American Climate Metrics Survey 2018
New York City
BELIEF AND AWARENESS

New Yorkers believe humans have a role in climate change and are personally concerned.
A large majority of New Yorkers believe climate change is happening:

- **88%** New York 2018
- **80%** United States 2017

Question: Climate change refers to the idea that the 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 agree)
New Yorkers are very aware that climate change is caused by human activity:

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

- Combination of both human activities and natural causes: 49% (2017 U.S.), 48% (2018 NYC), 48% (2016 NYC)
- Mainly due to human activities: 27% (2017 U.S.), 36% (2018 NYC), 36% (2016 NYC)
- Mainly due to natural causes: 17% (2017 U.S.), 9% (2018 NYC), 10% (2016 NYC)
- Climate change is not happening: 3% (2017 U.S.), 2% (2018 NYC), 4% (2016 NYC)
- Not sure: 5% (2017 U.S.), 4% (2018 NYC), 2% (2016 NYC)
A large majority of New Yorkers are very concerned about climate change, higher than the national total:

86%

Are personally concerned about climate change

NYC 2018

76% 85%

U.S. 2017 NYC 2016

Very concerned Somewhat concerned A little concerned Not concerned at all

Question: How personally concerned are you about climate change? (percent total concerned)
IMPACTS
More than one in two New Yorkers are experiencing climate impacts.
New Yorkers are feeling climate impacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>NYC 2018</th>
<th>U.S. 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record heat waves during summer</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased cost of energy</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage and harm from extreme weather</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased hardships for poorer families</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased rates of breathing problems</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: For each of the following issues, please indicate how much they are personally affecting you. (percent total affected)
New Yorkers **have felt a decrease in impacts** in the past year and a half:

**Record heat waves during summer**
- **60%** NYC 2018
- **77%** NYC 2016

**Damage and harm from extreme weather**
- **59%** NYC 2018
- **66%** NYC 2016

Question: For each of the following issues, please indicate how much they are personally affecting you. (percent total affected)
PERSONAL RIGHTS

A majority of New Yorkers value clean air and feel a moral responsibility to act on climate.
A vast majority of New Yorkers believe **clean air is a right for all people:**

90%  
Say clean air is a critical right for all people  
**NYC 2018**

**VS.**

86%  
**U.S. 2017**

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- A little concerned
- Not concerned at all
- N/A
A large majority of New Yorkers **believe we have a moral responsibility to act:**

87%

Say we have a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy environment

**NYC 2018**

83%

**U.S. 2017**
HOPE

New Yorkers have hope that we can reduce pollution, but doubt the government’s ability to do so.
Compared to national totals, New Yorkers are more hopeful that we can reduce pollution, but also more pessimistic about the government’s ability to act:

82%  
NYC 2018

- Are hopeful that we can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change

76%  
U.S. 2017

76%  
NYC 2016

77%
NYC 2018

- Say we could address climate change effectively, but our government is broken and can’t agree on how to do it

68%  
U.S. 2017

70%  
NYC 2016

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ENERGY

New Yorkers drastically prefer the use of clean energy over dirtier options, and they understand that this is the more cost-effective choice. They want to see large companies pay for the pollution they create.
New Yorkers more strongly support clean energy over dirtier energy sources:

Question: Please indicate if you think the United States should be producing more or less from each source than it is today. (percent total more)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>U.S. 2017 (%)</th>
<th>NYC 2018 (%)</th>
<th>NYC 2016 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wind and solar</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Yorkers understand that **wind and solar energies are the lowest cost**: 

- **51%**
  - Wind and solar are the lowest cost
  - NYC 2018

- **16%**
  - Not sure which is the lowest cost
  - NYC 2018

- **14%**
  - Natural gas is the lowest cost
  - NYC 2018

**Question:** Which of these energy sources do you think is the lowest cost for consumers? (percent total agree)
New Yorkers overwhelmingly support **charging corporate polluters a fee:**

85%

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

**NYC 2018**

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**Question:** Below are proposals to reduce climate change pollution. Please indicate if you strongly favor, not so strongly favor, not so strongly oppose, strongly oppose each one. (percent total favor)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly favor</th>
<th>Somewhat favor</th>
<th>Somewhat oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYC 2018</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. 2017</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYC 2017</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td></td>
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PERSONAL BENEFITS

New Yorkers recognize the benefits climate solutions will bring to the economy, health, jobs, and the cost of energy.
New Yorkers understand the economic and health benefits of preventing climate change, more so than other Americans:

Question: If the United States took steps to prevent future climate change, it would: (percent total improve/increase)
New Yorkers understand that climate action will increase jobs and reduce the cost of energy:

Question: If the United States took steps to prevent climate change, it would: (percent total improve/increase)

Note: “increase cost of energy” first asked in 2017, no 2016 data
SOLUTIONS

New Yorkers are very interested in seeing their city prepare against climate impacts.
A majority of New Yorkers are looking to their government to prepare for flooding and droughts:

86%

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

NYC 2018

83%

U.S. 2017

Note: First asked in 2017, no 2016 data.
A strong majority of New Yorkers *are looking to their city to prepare for impacts:*

82%  
**NYC 2018**

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

vs.

72%  
**U.S. 2017**
New Yorkers believe **the government is responsible for protecting their city:**

83%

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

**NYC 2018**

70%

**U.S. 2017**

Note: First asked in 2017, no 2016 data.
URGENCY AND ACTION

More so than Americans generally, New Yorkers feel deep urgency and agency to reduce pollution and act on climate change.
New Yorkers are confident they can reduce pollution, more so than the national sample:

Believe we can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change

84% 76%
NYC 2018 U.S. 2017

Believe I can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change

78% 82%
NYC 2018 NYC 2016

68% 76%
U.S. 2017 NYC 2016
New Yorkers feel **a strong urgency to reduce pollution**:

83%  
**NYC 2018**

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

**vs.**

77%  
**U.S. 2017**

83%  
**NYC 2016**

78%  
**NYC 2018**

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

**vs.**

70%  
**U.S. 2017**

76%  
**NYC 2016**
ACTION AND ADVOCACY

New Yorkers are relatively more aware of their city’s climate actions. Half of residents are using more sustainable forms of transportation and two thirds are talking to family and friends about the issue.
New Yorkers are noticing their city’s climate efforts more so than other Americans:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Say their city is conserving energy</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say their city is educating others in the city about climate change</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say their city has goals to reduce climate impacts</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: Is your city or town taking any of the following actions on climate change? (percent total agree)
Note: “has goals to reduce climate impacts” was first asked in 2017. No 2016 data.
Although slightly waning, most New Yorkers **are talking about climate change in their communities**:

- **66%**
  - Discussed climate change with family or friends
  - NYC 2018

- **47%**
  - Discussed climate change at work with colleagues
  - NYC 2018

- **24%**
  - Discussed climate change at their place of worship
  - NYC 2018

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

- **69%**
  - Discussed climate change with family or friends
  - U.S. 2017

- **73%**
  - Discussed climate change with family or friends
  - NYC 2016

- **41%**
  - Discussed climate change at work with colleagues
  - U.S. 2017

- **51%**
  - Discussed climate change at work with colleagues
  - NYC 2016

- **24%**
  - Discussed climate change at their place of worship
  - U.S. 2017

- **23%**
  - Discussed climate change at their place of worship
  - NYC 2016
Nearly half of New Yorkers are taking more sustainable forms of transportation:

- **49%**
  - Shifted towards public transportation
  - NYC 2018
  - vs. 31%
  - U.S. 2017

- **48%**
  - Shifted towards biking or walking
  - NYC 2018
  - vs. 39%
  - U.S. 2017

- **23%**
  - Shifted toward hybrid cards
  - NYC 2018
  - vs. 24%
  - U.S. 2017

Question: Please indicate which of the following you have done personally.
More than one in three New Yorkers consider climate change a voting issue:

36%

NYC 2018

Have contacted or voted for an elected official based on his or her support for taking action on climate

vs.

35%

U.S. 2017
SOURCES & TRUST

Although New Yorkers are exposed to information about climate change slightly less than in recent years, they remain more trusting of climate messangers than Americans generally.
New Yorkers are hearing about climate change from a variety of sources, at rates slightly below 2016:

Question: Have you heard or read anything recently about climate change from any of the following? (percent agree)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>U.S. 2017 (%)</th>
<th>NYC 2018 (%)</th>
<th>NYC 2017 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News and media</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends and family</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professors and educators</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal elected officials</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies and business leaders</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local community leaders</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church and faith leaders</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Yorkers are **more trusting of climate messengers, but less so of President Trump:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>NYC 2017 (%)</th>
<th>NYC 2018 (%)</th>
<th>U.S. 2017 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges and Universities</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental organizations</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Environmental organizations</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church and faith leaders</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The President</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local community leaders</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal elected leaders</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust the following? (percent total)
NOTABLE YEAR-OVER-YEAR SHIFTS
There have been significant shifts in key climate attitudes amongst New Yorkers since 2016.
There has been a notable decrease in feeling **affected by record heat waves** in New York:

60% **NYC 2018**

-17 points from NYC 2016

Are personally affected by record heat waves during summer (causing heat strokes/dehydration)

77% **NYC 2016**

Question: Is your city or town taking any of the following actions on climate change? (percent total agree)

Note: decrease may be due to surveying in Spring 2018 vs Fall 2016.
New Yorkers are less than half as trusting of President Trump than President Obama:

- 24% (NYC 2018)
- 54% (NYC 2016)

Question: As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust each of the following? (percent total trust)
Down to less than a quarter, New Yorkers are hearing less about climate change from federal officials:

23%  
NYC 2018  
-11 points from NYC 2016

Have heard from federal elected officials

34%  
NYC 2016

Question: Have you heard or read anything recently about climate change from any of the following? (percent total agree)
New Yorkers are **more aware of local climate educational programs** than in years past:

**30%**

NYC 2018

+10 points from NYC 2016

My city is educating others about climate change

**20%**

NYC 2016
Thank you!

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

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Methodology

ecoAmerica and Lake Research Partners (LRP) designed and LRP administered this survey, conducted nationally in September 25-27, 2017 and in New York City in April 16-26, 2018. The survey yielded a total of 802 adult responses, and separately, 604 adults in New York City. 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 New York City 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%

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