

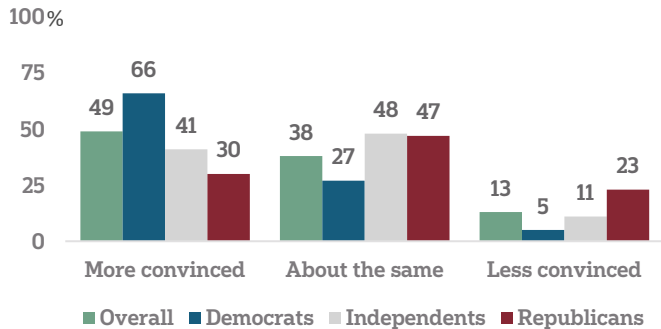


# Americans' Attitudes on Climate Change

## FINDINGS FROM A SEPTEMBER 2021 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

- ✓ **Most Americans believe that the pace of climate change is increasing, and nearly half are more convinced of the science of climate change than they were five years ago.**
  - Seventy-five percent of Americans believe that climate change is happening, and of those, 86% believe it is fully or partially caused by human activities.
  - Fifty-nine percent of Americans think the pace of climate change is increasing, including 78% of Democrats, 55% of Independents, and 37% of Republicans.
  - Forty-nine percent of Americans find the science on climate change to be more convincing today than 5 years ago, and another 38% find it just as convincing.
  - Fifty-nine percent of Americans say climate change is very or extremely important to them, a 10 percentage-point increase from 2018.
  - Democrats are more likely than Republicans to rank climate change and energy policy as important issues. However, nearly half of Republicans cite energy policy as very or extremely important, and a third of Republicans cite climate change as very or extremely important. That's up from 22% of Republicans who said the same in 2018.

### Nearly half of Americans are more convinced of the science on climate change today than they were five years ago.

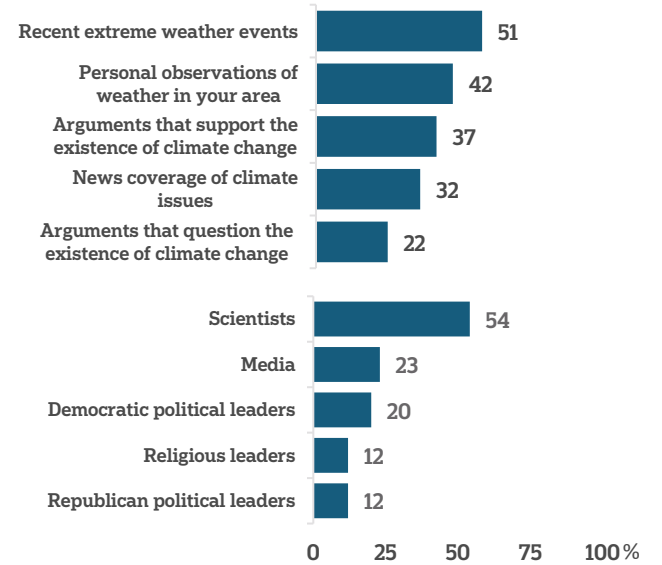


Question: Do you find the science on climate change more convincing than five years ago, just about the same, or less convincing?

- ✓ **Scientists and recent extreme weather events like hurricanes, droughts, floods, unusual heat, and wildfires are the most influential factors Americans say affect their views on climate change, with about half of Americans saying each has a great deal or a lot of influence on their views.**
  - Democrats are more likely than Republicans to be influenced by extreme weather (69% vs. 32%), personal observations (56% vs. 28%), news coverage (47% vs. 18%), scientists (75% vs. 33%), and arguments that support climate change (55% vs. 19%).
  - Just a third of Democrats say Democratic leaders have a lot of influence on their views, and just 14% of Republicans say the same about Republican leaders.

### Most Americans say scientists and extreme weather events affect their views on climate change.

% of adults who say each had a great deal or a lot of influence

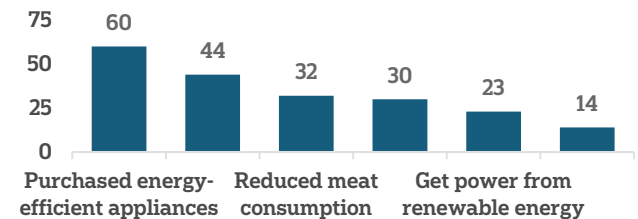


Question: How important are the following issues to you personally?

- ✓ **Three in four Americans have taken at least one step to address climate change.**
  - Seventy-six percent of Americans say they have taken at least one action to reduce their emissions or otherwise address climate change.
  - Sixty percent have purchased energy-efficient appliances, almost half have reduced the amount they drive, and nearly a quarter have chosen to get their energy from renewable sources.
  - Democrats are more likely than Republicans to have taken any of the steps mentioned, although a majority of Republicans have also purchased energy-efficient appliances.

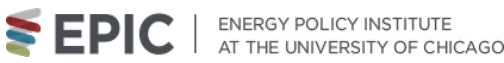
### A large majority of Americans have taken steps to address climate change in their own lives.

% of adults who have taken each step



Question: Have you taken any of the following steps to reduce your emissions or otherwise address climate change, or not?

This nationwide poll was conducted by The AP-NORC Center and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) from September 8-24, 2021, using TrueNorth®, which combines a sample from AmeriSpeak, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago, with a non-probability panel sample. Online and telephone interviews using landlines and cell phones were conducted with 5,468 adults. The margin of sampling error is +/- 1.7 percentage points. A full topline is available at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org).



# Americans' Willingness to Pay for Climate Policy

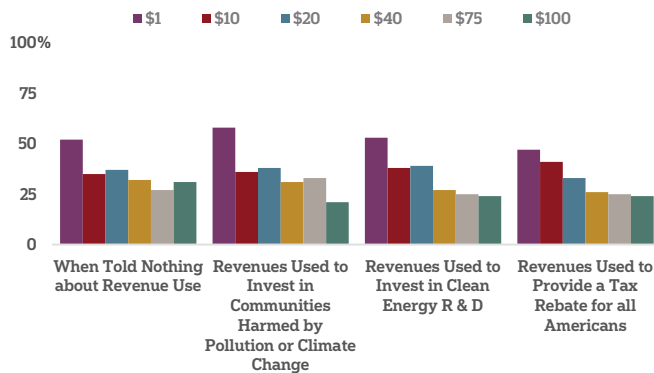
## FINDINGS FROM A SEPTEMBER 2021 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

✓ **To combat climate change, about half of Americans would support a fee on carbon that increased their monthly energy bills.**

- Fifty-two percent of Americans would support a carbon fee that increased their energy bills by \$1.
- Support for the fee dwindles as the impact on their energy bills grows, but about a third would still support the carbon fee even if it meant paying \$100 more for their energy. Sixteen percent of Americans said they would pay \$100 more per month on their electricity bills to fight climate change in a similar question in 2018.
- When told how these carbon fees would be used, Americans' willingness to pay \$1 ranges from a low of 47% when the proceeds would be returned to them in the form of a tax rebate to 58% if the proceeds are used to support communities harmed by pollution or climate change.

**In response to climate change, half of Americans support a carbon fee that would increase their monthly energy bills by \$1.**

% of adults who say they strongly or somewhat support a fee



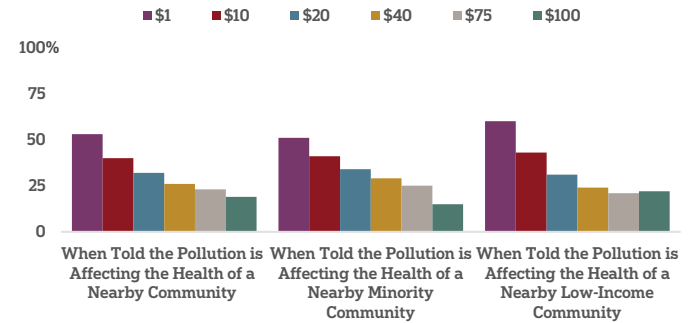
Question: Suppose Congress was going to impose a fee on carbon to combat climate change. If the law passed, it would increase the average amount your household pays each month for energy, including electricity, heating gas, and gasoline or diesel for your car [...]. Would you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose that law?

✓ **Half of Americans would pay at least a \$1 fee to clean up communities affected by air pollution.**

- Fifty-three percent of Americans support adding a \$1 monthly fee to their electricity bill to clean up air pollution damaging the health of people who live nearby.
- Similarly, 60% of Americans are willing to pay the monthly fee when told the nearby community is low income, and 51% are willing to pay the monthly fee when told it is a minority community.

**Half of Americans are willing to pay \$1 more in their electricity bills to clean up power plants and improve air pollution in local communities.**

% of adults who say they strongly or somewhat support a fee



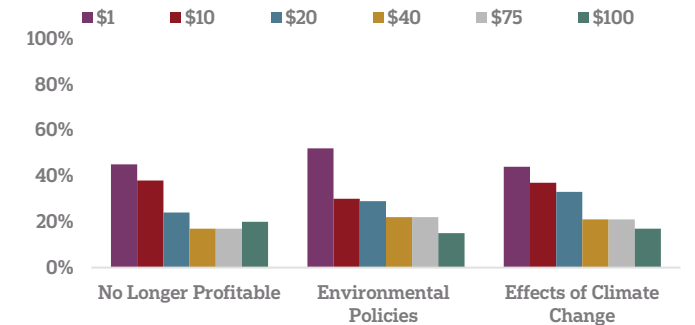
Question: Suppose that your local utility company owns several power plants, some of which generate much more air pollution than others, damaging the health of [...]. Would you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose a fee on your monthly electricity bill of \$\_\_ to clean up the dirtier plants?

✓ **Americans express support for a modest fee to help towns that have lost their main source of jobs due to federal environmental policies, profitability, or climate change.**

- About half of Americans would be willing to pay a \$1 fee to help communities if federal environmental policies led to a major local employer's closure.
- Similarly, they are willing to pay at least \$1 when the company closed because it was no longer profitable or if the effects of climate change led to the company's closure.

**About half of Americans would be willing to pay a modest fee to help towns when federal environmental policies led to the closure of a major local employer.**

% of adults who say they strongly or somewhat support a fee



Question: Imagine a town in your area has lost its main source of jobs because [...]. The state government is considering a new monthly fee to help the town that would cost your household \$\_\_\_. Would you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose that fee?

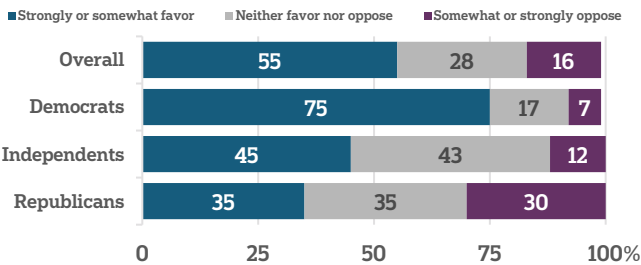
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## FINDINGS FROM A SEPTEMBER 2021 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

✓ **More than half of Americans support, and only 16 percent oppose, a clean energy standard that decreases the share of electricity coming from traditional sources like coal and natural gas.**

- Three out of four Democrats support a measure to increase the share of U.S. electricity generated from clean sources and decrease the share from fossil fuels.
- More Republicans support (35%) than oppose (30%) the measure. Another 35% are unsure.
- Higher-income Americans and those with a college degree are more likely than lower-income and non-college-educated Americans to support increasing clean electricity.

**Most Americans support a bill that increases the share of clean electricity sources and decreases that of traditional sources like coal and natural gas.**

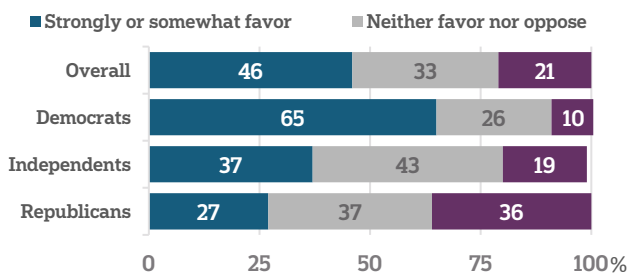


Question: Would you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose Congress passing a bill that increases the share of electricity coming from clean electricity sources while decreasing the share of electricity coming from traditional sources like coal and natural gas?

✓ **Less than half support providing aid to poorer countries to help them use more clean energy.**

- A majority of Democrats, 65%, would be in favor of helping poorer countries develop their clean energy sources, and 27% of Republicans said the same.
- Many Americans were undecided about the policy, with a third of respondents neither in favor nor opposed.

**Twice as many Americans support rather than oppose richer countries providing aid to poorer countries to help them develop their economies using clean energy sources rather than fossil fuels.**



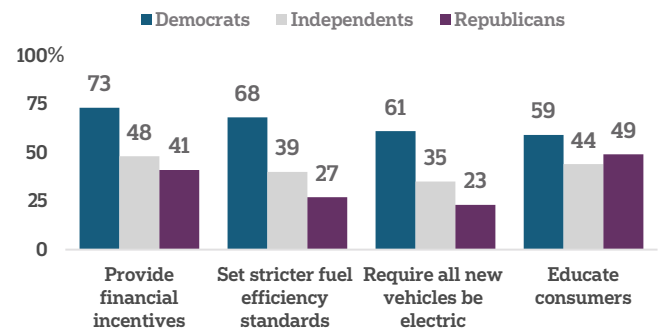
Question: Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose richer countries providing funding to poorer countries to allow them to develop their economies using clean energy sources rather than traditional sources?

✓ **Around half of Americans support a variety of policies aimed at reducing transportation emissions through the broader use of electric vehicles.**

- The most popular policies educate consumers about electric vehicles or encourage them to buy electric vehicles through tax incentives or cash rebates, gaining 53% and 57% support, respectively.
- More Americans support than oppose a policy that would require all new vehicles to be electric, with 43% supporting the policy and 31% opposing it.
- A majority of Democrats, 61%, support the policy requiring all new vehicles to be electric, while 16% oppose it. A majority of Republicans, 53%, oppose the policy, while 23% support it.

**More Americans support than oppose a policy that would require all new vehicles to be electric.**

% of adults



Question: Transportation is the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose the following policies to shift U.S. vehicles from gasoline engines to electric ones?

✓ **About half of Americans support power lines being built near their homes to carry renewable energy from areas where it is plentiful to areas where demand is high.**

- Without any additional information about what the high-voltage power lines would do or how much they would cost personally, 45% support building the lines, while 22% oppose them.
- When Americans were told the new power lines would help reduce carbon emissions and fight climate change, their support rose to 52%, and opposition fell to 18%.
- When told they would receive a \$60 monthly rebate for the power lines to be built near their homes, Americans' support rose by the same amount—52%.

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