

The Rural-Urban Divide on Climate Change, Where's the Polarization?

May 2021 American Climate Metrics Survey - Toplines

Fielded April 12th-April 13th, 2021

NATIONAL	Rep	Indep	Dem
(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
N= 1,084	256	282	409

Which best describes the area where you live?

Rural	17	29	15	10
Semi-rural	14	12	14	15
Suburban	50	43	54	50
Urban	20	16	17	25

NATIONAL	Urban	Rural
(%)	(%)	(%)
N= 1,084	217	179

Please indicate if you agree or disagree: Americans have a right to live in a healthy environment with clean air and water.

Strongly agree	81	84	81
Somewhat agree	15	13	15
Somewhat disagree	4	2	4
Strongly disagree	1	0	1

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NATIONAL (%) N=1,083	Rural (%) 179	Semi-rural (%) 147	Suburban (%) 541	Urban (%) 217
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In your view, whose responsibility is it to protect our environment and address climate change? (check all that apply)

The Environmental Protection Agency.....	69	63	58	71	77
Your local community's responsibility.....	70	56	70	73	77
Your personal responsibility	73	65	71	76	72
Companies-that-pollute's responsibility	66	51	65	71	68
Your state government's responsibility	64	46	56	70	71
The President of the United States' responsibility	50	34	42	54	56
Congress' responsibility	52	35	42	57	58

NATIONAL (%) N=1,036	Rural (%) 179	Semi-rural (%) 147	Suburban (%) 541	Urban (%) 217
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United States Actions to Address climate change will: (check all that apply)

Help support thriving nature.....	71	62	65	73	75
Make the United States more prosperous and competitive	57	43	54	61	59
Advance justice and equity.....	39	30	41	40	40
Protect our health.....	76	59	70	82	81
Benefit my family and community	60	44	51	69	56

NATIONAL (%) N=1,058	Rural (%) 179	Semi-rural (%) 147	Suburban (%) 541	Urban (%) 217
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I would support actions to address climate change that will: (check all that apply)

Help support thriving nature.....	73	63	64	76	78
Make the United States more prosperous					

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and competitive	58	43	55	62	61
Advance justice and equity	48	33	50	52	52
Protect our health.....	77	64	68	84	79
Benefit my family and community	66	54	58	71	70

NATIONAL	Rural	Semi-rural	Suburban	Urban	Rep	Indep	Dem
(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
N=1,084	179	147	541	217	256	282	409

How concerned are you about climate change?

Very concerned	48	39	41	48	60	25	41	67
Somewhat concerned	31	30	30	33	27	33	38	25
A little concerned.....	13	18	18	12	7	23	11	7
Not concerned at all	9	14	12	8	6	19	10	2

NATIONAL
(%)
N=1,084

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

Republican	24
Independent.....	38
Democrat	26
Something else.....	12

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DEMOGRAPHICS

NATIONAL
(%)
N=1,084

Age

< 18.....	0
18 - 29.....	26
30 - 44.....	25
45 - 60.....	34
> 60.....	16

Gender

Male.....	46
Female.....	54

Household Income

\$0 - \$9,999	7
\$10,000 - \$24,999.....	10
\$25,000 - \$49,999.....	20
\$50,000 - \$74,999.....	18
\$75,000 - \$99,999.....	14
\$100,000 - \$124,999	9
\$125,000 - \$149,999	5
\$150,000 - \$174,999	2
\$175,000 - \$199,999	1
\$200,000 +	4
Prefer not to answer	9

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NATIONAL
(%)
N=1,084

Region

New England	4
Middle Atlantic	13
East North Central	16
West North Central	5
South Atlantic	19
East South Central	5
West South Central	10
Mountain	7
Pacific	20

Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online April 12-13, 2020 using Survey Monkey. The survey yielded a total of 1,084 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%. 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 1,084 respondents answered, “Yes” to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage would fall within 3 points, or range from 47% to 53%.

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