The Rural-Urban Divide on Climate Change, Where’s the Polarization?
May 2021 American Climate Metrics Survey - Toplines
Fielded April 12th-April 13th, 2021

Which best describes the area where you live?

- Rural .................................................. 17
- Semi-rural ........................................... 14
- Suburban ............................................ 50
- Urban .................................................. 20

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
- Somewhat agree ........................................ 15
- Somewhat disagree .................................... 4
- Strongly disagree ....................................... 1
American Climate Perspective Survey – May 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NATIONAL (%)</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Semi-rural (%)</th>
<th>Suburban (%)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=1,083</td>
<td></td>
<td>179</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>217</td>
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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%
- Your local community’s responsibility........ 70%
- Your personal responsibility ................ 73%
- Companies-that-pollute’s responsibility ...... 66%
- Your state government’s responsibility ...... 64%
- The President of the United States’ responsibility ..................................... 50%
- Congress’ responsibility ................................................................. 52%

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United States Actions to Address climate change will: (check all that apply)

- Help support thriving nature.......................... 71%
- Make the United States more prosperous and competitive ........................................ 57%
- Advance justice and equity .......................... 39%
- Protect our health ...................................... 76%
- Benefit my family and community .................. 60%

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I would support actions to address climate change that will: (check all that apply)

- Help support thriving nature.......................... 73%
- Make the United States more prosperous
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How concerned are you about climate change?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern Level</th>
<th>NATIONAL (%)</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Semi-rural (%)</th>
<th>Suburban (%)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
<th>Rep (%)</th>
<th>Indep (%)</th>
<th>Dem (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little concerned</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not concerned at all</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| Party Identity                | NATIONAL (%) | |
|-------------------------------|--------------| |
| 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%.

Suggested Citation

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