

## 2018 Mid-Year Summary

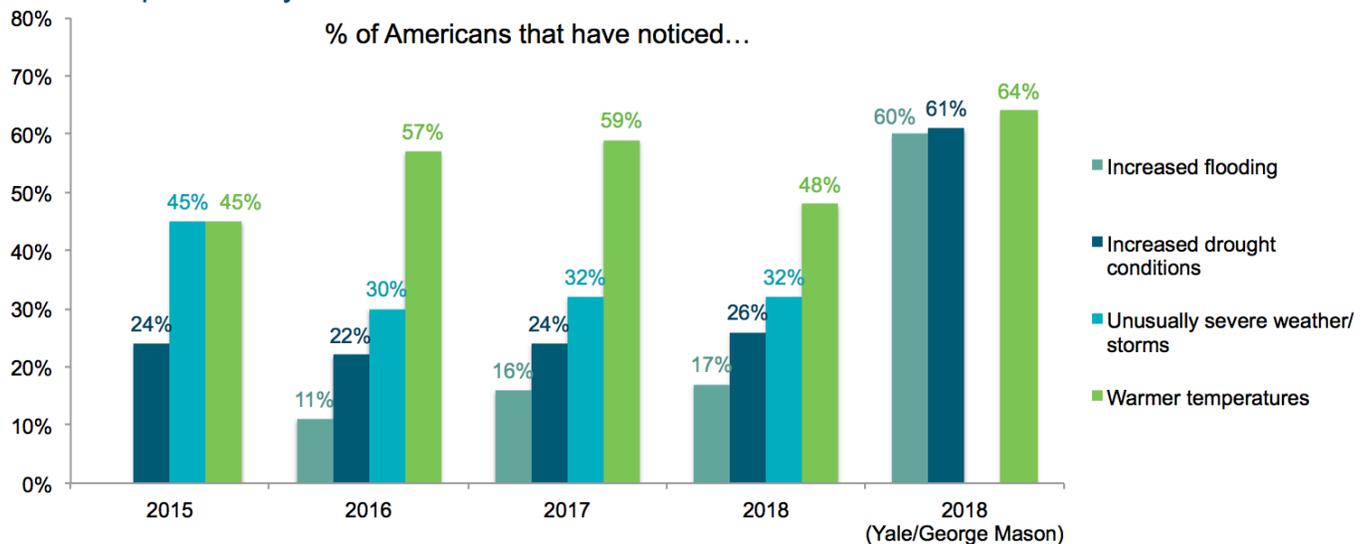
To better understand trends in Americans' shifting attitudes and opinions on climate change, and to underscore support for solutions, ecoAmerica synthesized findings from the latest national polls in its *American Climate Perspectives: 2018 Mid-Year Summary*. ecoAmerica's report reveals concern and awareness of climate change continues to remain high. Americans are noticing and being personally impacted by climate change. Findings also demonstrate that support for solutions continues to climb, and political gaps narrow in this area. Below are some of the most significant trends ecoAmerica found in 2018.

### AMERICANS ARE BEING PERSONALLY IMPACTED AND ARE CONCERNED

#### 1. Over the past few years, Americans have reported in increasing numbers that they are noticing climate impacts and experiencing them personally.

Year over year, more Americans are noticing the impacts of climate change. In 2018, Yale & George Mason found that well over half of Americans now report they notice increased flooding, drought conditions, and warmer temperatures. Other polls shows that over half of Americans report being impacted by heat waves (59%) and more severe weather (51%).

#### AWARENESS: Americans are *noticing* a variety of climate impacts, all at steadily increasing rates over the past three years

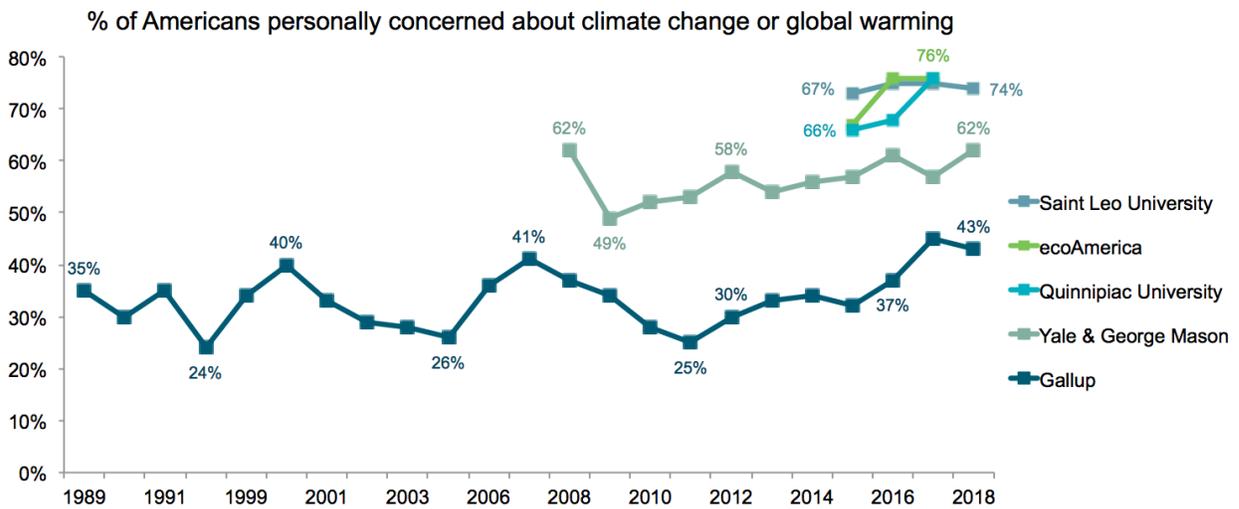


Saint Leo University (2015-2018), Yale/George Mason (2018)  
Note: no data available for increased flooding in 2015 and severe weather

#### 2. Trends reveal Americans are increasingly concerned about climate change.

Findings from Gallup and Yale & George Mason show that concern about climate change or global warming has shifted significantly since 2009 with increases ranging from 9 to 13 points. Other polls from Quinnipiac University, ecoAmerica, and Saint Leo University reveal a majority of Americans reported being concerned about climate in 2017.

## CONCERN: Personal climate concern remains high—or hitting a high—in America

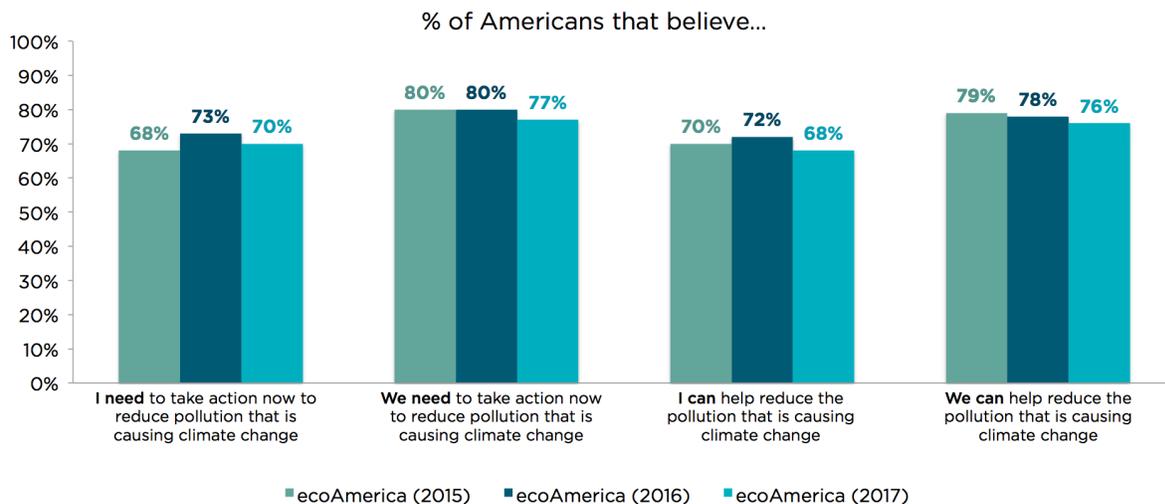


## CLIMATE SOLUTIONS HAVE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

### 3. Americans feel a sense of personal and collective responsibility to do something about climate change. A majority of Americans also feel a sense of urgency and agency for climate solutions.

An ecoAmerica poll revealed that seven in ten Americans believe they *personally* need to take action now to (and can, 70%) reduce climate pollution, with more than three-fourths (77%) saying they believe we *collectively* need to and can (76%).

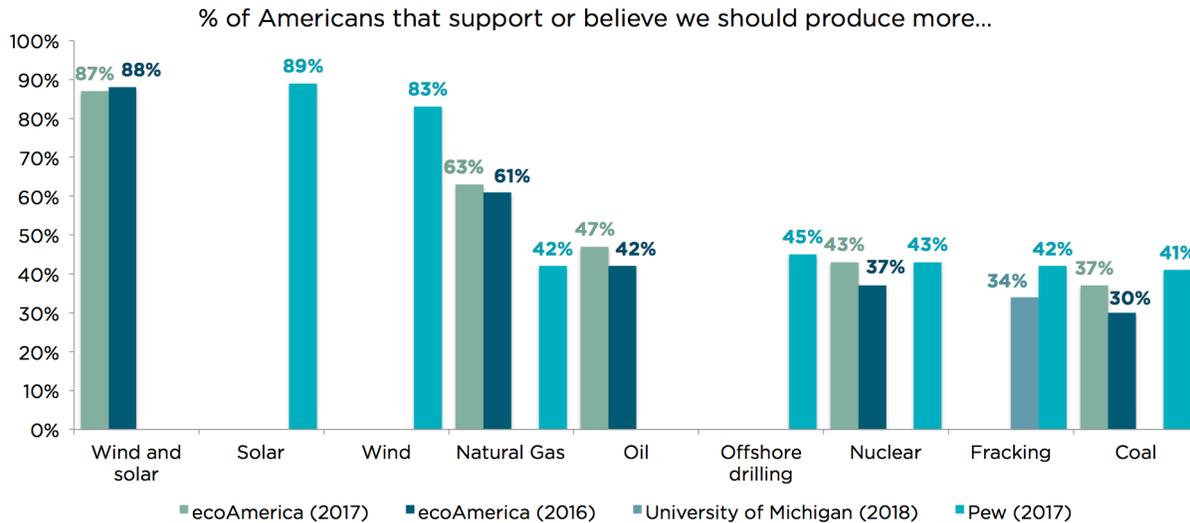
### URGENCY: A majority of Americans feel personal and collective urgency and ability to reduce the pollution that is causing damage to our climate



### 4. An overwhelming majority of Americans support producing more clean energy, more so than any other source.

ecoAmerica, University of Michigan, and Pew Research Center polls found a majority of Americans support producing more clean energy, such as wind or solar, ranging from 83% to 88%. At the same time, these polls reveal much lower support for sources such as natural gas, oil, nuclear, and coal.

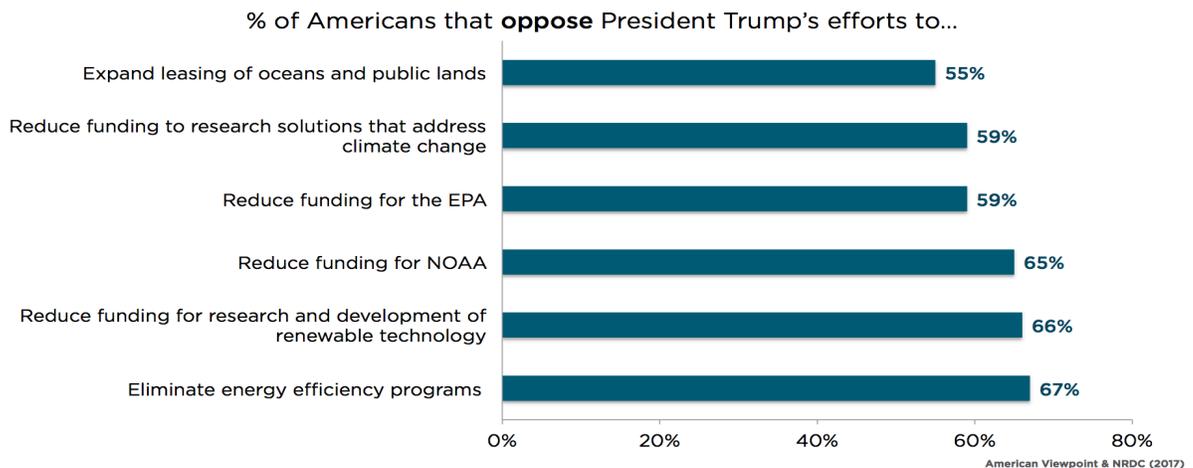
**SOLUTIONS: Americans favor clean energy by a high majority over other sources**



**5. Well over half of Americans oppose the Trump administration’s rollbacks on environmental protections.**

An American Viewpoint and NRDC poll reveals more than six in ten Americans oppose President Trump’s efforts to reduce funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, research and development of clean energy, and the elimination of energy efficiency programs.

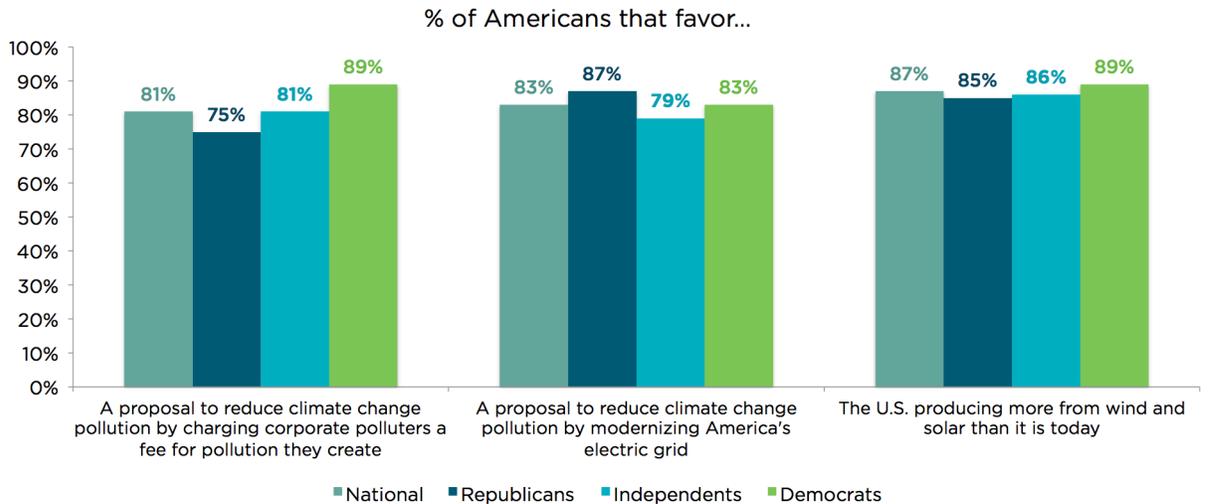
**FEDERAL ACTIONS: Majorities of Americans oppose Trump Administration efforts to rollback environmental progress**



**6. A narrowed divide: bipartisan support for climate solutions is increasing.**

The climate movement has been plagued by partisan divide, but there are signals that this is narrowing. ecoAmerica found that certain climate solutions benefit from strong support across political affiliations. A majority of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats support proposals to reduce climate change pollution by charging corporate polluters a fee for their pollution. They also support modernizing America’s electric grid. Clean energy, like wind and solar, enjoy the highest majority support, favored by 89% of Democrats, 86% of Independents, and 85% of Republicans.

**POLITICS: Political parties find common ground on clean energy, grid modernization, and carbon tax**



*Read more findings in the full report and SlideShare on [ecoAmerica.org/research](http://ecoAmerica.org/research)*

**Methodology**

Please contact Meighen Speiser, ecoAmerica’s Chief Engagement Officer, at [meighen@ecoamerica.org](mailto:meighen@ecoamerica.org) for any further details regarding the survey results obtained for this report.

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**Suggested Citation**

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