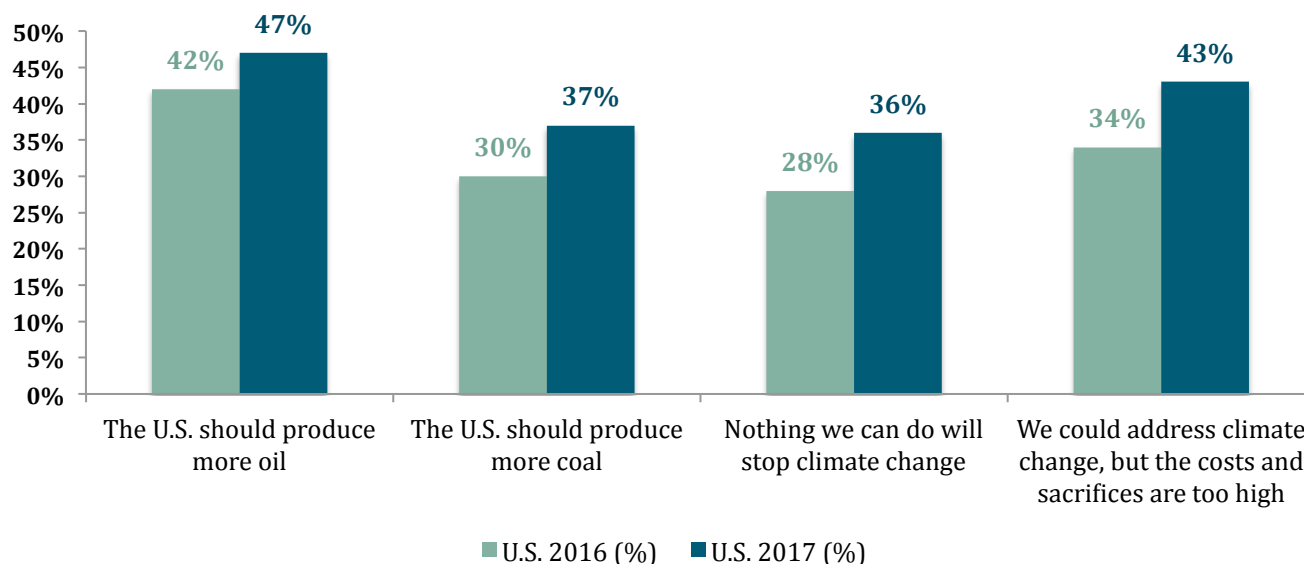


Only **31% of Americans currently trust President Trump on climate, a ten-point drop from the 41% who trusted President Obama in 2016.** Rising support for increasing the production of fossil fuels is likely responsible for the **nine-point increase (to 25%) in trust for oil companies** as a source of the very information they work to disprove. Other notable increases in trust include a ten-point increase (to 28%) in trust for companies and corporations and nine-point increases in trust for Congress and celebrities (to 25% each). Despite “fake news” claims, trust in newspapers and TV news rose eight points (to 46%). Trust in local community leaders and federally elected officials also rose by six and seven points respectively.

With more rhetoric supporting oil and coal, and dismissing the significance of climate change, it may be no surprise that ecoAmerica found year-over-year increases in support for oil production, climate fatalism and solution trade off sentiments. The survey uncovered **a seven-point increase (to 37%) in support for more coal production, and a five-point increase (to 47%) in support for more oil.** Despite these shifts, support for fossil fuels remains the minority sentiment among Americans as clean energy continually ranks the most favored. Today, over one in three Americans now believes there is nothing we can do to stop climate change, an eight-point increase from last year. Over four in ten now believe the costs and sacrifices of addressing climate change are too high, a seven-point increase.

## Notable Shifts in Attitudes: Energy, Fatalism, and Trade-Offs

802 respondent(s), Showing results for “% Total Agree” from 2016 to 2017



**Despite the rise in oppositional attitudes, *action on climate is on the rise.***

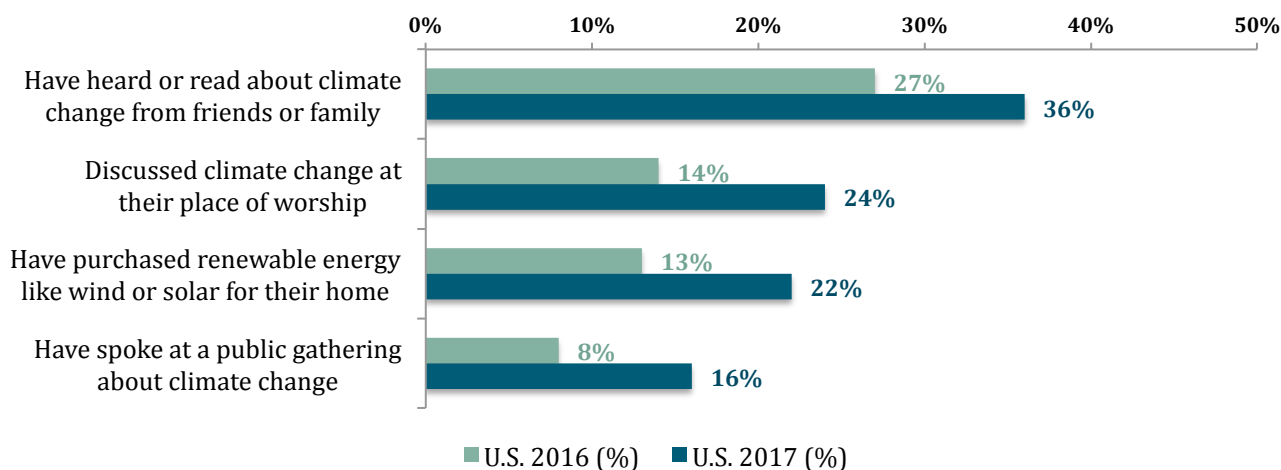
**One in four Americans has discussed climate change at their place of worship, a 10-point increase from 2016.** Climate conversation rates are up in other areas, too. Well over a third (36%) of Americans have heard or read about climate change from friends and family (up from 27% in 2016), and 16% have spoken about climate at a public gathering, a doubling from 8% who claimed to have done this in 2016. And, **22% now report to have purchased wind or solar energy for their homes**, up from only 13% who reported to have done so in 2016.

Local community-based climate action, and support for it, is also on the rise. **Nearly one in three Americans now report that their city is taking action to prepare for climate change**, up from one in five. Over four in ten (41%) want their city to conserve energy, up from 27% in 2016. Nearly three in ten want their city to talk to the public on climate, up nine points from one in five.

While the Trump Administration’s messaging to the American people has elevated fatalism, opposition and revived support for dirty fuels, there is mounting evidence that more Americans are eager for local solutions and are invigorated to elevate action and advocacy on solutions.

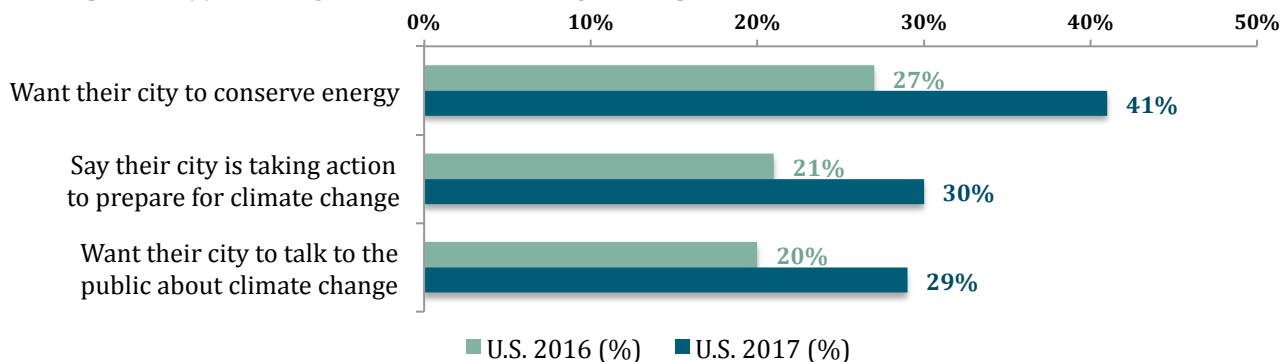
**Please indicate which of the following actions you have done personally:**

802 respondent(s), Showing results for “Yes, I have” responses



**Notable Shifts in Values: Increases in Support for Local Energy Conservation, Preparation, and Public Engagement**

802 respondent(s), Showing results for “% Total Agree” responses



## Methodology

ecoAmerica and Lake Research Partners (LRP) designed and LRP administered this survey, which was conducted online September 25–27, 2017. The survey yielded a total of 802 adult responses. The sample was drawn from an online panel and the respondents were screened to ensure that they were over the age of 18. The national sample was weighted slightly by gender, region, age, and race.

The margin of error for the sample is +/-3.5%. In interpreting the survey results, it is important to note that all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error. Thus, the results of a survey may differ from the results that would be obtained if the entire population was interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of the responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of the respondents in a sample of 802 respondents answered, “Yes” to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage would fall within 3.5 points, or range from 46.5% to 53.5%.

## Special Thanks

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## Suggested Citation

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