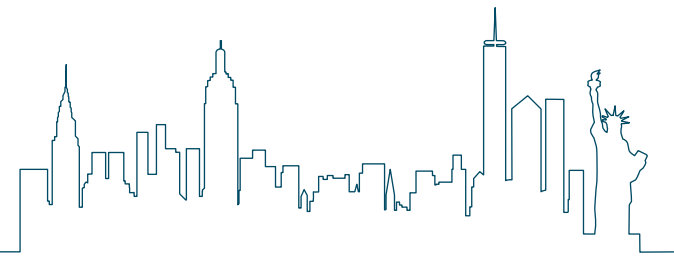




# **American Climate Metrics Survey 2018**

## New York City



## **BELIEF AND AWARENESS**

**New Yorkers believe humans have a role in climate change and are personally concerned.**



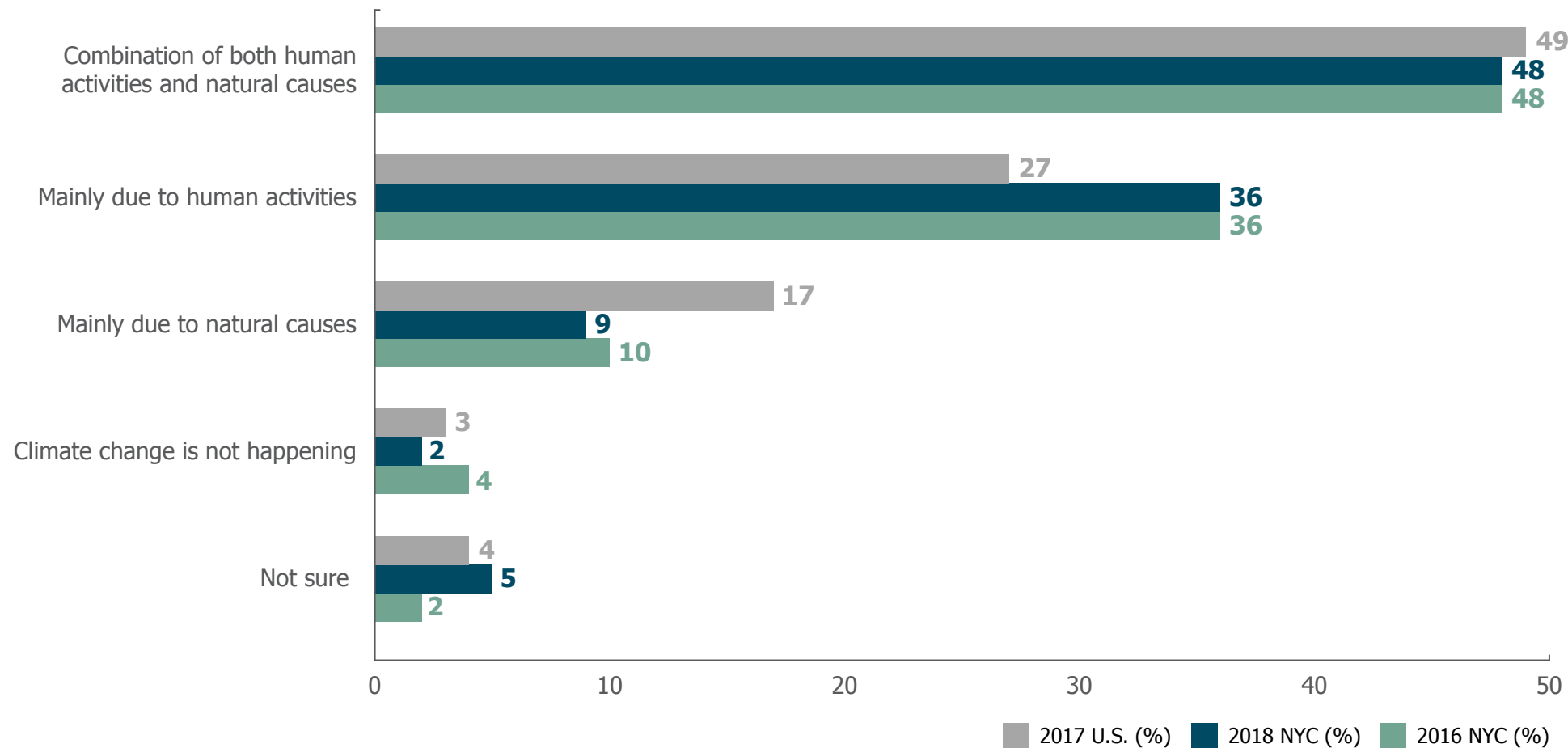
# A large majority of New Yorkers **believe climate change is happening:**



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:



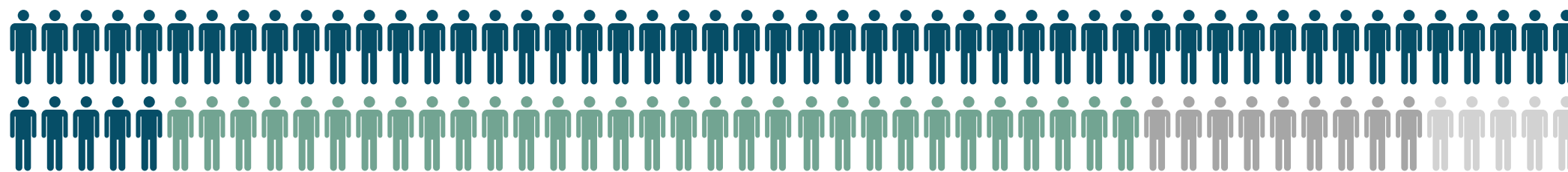
Question: When it comes to climate change, which of the following is closer to your opinion? (percent total agree)



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**



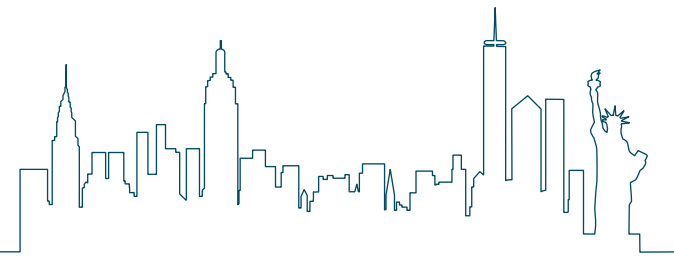
total concern

vs.

**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)

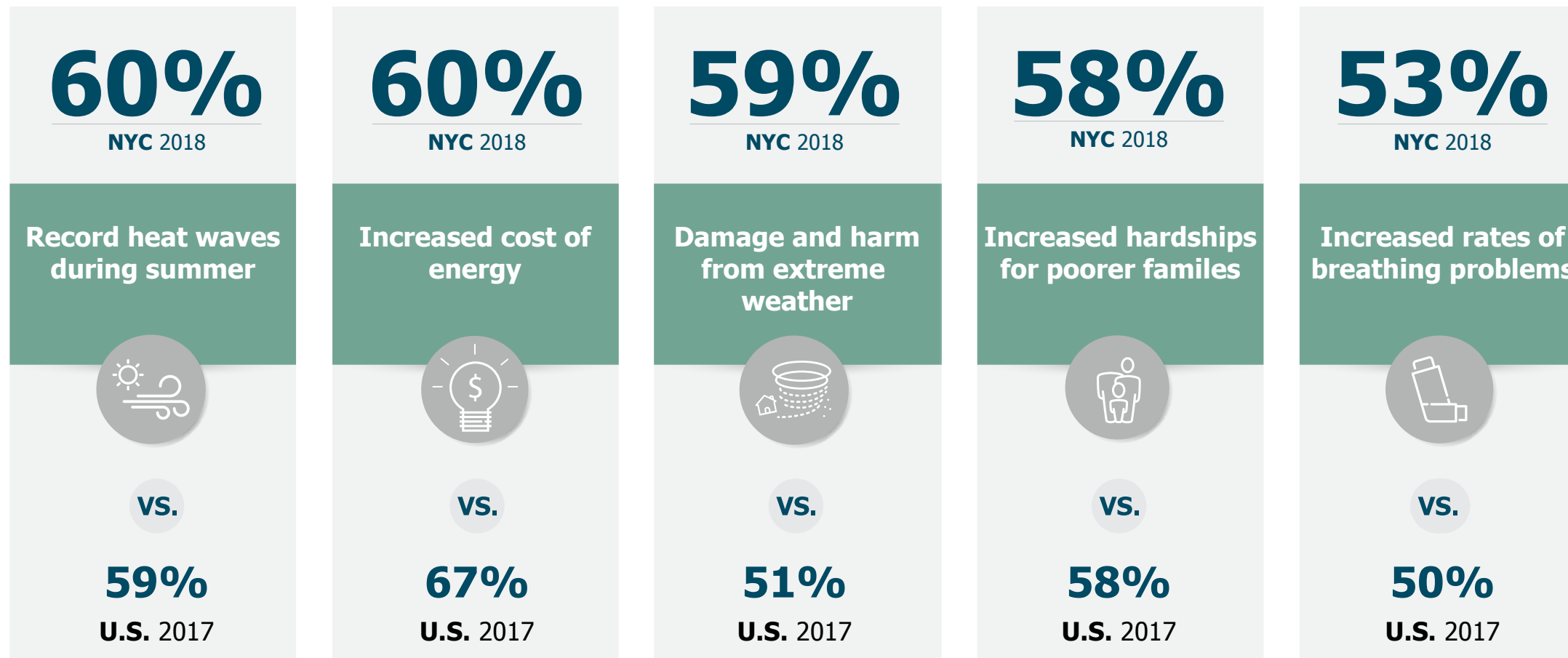


# IMPACTS

**More than one in two New Yorkers are experiencing climate impacts.**



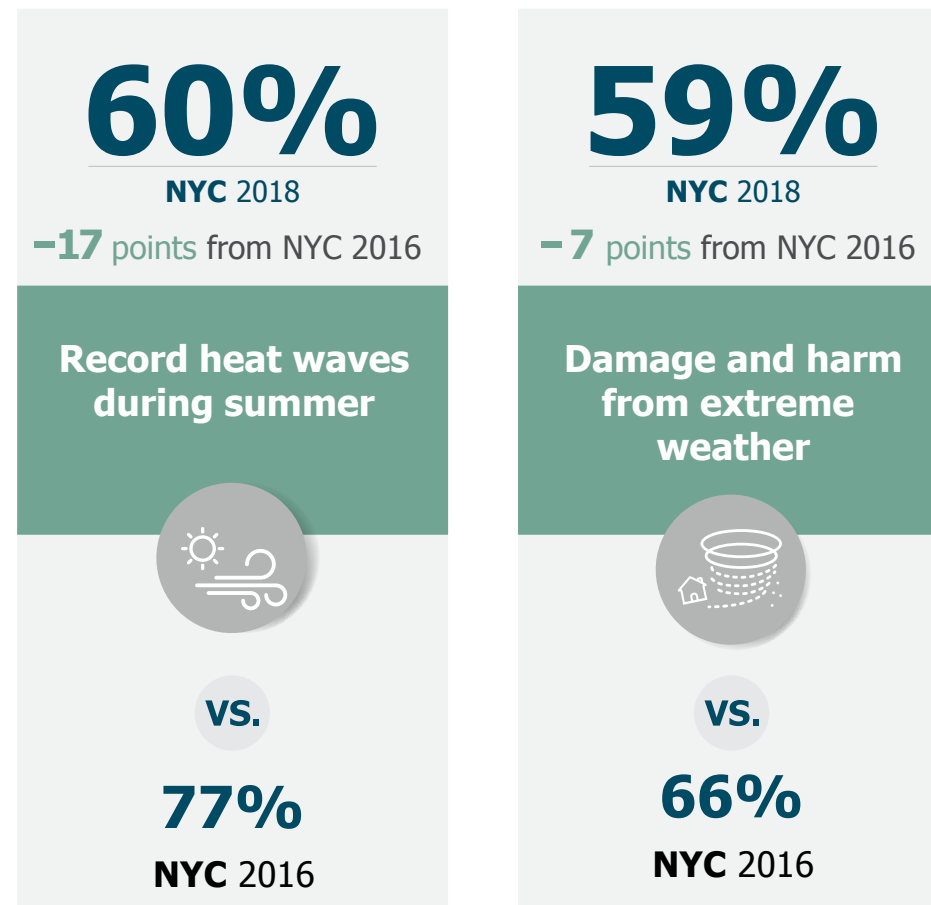
## New Yorkers are feeling climate impacts:



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:



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





## **PERSONAL RIGHTS**

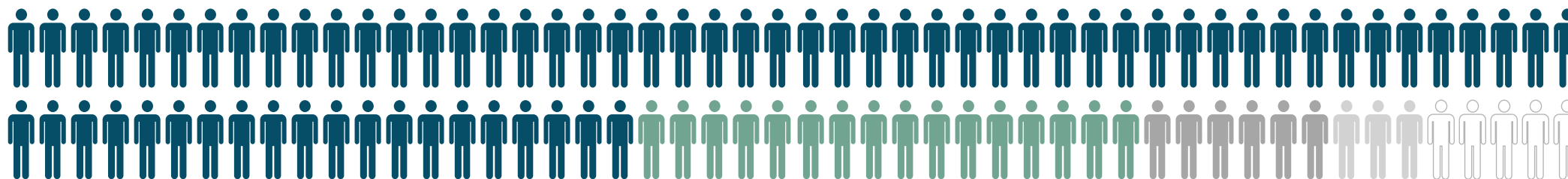
**A majority of New Yorkers value clean air and feel a moral responsibility to act on climate.**



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**



total concern

vs.

# 86%

**U.S. 2017**

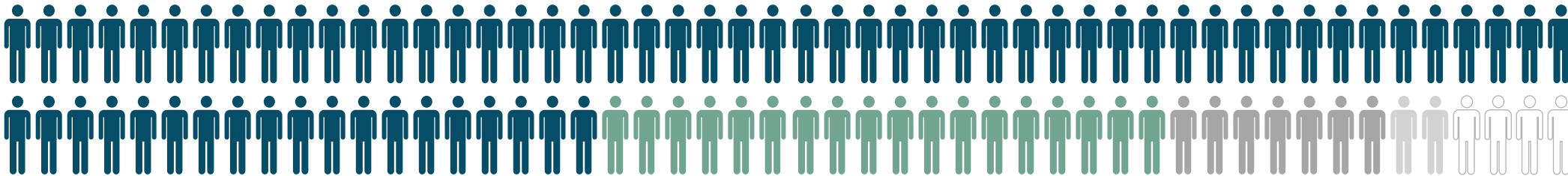




A large majority of New Yorkers **believe we have a moral responsibility to act:**

# 87%

Say we have a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy environment  
NYC 2018



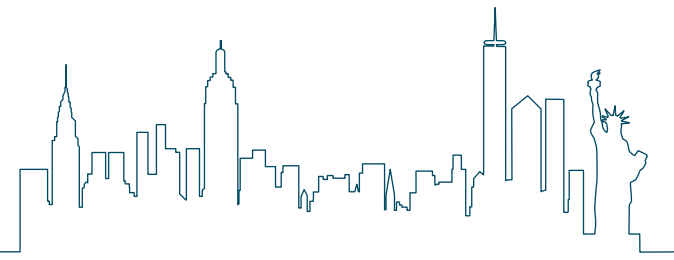
total agree

vs.

# 83%

U.S. 2017

Strongly agree Not so strongly agree Not so strongly disagree Strongly disagree N/A



## **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

vs.

**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

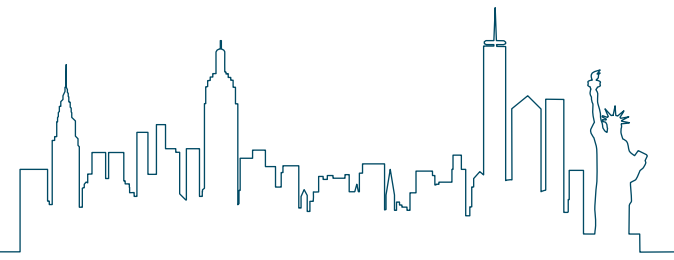
vs.

**68%**

U.S. 2017

**70%**

NYC 2016

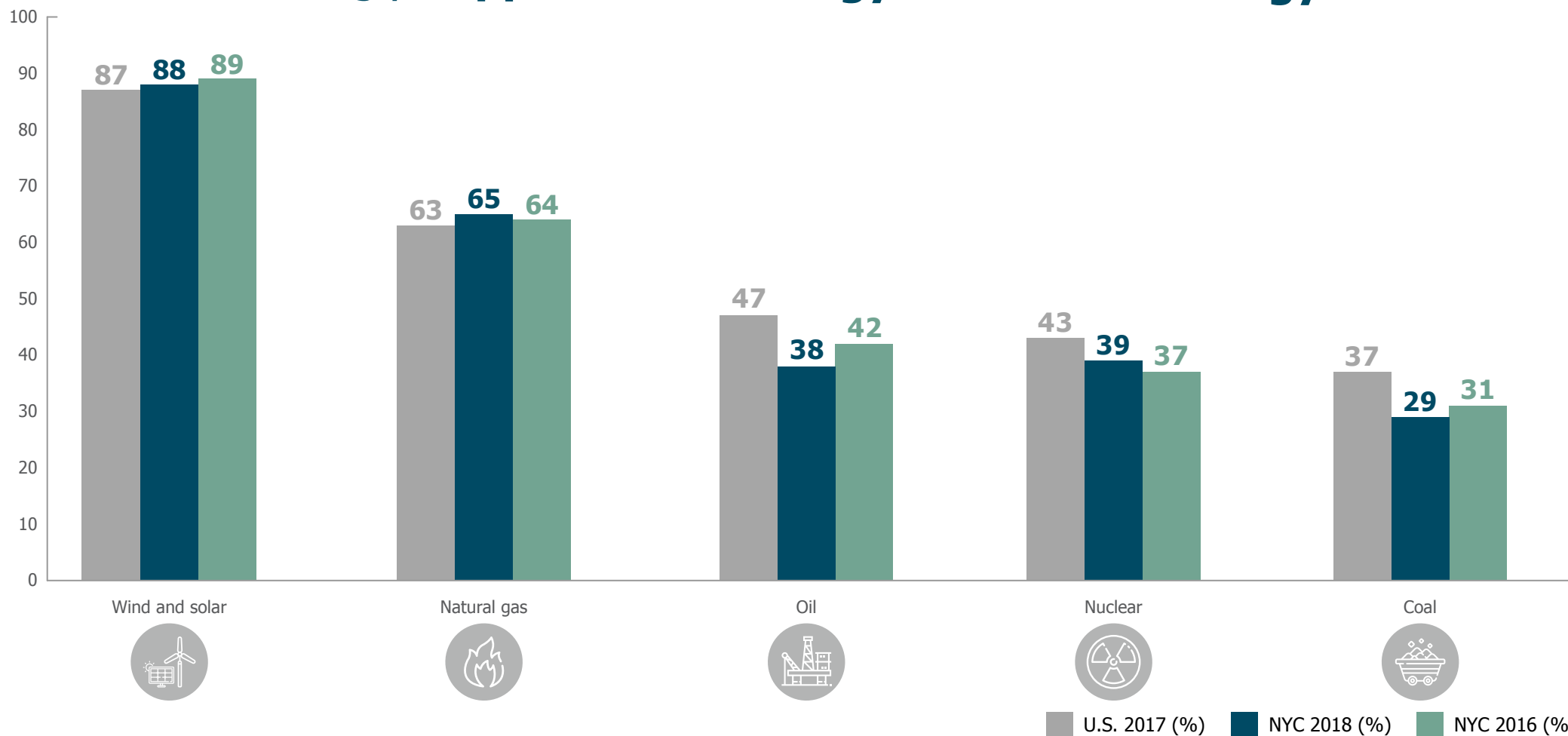


## **ENERGY**

**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)



## New Yorkers understand that **wind and solar energies are the lowest cost:**

# 51%

NYC 2018



Wind and solar are  
the lowest cost

vs.

# 47%

U.S. 2017

# 16%

NYC 2018



Not sure which is  
the lowest cost

vs.

# 14%

U.S. 2017

# 14%

NYC 2018



Natural gas is  
the lowest cost

vs.

# 17%

U.S. 2017

Question: Which of these energy sources do you think is the lowest cost for consumers? (percent total agree)

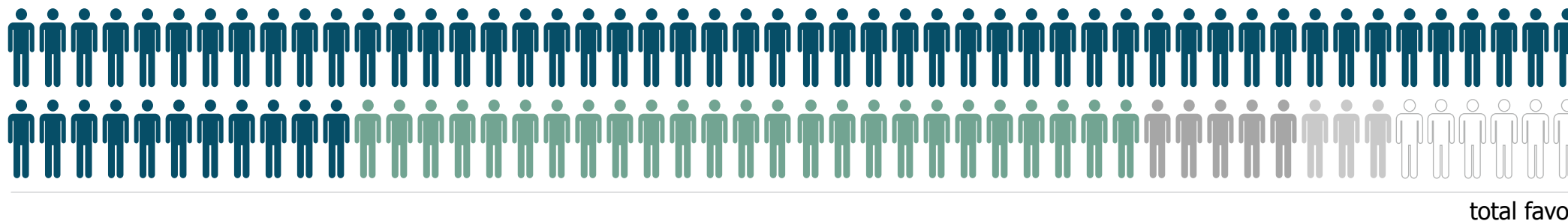




# New Yorkers overwhelmingly support **charging corporate polluters a fee:**

# 85%

Favor a proposal to reduce climate change pollution by charging large companies a fee for the pollution they create  
**NYC 2018**

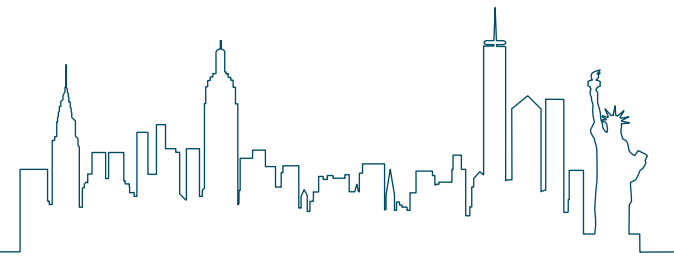


vs.

**81%** **83%**  
**U.S. 2017** **NYC 2017**

Strongly favor Somewhat favor Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose N/A

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)

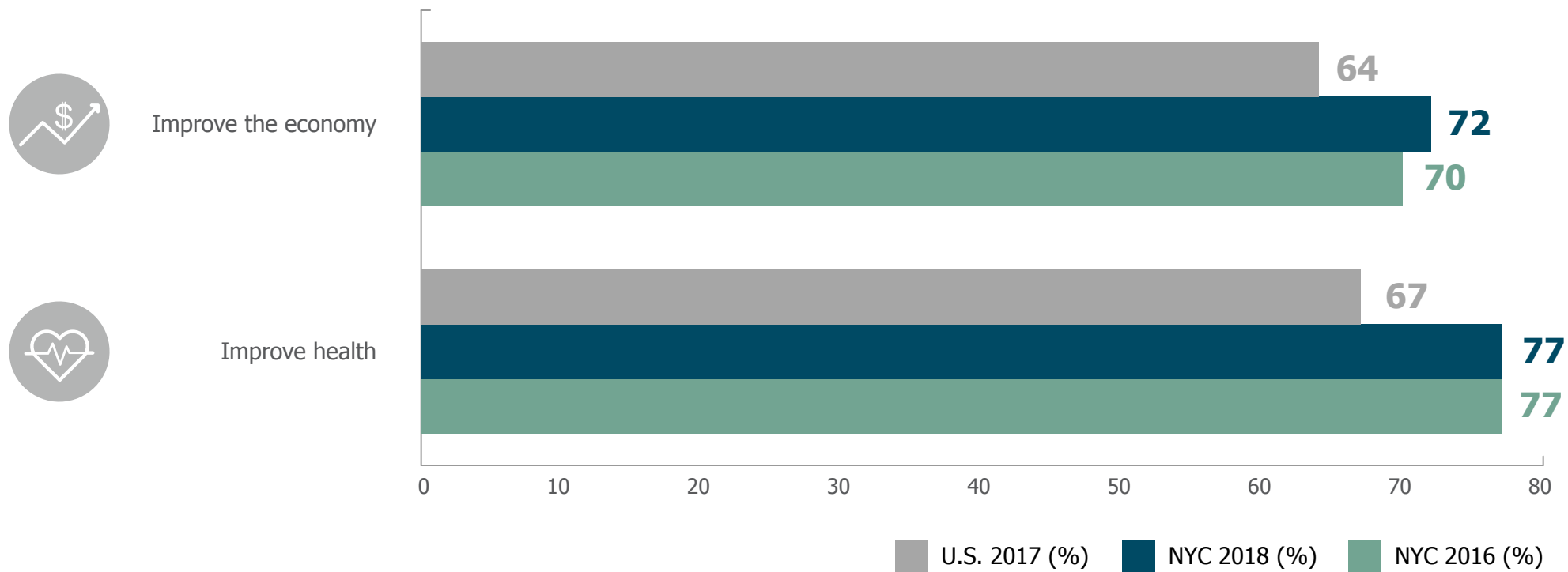


## **PERSONAL BENEFITS**

**New Yorkers recognize the benefits climate solutions will bring to the economy, health, jobs, and the cost of energy.**



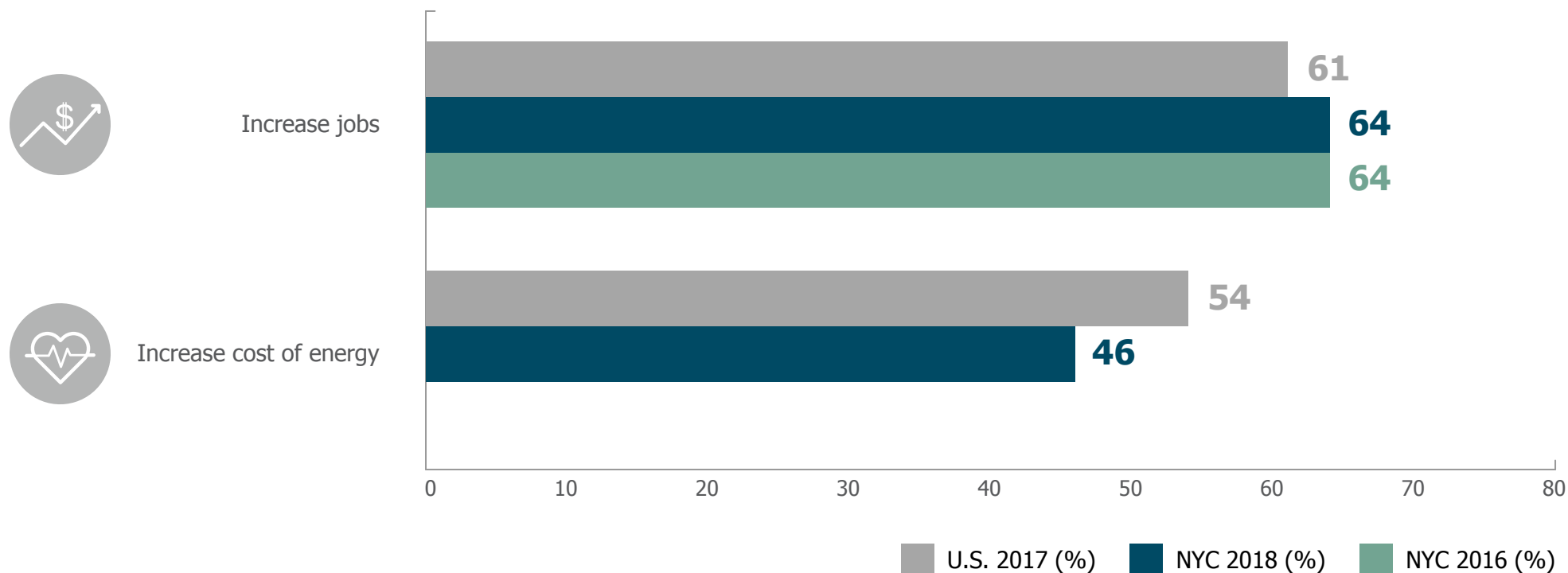
# New Yorkers **understand the economic and health benefits of preventing climate change**, more so than other Americans:



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**

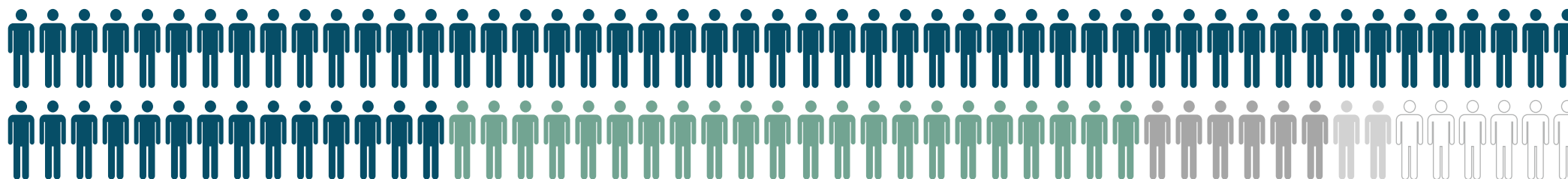
**New Yorkers are very interested in seeing their city prepare against climate impacts.**



# 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

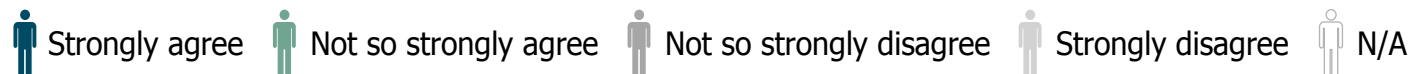


total agree

vs.

# 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%**

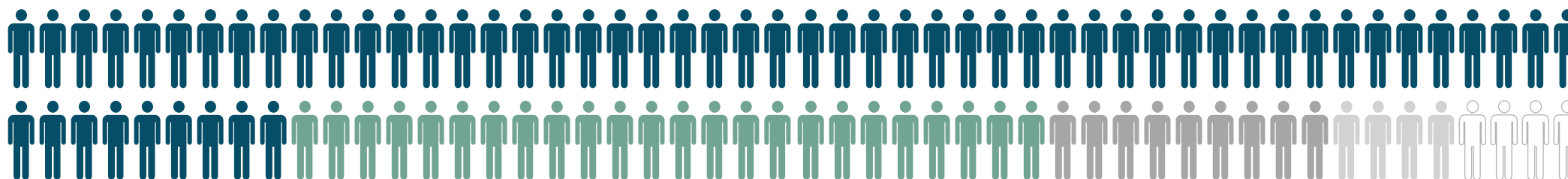
U.S. 2017



# 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**



total agree

vs.

# 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:

**84%**

NYC 2018



Believe **we** can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change

vs.

**76%**

U.S. 2017

**82%**

NYC 2016

**78%**

NYC 2018



Believe **I** can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change

vs.

**68%**

U.S. 2017

**76%**

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:

# 34%

NYC 2018



Say their city is conserving energy

vs.

**32%**

U.S. 2017

**38%**

NYC 2016

# 30%

NYC 2018



Say their city is educating others in the city about climate change

vs.

**24%**

U.S. 2017

**20%**

NYC 2016

# 26%

NYC 2018



Say their city has goals to reduce climate impacts

vs.

**20%**

U.S. 2017

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%**

NYC 2018



Discussed climate change with family or friends

vs.

**69%**

U.S. 2017

**73%**

NYC 2016

**47%**

NYC 2018



Discussed climate change at work with colleagues

vs.

**41%**

U.S. 2017

**51%**

NYC 2016

**24%**

NYC 2018



Discussed climate change at their place of worship

vs.

**24%**

U.S. 2017

**23%**

NYC 2016

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



## Nearly half of New Yorkers are taking more sustainable forms of transportation:

**49%**

NYC 2018



Shifted towards  
public transportation

vs.

**31%**

U.S. 2017

**48%**

NYC 2018



Shifted towards biking  
or walking

vs.

**39%**

U.S. 2017

**23%**

NYC 2018



Shifted toward  
hybrid cars

vs.

**24%**

U.S. 2017

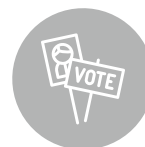
Question: Please indicate which of the following you have done personally.



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



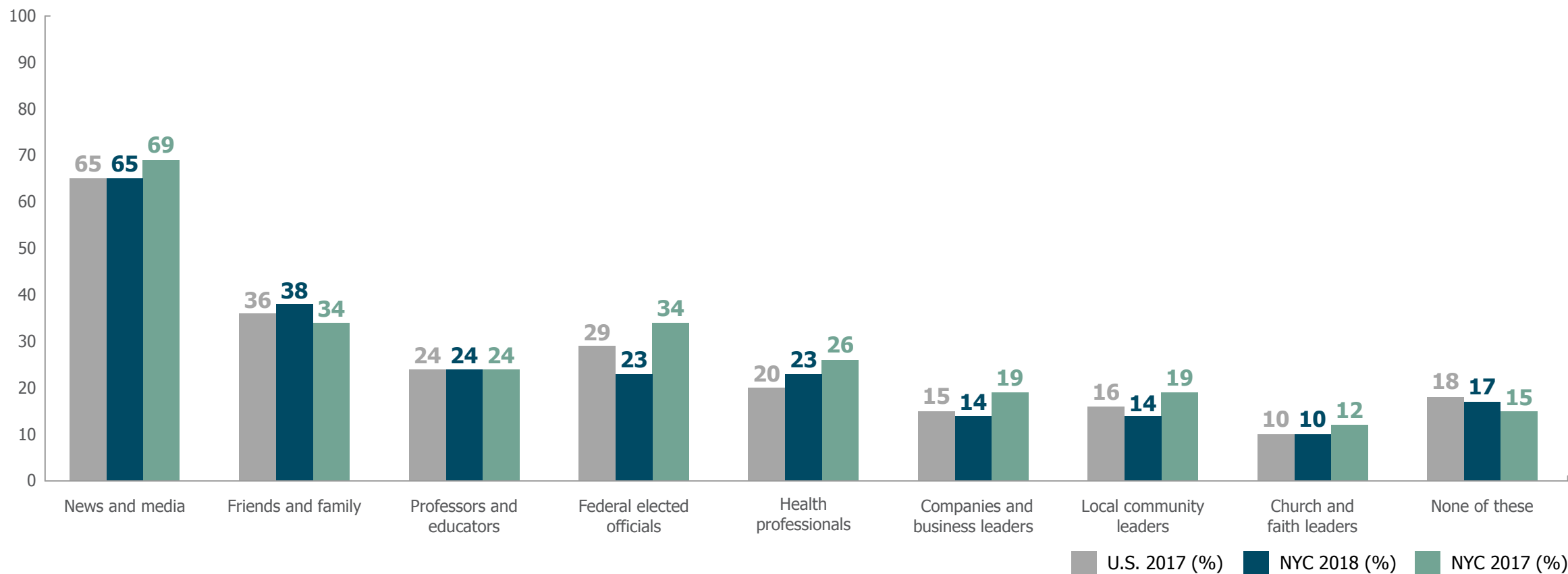


## **SOURCES & TRUST**

**Although New Yorkers are exposed to information about climate change slightly less than in recent years, they remain more trusting of climate messengers than Americans generally.**



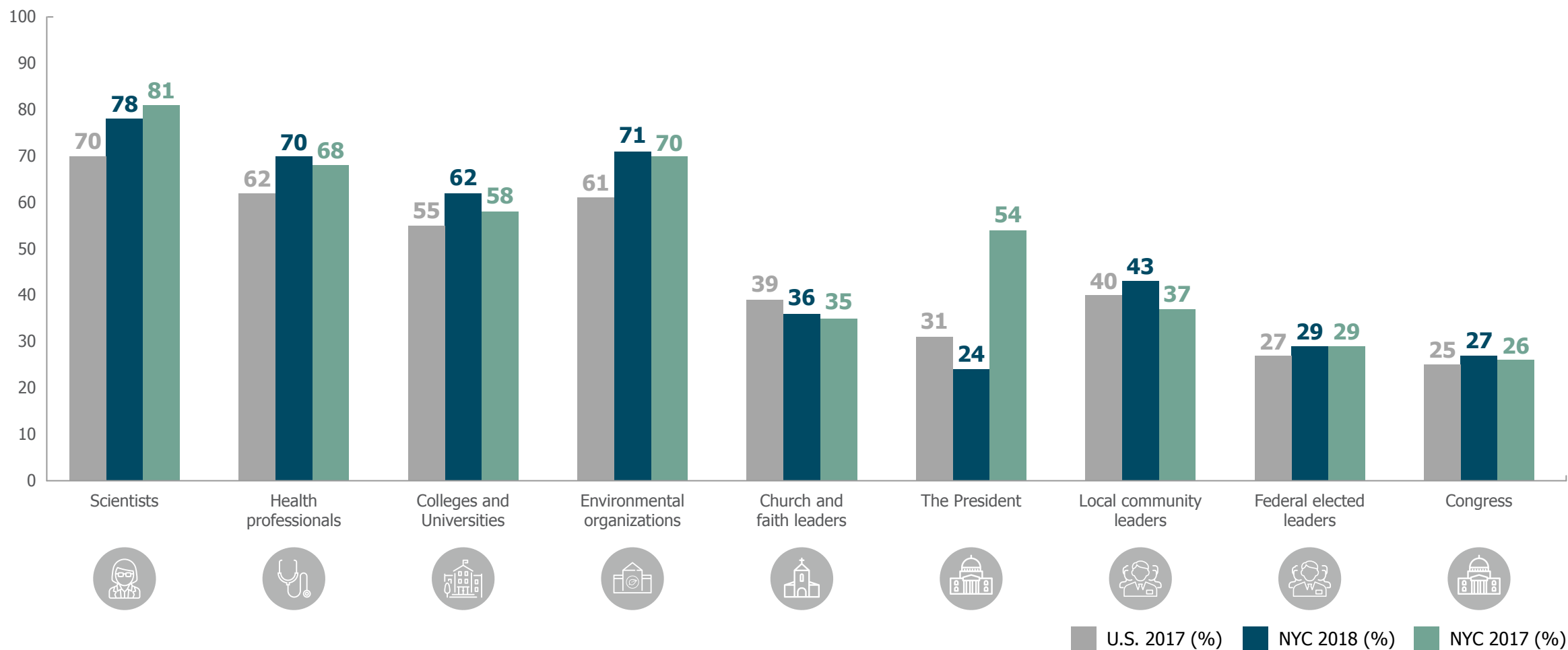
## New Yorkers are hearing about climate change from a variety of sources, at rates slightly below 2016:



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



## New Yorkers are more trusting of climate messengers, but less so of President Trump:



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)

**vs.**

**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**

**-30** points from NYC 2016



Trust the President

**vs.**

**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

**vs.**

**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

**vs.**

**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.

Learn more at [ecoAmerica.org](https://ecoAmerica.org)



# 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%

Learn more at [ecoAmerica.org](http://ecoAmerica.org)