American Climate Metrics Survey 2017
Chicago
BELIEF & CONCERN
Chicagoleans believe in and are concerned about climate change. They are more likely to be concerned about climate change than other U.S. citizens.
A majority of Chicagoans believe climate change is happening:

89% Chicago 2017

80% United States 2017

Question: Climate change refers to the idea that world’s average temperature is increasing, may increase more in the future, and that the world’s climate may change as a result. What do you think? (percent total "Yes, climate change is happening")
Most Chicagoans attribute climate change to human activities:

- Combination of both human activities and natural causes: 49% (CHicago 2017), 54% (CHicago 2016), 54% (CHicago 2015)
- Mainly due to human activities: 27% (CHicago 2017), 28% (CHicago 2016), 27% (CHicago 2015)
- Mainly due to natural causes: 9% (CHicago 2017), 12% (CHicago 2016), 11% (CHicago 2015)
- Climate change is not happening: 3% (CHicago 2017), 2% (CHicago 2016), 2% (CHicago 2015)
- Not sure: 4% (CHicago 2017), 5% (CHicago 2016), 5% (CHicago 2015)

Question: When it comes to climate change, which of the following is closer to your opinion? (percent total agree)

U.S. 2017 (%) | CHicago 2017 (%) | CHicago 2016 (%) | CHicago 2015 (%)
--- | --- | --- | ---
Combination of both human activities and natural causes | 49 | 54 | 54
Mainly due to human activities | 27 | 28 | 27
Mainly due to natural causes | 9 | 12 | 11
Climate change is not happening | 3 | 2 | 2
Not sure | 4 | 5 | 5
Chicagoans are more concerned about climate change than two years ago:

80%

Are personally concerned about climate change

CHICAGO 2017

76% 78% 76%
U.S. 2017 CHI 2016 CHI 2015

Very concerned Somewhat concerned A little concerned Not concerned at all
IMPACTS

Chicagans feel climate impacts at slightly lower rates than Americans nationally.
Chicagans notice climate impacts at rates on par with the national average:

Question: Have you noticed more severe weather and changing seasonal weather patterns where you live over the last several years?

- Yes: 78%
- No: 16%
- Not sure: 6%

78% U.S. 2017
Chicagoans are feeling personally affected by climate change:

- Affected by the increased cost of energy: 65% (Chicago 2017) vs. 67% (U.S. 2017)
- Affected by record heat waves: 56% (Chicago 2017) vs. 59% (U.S. 2017)
- Affected by increased hardships for poorer families: 50% (Chicago 2017) vs. 58% (U.S. 2017)
- Affected by increased rates of breathing problems: 47% (Chicago 2017) vs. 50% (U.S. 2017)
- Affected by more frequent and severe droughts: 45% (Chicago 2017) vs. 48% (U.S. 2017)

Question: How much are the following issues personally affecting you? (percent total affected)
CLIMATE VALUES
Chicagans have slightly stronger climate values than Americans overall.
Chicagoans say clean water is a critical right for all:

89%
Say clean water is a critical right for all people
CHICAGO 2017

88% 86% 90%
U.S. 2017 CHI 2016 CHI 2015

Strongly agree  Not so strongly agree  Not so strongly disagree  Strongly disagree  N/A
Chicagoans feel a moral responsibility to act on climate:

86%

Say we have a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy climate for ourselves and our children

CHICAGO 2017

83% U.S. 2017
85% CHI 2016
89% CHI 2015
Chicagoans believe clean air and clean energy are also critical rights for all:

**88%**

**CHICAGO 2017**

Say clean air is a critical right for all people

**86%**

**U.S. 2017**

**88%**

**CHICAGO 2017**

Say clean energy that does not pollute the air or water is a critical right for all people

**84%**

**U.S. 2017**
HOPE & OPTIMISM

Like other Americans, Chicagoans are hopeful we can reduce the pollution that causes climate change, but are increasingly pessimistic about government’s ability to agree on how to do it.
A majority of Chicagoans believe we can address climate change, but are unsure our government can work together to do so:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are hopeful that we can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>CHICAGO 2017</td>
<td>CHI 2016</td>
<td>CHI 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say we could address climate change effectively, but our government is broken and cannot agree on how do it</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>CHICAGO 2017</td>
<td>CHI 2016</td>
<td>CHI 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 84% of Chicagoans (2017)
- 76% of U.S. citizens (2017)
- 81% of Chicagoans (2016)
- 83% of Chicagoans (2015)
- 68% of U.S. citizens (2017)
- 71% of Chicagoans (2016)
- 73% of Chicagoans (2015)
Chicagoans say the **private sector is most likely to advance climate solutions:**

30%  
**CHICAGO** 2017

Federal government is most likely to advance solutions on climate change

28%  
**U.S.** 2017

41%  
**CHI** 2016

33%  
**CHI** 2015

34%  
**CHICAGO** 2017

Private sector is most likely to advance solutions on climate change

42%  
**U.S.** 2017

34%  
**CHI** 2016

46%  
**CHI** 2015
ENERGY

Chicagans strongly support clean energy and a pollution fee on companies responsible for polluting our air.
Chicagoans strongly favor producing more clean energy over any other source:

Question: Please indicate if you think the United States should be producing more or less energy from each source as it is today. (percent total more)
A majority of Chicagoans favor imposing a fee on corporate polluters:

85%

Favor a proposal to reduce climate change pollution by charging large companies a fee for the pollution they create

CHICAGO 2017

81% 82% 79%
U.S. 2017 CHI 2016 CHI 2015

Strongly agree Not so strongly agree Not so strongly disagree Strongly disagree
PERSONAL BENEFITS

Chicagoleans recognize the benefits climate solutions will bring to their health, the economy, and jobs.
Over two-thirds of Chicagoans say preventing climate change will improve our health and the economy:

- Improve health: 72% for Chicago, 71% for the U.S.
- Improve the economy: 67% for Chicago, 64% for the U.S.
Well over half of Chicagoans believe preventing climate change will increase jobs, but half think it will increase energy costs:

According to the American Climate Metrics Survey 2017 Chicago, 61% of Chicagoans believe preventing climate change will increase jobs, compared to 60% in the US. Conversely, 54% of Chicagoans think preventing climate change will increase the cost of energy, compared to 51% in the US. This data is based on a question asking: If the United States took steps to prevent future climate change, it would: (percent total improve/increase).

Note: "Increase cost of energy" first asked in 2017, no 2016-2015 data.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Chicagoleans say their city is steadily increasing their efforts to act on climate solutions and want their city to do more to prepare for climate impacts and engage citizens.
More Chicagoans want their city to prepare for climate change than the national average:

78%

CHICAGO 2017

I want my city to prepare for the impacts of climate change

vs.

72% 78%

U.S. 2017 CHI 2015
Chicagoans are noticing their city’s efforts to lead on climate, but there is room to improve:

- **38%**
  - Say the city is conserving energy
  - CHICAGO 2017

- **20%**
  - Say the city is talking to public about climate change
  - CHICAGO 2017

- **20%**
  - Say the city is educating others about climate change
  - CHICAGO 2017

**vs.**

- **32%**
  - U.S. 2017

- **34%**
  - CHI 2016

- **28%**
  - CHI 2015

- **21%**
  - U.S. 2017

- **15%**
  - CHI 2016

- **11%**
  - CHI 2015

- **24%**
  - U.S. 2017

- **11%**
  - CHI 2016

- **13%**
  - CHI 2015
Most Chicagoans believe communities need to prepare for climate impacts, with over half strongly believing this:

86%

Believe communities need to prepare for floods and droughts and minimize their impact

CHICAGO 2017

83%

U.S. 2017
Chicagoans believe it is the government’s responsibility to prepare their communities for climate impacts:

79%

Believe government needs to protect all people from the impacts of extreme weather

CHICAGO 2017

70%

U.S. 2017
Chicagoans’ desire for their city to do more on climate has risen significantly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Want the city to conserve energy</th>
<th>Want the city to talk to the public about climate change</th>
<th>Want the city to educate others about climate change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47% (CHICAGO 2017)</td>
<td>30% (CHICAGO 2017)</td>
<td>34% (CHICAGO 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want the city to conserve energy</td>
<td>Want the city to talk to the public about climate change</td>
<td>Want the city to educate others about climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41% (U.S. 2017)</td>
<td>29% (U.S. 2017)</td>
<td>33% (U.S. 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30% (CHI 2016)</td>
<td>20% (CHI 2016)</td>
<td>23% (CHI 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32% (CHI 2015)</td>
<td>17% (CHI 2015)</td>
<td>22% (CHI 2015)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AGENCY & URGENCY

Chicagoans believe they must act on climate today, personally and collectively.
Chicagoans *increasingly believe they can reduce pollution*, at higher rates vs. nationally:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>86%</th>
<th>77%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHICAGO 2017</td>
<td>CHICAGO 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe <em>we</em> can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VS.</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. 2017</td>
<td>CHI 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe <em>I</em> can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VS.</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. 2017</td>
<td>CHI 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chicagoans feel a great deal of collective and personal urgency to reduce pollution causing climate change:

Believe *we* need to take action now to reduce the pollution that is causing climate change:

**84%**

**CHICAGO 2017**

Believe *I* need to take action now to reduce the pollution that is causing climate change:

**76%**

**CHICAGO 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CHICAGO</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PERSONAL ACTION
Chicagoans exhibit stronger climate-friendly behaviors than national averages, including voting for candidates based on their support for taking action on climate.
Chicagoans are taking part in **more climate-friendly behaviors:**

- **71%**
  - Discussed climate change with family and friends
  - **CHICAGO 2017**
  - **69%**
    - **U.S. 2017**
    - CHI 2016
    - CHI 2015

- **69%**
  - Upgraded appliances to conserve energy at home
  - **CHICAGO 2017**
  - **66%**
    - **U.S. 2017**
    - CHI 2016
    - CHI 2015

- **46%**
  - Discussed climate change with colleagues
  - **CHICAGO 2017**
  - **41%**
    - **U.S. 2017**
    - CHI 2016
    - CHI 2015
Chicagoans are using public transit and biking and walking more than the national average:

43%  
CHICAGO 2017  
Shifted toward biking or walking  

39%  
CHICAGO 2017  
Shifted toward public transport  

24%  
CHICAGO 2017  
Shifted toward hybrid cars  

39%  
U.S. 2017  

31%  
U.S. 2017  

24%  
U.S. 2017  

Note: All questions were first asked in 2017, no data from 2015-2016
Over one-third of Chicagoans are participating in civic engagement to support climate action:

36%

CHICAGO 2017

Contacted or voted for a candidate based on his/her support for taking action on climate change

35%

U.S. 2017
INFORMATION & TRUST
Scientists and health professionals lead the many trusted messengers on climate information for Chicagoans.
Chicagoleans are **receiving climate information from a variety of sources:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>U.S. 2017 (%)</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2017 (%)</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2016 (%)</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2015 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News and media</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends and family</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal elected officials</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professors and educators</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies and business leaders</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local community leaders</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church and faith leaders</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question:** Have you heard or read anything recently about climate change from any of the following? (percent total)
Chicagoans trust **scientists and health professionals** most for climate change information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>U.S. 2017 (%)</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2017 (%)</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2016 (%)</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2015 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental organizations</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media, TV news and internet</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The President</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust the following? (percent total)
SHIFTS
Since 2016, the largest shifts in climate attitudes for Chicagoans have been in the areas of impacts, trust, and desire for the city to act.
Chicagoans trust **President Trump less than half as much as President Obama**:

**Question:** As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust the following? (percent total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 (%)</th>
<th>2017 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust President Obama</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust President Trump</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*American Climate Metrics Survey 2017 Chicago | 39*
Chicagoans **increasingly trust companies, corporations, and local leaders on climate:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Trust companies and corporations</th>
<th>Trust local community leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29%</td>
<td>CHICAGO 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>CHI 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>CHICAGO 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>CHI 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust the following? (percent total)
Chicagoleans have an increased desire for their city to do more to act on climate:

Question: What actions do you wish your city or town were taking on climate change? (percent total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2017 (%)</th>
<th>CHICAGO 2016 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conserve energy</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase renewable energy</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educate others about climate change</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk to the public about climate change</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chicagoans have less faith in the federal government's likeliness to address climate:

30%  
CHICAGO 2017

Say the federal government is most likely to reduce climate change

VS.

41%  
CHI 2016
Thank you!

ecoAmerica builds a critical mass of institutional leadership, public support and political will for definitive climate solutions in the United States.

Learn more at ecoAmerica.org
Methodology

ecoAmerica and Lake Research Partners (LRP) designed and LRP administered this survey, conducted online September 25-27, 2017. The survey yielded a total of 802 adult responses, and separately, 400 adults in Chicago. The samples were drawn from an online panel, and the respondents were screened to ensure that they were over age 18. The national sample was weighted slightly by gender, region, age, education, and race. The Chicago sample was weighted slightly by gender, region, age, and race. The margin of error for the sample is +/-3.5%. In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling errors, i.e., the results of a survey may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends on both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of the 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 3.3. points, or from 46.5% to 53.5%

Learn more at ecoAmerica.org