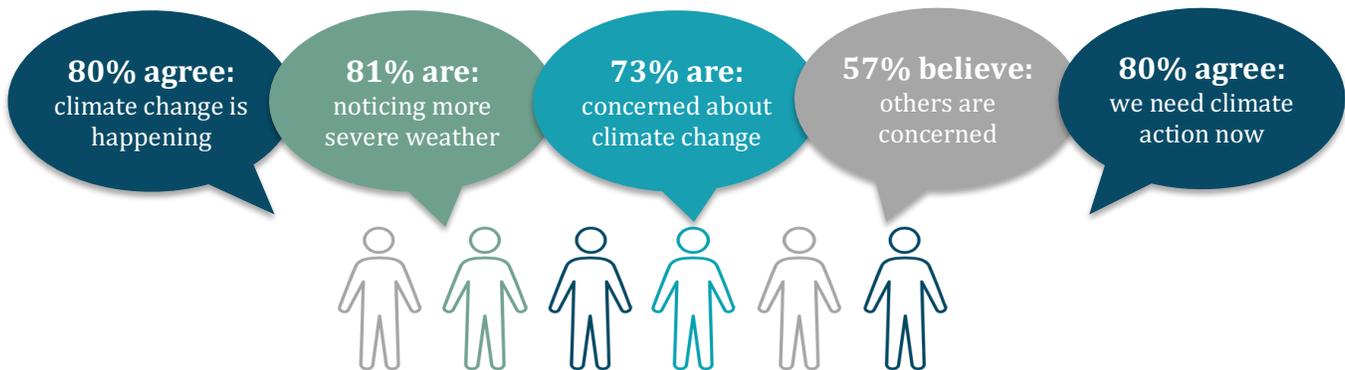


Climate Priorities for the New U.S. Congress

The 116th U.S. Congress is preparing to take office, filled with new representatives who intend to move our nation forward. [Climate solutions](#) are appearing on priority lists, and [Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi announced plans to revive](#) a committee dedicated to holding hearings on climate change. But, will Congress do what is needed, and bring forward effective climate solutions in time?

Research by **ecoAmerica** indicates that Congress has the public support to move forward expeditiously. Their recent **American Climate Perspectives Survey** found that [90% of Americans want Dem and Reps to work together on climate solutions](#). And, in the run up to elections, [70% of Americans reported being more likely to vote for a candidate who supports climate solutions](#).

ecoAmerica's new **2018 American Climate Metrics Survey** shows that Americans are ready for Congress to act. 80% believe climate change is happening, and 81% are noticing more severe weather over the last several years. 73% are concerned about climate change, however only 57% think others around them are concerned. 74% want the government to protect all people from the impacts of extreme weather, and 80% believe we need to take climate action now.



Common Ground: moral responsibility and clean air, water, and energy for all

ecoAmerica found there is common ground on key climate values. 91% of Americans believe clean air and clean water are critical rights for all people. 88% feel a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy climate for ourselves and our children. 87% believe everyone has a right to clean energy that does not pollute. Opinions are consistent across political parties with small variances. Given these results, Congress has cover to prioritize clean energy and other climate solutions.

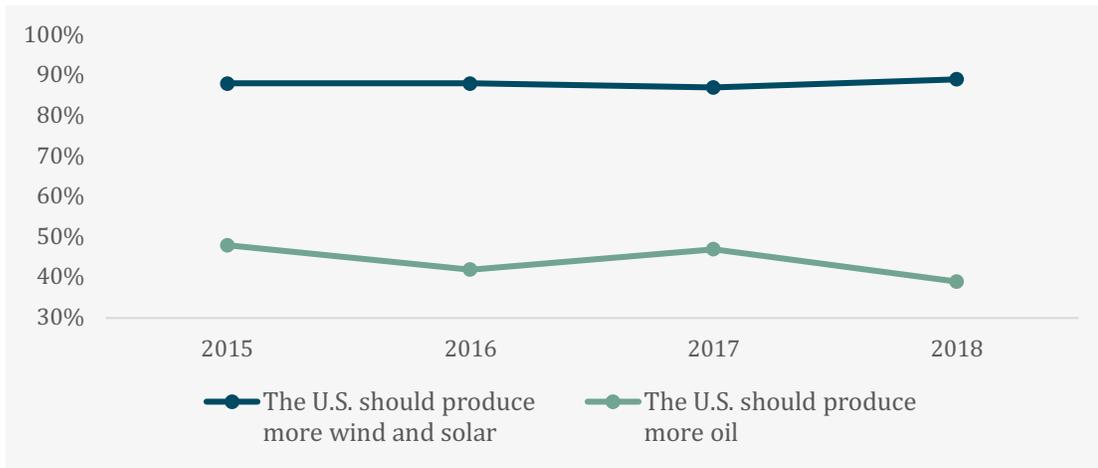
Now you are going to see a series of statements. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each one. 800 respondent(s) total nationally, % agree, "Strongly agree" and "Not so strongly agree"



Clean v. Dirty Energy: support for clean energy more than double that for oil

ecoAmerica’s research found that a vast majority (89%) of Americans agree that the U.S. should produce more clean energy, like wind and solar, a high level of support that has maintained over the past several years. Support for oil production, however, has dropped 9-points since 2015, down to only 38% of Americans who now think the U.S. should produce more, which is less than half the support for clean energy. Nearly half of Americans (48%) believe we should produce *less* oil.

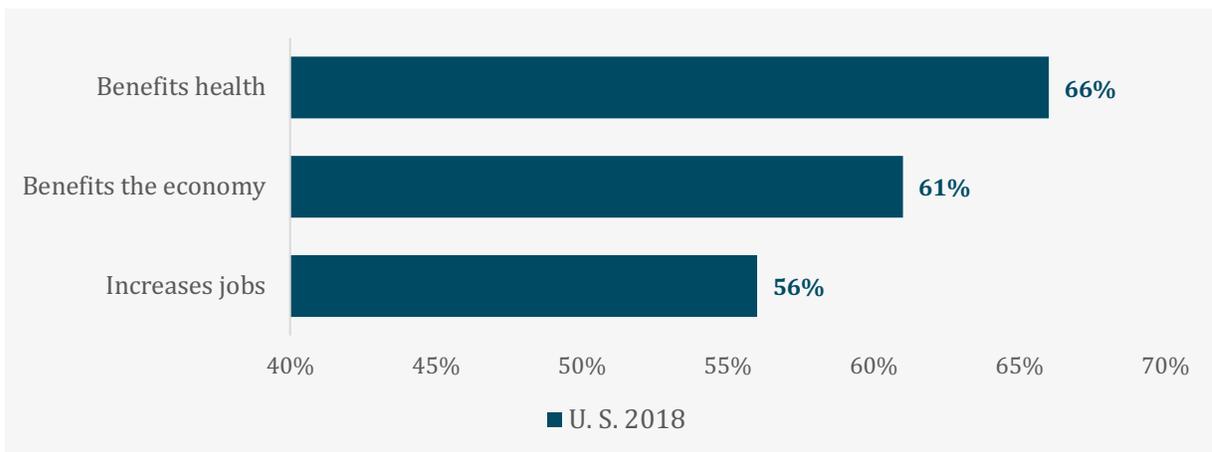
For each of the following, please indicate if you think the United States should be producing much more, somewhat more, somewhat less, much less, or the same amount of energy from each source as it is today. 800 respondent(s) total nationally, % “Much more” and “Somewhat more”



Americans believe that climate solutions benefit their health, jobs and the economy

So often Americans hear that climate solutions will come with a cost, when the opposite is true. While the “cost” narrative persists, more messages on the benefits of climate solutions are starting to reach Americans, and the result is that they are beginning to understand that solutions can benefit their health (66%), the economy (61%) and jobs (56%).

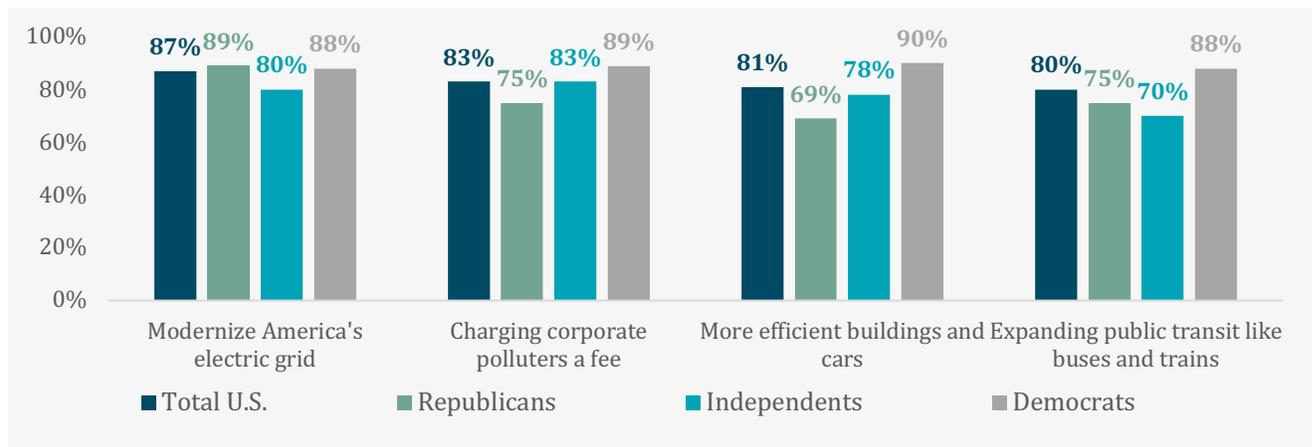
If the U. S. took steps to help prevent future climate change, how would it affect the economy, health, and jobs? 800 respondent(s) total nationally, % “Help/Improve the economy/health/jobs – a lot” and “Help/Improve the economy/health/jobs – a little”



Strong support for a variety of climate solutions, across political affiliations

A number of political candidates campaigned on climate change during this most recent election, and ecoAmerica’s research confirmed this was the right decision. The study found that Americans, across political affiliations, support a variety of climate solutions. In addition to the 89% of Americans who think the U.S. should produce more wind and solar, 87% of Americans favor a proposal to modernize the electric grid (including 89% Rep, 80% Ind, and 88% Dems). Support for charging corporations for their pollution has risen ten points in four years (up from 73% in 2015 to 83% in 2018). There is likewise strong support for energy efficiency laws (81% nationwide, including 69% Reps, 78% Inds, 90% Dems) and expanding public transit like buses and trains (80% nationwide, including 75% Reps, 70% Inds, 88% Dems).

Below are proposals to reduce climate change pollution. Please indicate if you strongly favor, not so strongly favor, not so strongly oppose, or strongly oppose each one. 800 respondent(s) total nationally, % “Strongly favor” and “Not so strongly favor” by political party



*** Full data is available in the accompanying topline by political party and timeseries.**

Methodology

ecoAmerica and Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online September 14-18th, 2018. The survey yielded a total of 800 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 region, age, race, and education. 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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