

72% of Americans Say Climate Solutions Should be a Higher Priority, With Half Saying They Should be a Top Priority

The United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their [special report](#) last month outlining scenarios, consequences, and preventative measures to maintain a habitable world. With 91 authors, 166 contributing authors, 42K expert and government review comments, and over 6K scientific references — the report comes from the world’s top authority on climate science.

ecoAmerica analyzed how Americans are responding to the report in its **November 2018 American Climate Perspectives Survey**. Nearly half (45%) of the Americans surveyed have heard about the IPCC report. Of those who have heard about it, 94% heard about it from the news and media, and just 4% from family and friends.

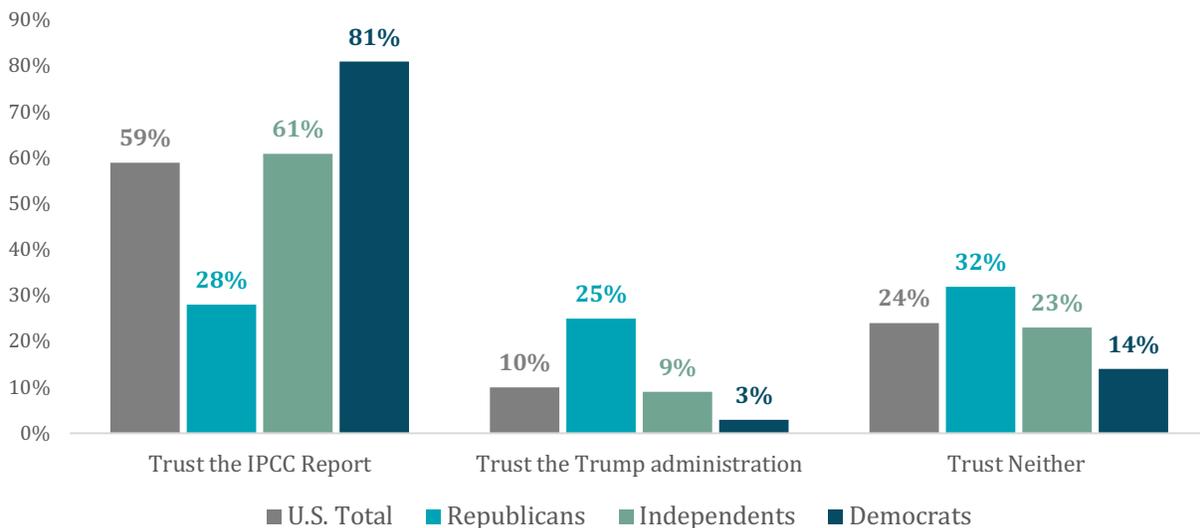
The survey was fielded 11 days after [President Trump commented](#) on the report, saying “I want to look at who drew it — you know, which group drew it.” Throughout his Presidency, he has made [similar comments](#). But do Americans share his skepticism on climate change, its impacts, and solutions? ecoAmerica found that **Americans across party lines are concerned about the report’s findings and would like to see climate elevated in priority**. Key findings* follow.

Most Americans Trust the IPCC Report over Trump, but Republicans Trust is Thin

Although 59% of Americans overall trust the IPCC report as a source of information about climate change, there are wide partisan gaps — only 28% of Republicans (Reps) trust the report vs. 61% of Independents (Inds) and 81% of Democrats (Dems). Republican trust on climate information is diffuse — a quarter of Republicans say they trust the Trump administration, and a third of Republicans trust *neither the IPCC or the Trump Administration*.

Who do you trust more as a source of information about climate change?

863 respondent(s) total nationally, % selected response, more information in the accompanying topline



Partisanship Aside, 79% of Americans are Concerned about the Report’s Findings

The IPCC’s special report finds that climate change consequences are more prevalent than previously expected, that pollution needs to be phased out by 2050, that 400 million people are in danger of extreme heat waves, and that climate change will make the poor poorer. ecoAmerica shared these findings with respondents, to which nearly four in five say they are concerned, including over 60% of Republicans and over three quarters of Independents.

The following are some conclusions of the report. Please identify your level of concern for each conclusion. 863 respondent(s) total nationally, % “Very concerned” and “Somewhat concerned”

	Total U.S.	Republican	Independent	Democrat
Climate change is happening faster than previously thought, with more dramatic consequences	79%	60%	78%	94%
We need to cut climate pollution in half by 2030, and eliminate it by 2050 to protect ourselves	79%	65%	76%	94%
If we don’t act, over 400 million people will live in areas with extreme and dangerous heat waves	79%	64%	77%	93%
Climate change will impact the poor more than others, and make more people poor	78%	63%	75%	92%

Americans are More Likely to Take Personal Action after Hearing Report Findings

ecoAmerica’s survey found that the IPCC report findings motivate Americans to do more in their personal lives to act on climate. A strong majority (78%), including 66% of Reps, 75% of Inds, and 89% of Dems, reported that they are motivated to find new ways to be eco-friendly at home and three quarters, including 52% of Reps, 75% of Inds, and 92% of Dems, feel motivated to vote for a candidate or ballot initiatives that support solutions to climate change. Over two thirds reported they are more likely to switch to clean energy at home, including 57% of Reps, 68% of Inds, and 78% of Dems, and talk about climate change with friends, family or their community, including 46% of Reps, 67% of Inds, and 84% of Dems, after learning about the report.

How likely will the findings from this new report motivate you to do any of the following: 863 respondent(s) total nationally, % “Very likely” and “Somewhat likely”

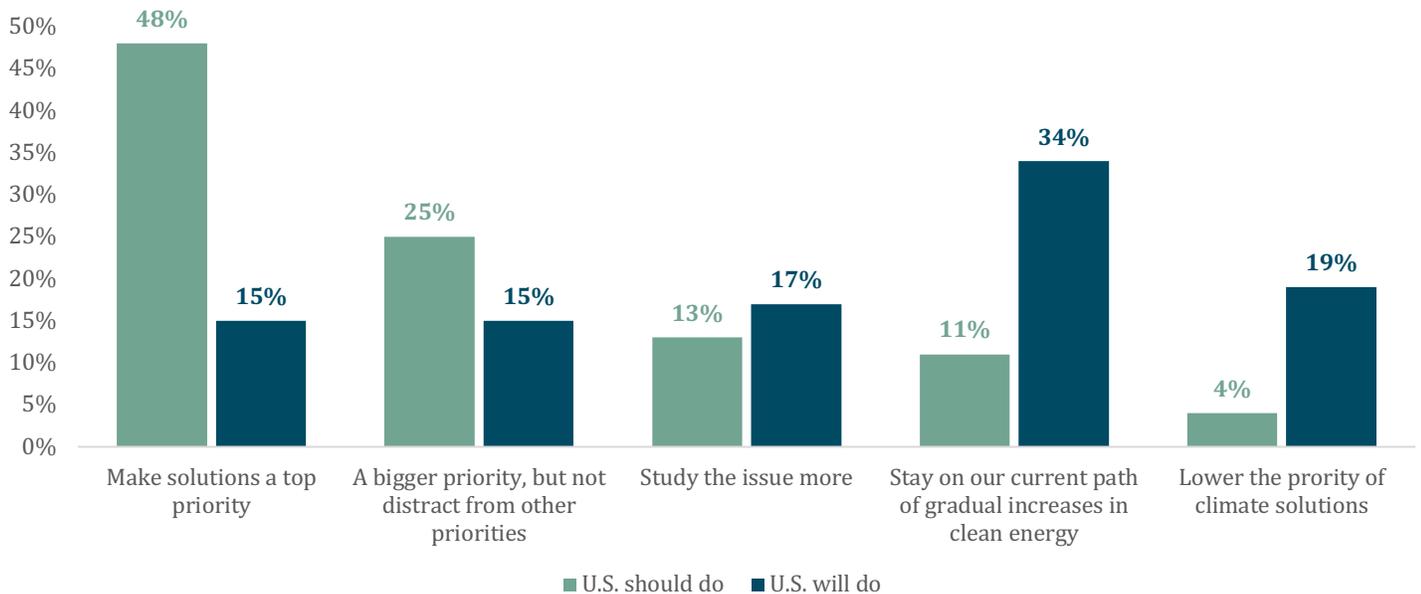


A Majority of Americans Think the U.S. Should Prioritize Climate Solutions

72% of Americans think climate solutions should be a bigger or top priority in the U.S, with half saying the U.S. should make climate solutions a top priority. Few Americans think we should study the issue more (13%), stay our current path (11%) or lower the priority of solutions (4%).

As for what Americans believe the U.S. **will do** about climate solutions, the survey findings indicate a lack of confidence that the U.S. will take the right path. Only 15% of Americans think we will make climate solutions a bigger or top priority, respectively. 17% believe we will study the issue more. Nearly 1 in 5 believe we will lower the priority of climate solutions. Over one third think our country will stay on its current path of gradual increases in clean energy.

What do you think the U.S. should/will do about climate change, based on the findings of this report?: 863 respondent(s) total nationally, % “Should do” and “Will do”



Additional and Notable Demographic Findings:

- Republicans:** 65% are concerned we need to cut pollution in half by 2030, and eliminate it by 2050, 64% are concerned that 400+ million are threatened with dangerous heat waves, 63% are concerned climate change will make more people poor, and 60% are concerned that climate change is occurring faster. 66% say they will find new ways to be eco-friendly, 57% to switch to clean energy at home, and 52% to vote for candidates or ballot initiatives that support climate solutions. 48% think the U.S. should make climate solutions a bigger or top priority.
- Females:** are 14-16 points more concerned that 400 million people will be threatened by dangerous heat waves (86%), that we need to eliminate pollution by 2050 to protect ourselves (86%) and that climate change will impact the poor (85%).
- 18-29-year-olds:** are especially concerned (83%) that climate change is happening faster and that pollution needs to be eliminated by 2050 (84%). They are most likely (81%) to be motivated to be more eco-friendly and switch to clean energy (73%) at home.

*** Full data is available in the accompanying toplines.**

Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online October 17-19th, 2018 using Survey Monkey. The survey yielded a total of 863 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 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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