



AEI Public Opinion Studies

POLLS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL WARMING

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The Environment

This AEI Public Opinion Study examines polls on the environment and global warming. In the first section, we look at national polls on the politics of the environment. Democrats lead Republicans by a substantial margin nationally as the party best able to handle environmental issues. This held true in the 2008 election cycle although the polls indicate that the issue was not a top priority for voters. Barack Obama also led John McCain by a substantial margin in the polls on handling the issue.

We include available trends from the major pollsters on how recent presidents have handled the issue in this document. Questions about George W. Bush's handling of the environment were not asked as often as questions about his handling of foreign policy or the economy, but he tended to receive negative marks on the issue late in his presidency. Questions about President Barack Obama's handling of the environment are just beginning to appear. In general, he is receiving positive marks.

The polls show that the environment is not an issue on the front burner for most Americans today. In Pew's 2010 question about priorities for President Obama and Congress, 44 percent said "protecting the environment" should be a top priority. The 2009 rating (41 percent) was the lowest rating for the issue since Pew began to ask the question in 1997. Other issues such as the economy and unemployment are of much greater concern today.

Most Americans consider themselves sympathetic to, but not active in, the environmental movement. Roughly four in ten told ABC News/Planet Green/Stanford pollsters in July 2008 that they considered themselves to be an environmentalist—down from 76 percent when Gallup first asked the same question in 1989. Nineteen percent in Gallup's March 2010 poll describe themselves as "active." This is slightly higher than the number who say they have contacted a public official about an environmental issue (17 percent in the 2010 poll) and been active in a group or organization that works to protect the environment (17 percent in 2010). In 1971, 42.9 percent of college freshmen said that being involved in programs to clean up the environment was an objective considered essential or very important for them. In 2008, 28.1 percent did. There is no indication from this poll or others that young people's commitment to a clean and healthful environment has lessened. They, like most Americans, simply attach less urgency to it than in the past.

In polls, people frequently give their Congressional representative high marks, but rate the institution as a whole poorly. People like their doctors, but they are critical of health maintenance organizations and the medical profession as a whole. Something similar may be at work in terms of people's views about the environment. A 2007 Yale/Global Strategy Group poll found that 32 percent rated the overall quality of the environment in the U.S. as excellent or good. Fifty-six percent gave that response for the quality of the environment in their local community.

When the public cares deeply about something, as they do about the environment, they often give answers that are designed to keep the pressure on legislators. In the March 2010 Gallup poll, for example, 48 percent said the quality of the environment nationally is getting worse. In 2008, 68 percent gave that response. These responses don't mean Americans have read the latest EPA reports on pollution levels. It simply means that they want legislators to pay attention to environmental concerns. The public rarely gives specific legislative advice about complex environmental policy debates in Washington. They do not follow these debates closely.

For commentary on global warming, see page 29.

The Politics of the Issue

Party Best Able to Handle Environmental Issues

- Let me ask you who you feel can do a better job on each of the same things – the Democrats or the Republicans... controlling air and water pollution? (Harris)
- Which political party, the Republicans or the Democrats, would do a better job protecting the environment? (ABC News/Wash Post)
- Which political party, the Republican or the Democratic, do you think can do a better job of protecting the environment? (Pew)
- Which political party, the Republican or the Democratic, do you think would do a better job of dealing with environmental issues? (Gallup)
- Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is f the environment? (CBS/NYT)
- When it comes to protecting the environment, which party do you think would do a better job – the Democratic party the Republican party, both about the same, or neither? (NBC/WSJ)
- I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for government to deal with. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, whether you have more confidence in – the Republican Party, or the Democratic Party – to deal with this issue...Protecting the environment? (Tarrance (R)/Lake(D))
- Do you think the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems? How about Environmental policy? (CNN/ORC)

		Democratic Party	Republican Party	Both the Same/Neither	Volunteered Response*
Apr. 1971	Harris	23%	15%	42%	
Dec. 1975	Harris	33	10	39	
Apr. 1983	ABC/WP	44	18	11	
Jun. 1984	Hart	46	16	38	
Jul. 1987	Harris	55	32	7	
Oct. 1988 [^]	CBS/NYT	43	29	10	
Nov. 1989 ¹	NBC/WSJ	36	15	39	
Dec. 1989	Harris	49	29	14	
Jan. 1990	ABC/WP	46	31	17	
Feb. 1990	Harris	55	36	6	
Apr. 1990 ¹	NBC/WSJ	22	14	61	
May 1990	Pew	40	24	19	
Jun. 1990	Harris	51	34	5	
Oct. 1990 ¹	NBC/WSJ	38	15	40	
Mar. 1991 ¹	NBC/WSJ	35	16	40	
Mar. 1991	ABC/WP	40	35	20	
Jun. 1991 ¹	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	44	25	17	
Sep. 1991	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	47	33	20	
Oct. 1991	NBC/WSJ	39	16	36	
Nov. 1991	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	32	19	
Jan. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	48	32	20	
Jul. 1992 ¹	NBC/WSJ	38	11	45	
Dec. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	64	21	8	
Jun. 1993~	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	52	22	13	
Oct. 1993	NBC/WSJ	44	15	35	
Dec. 1993	Pew	46	22	12	
Dec. 1993	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	56	27	17	
Jul. 1994	Pew	50	28	8	

Nov. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	36	8	
Dec. 1995	NBC/WSJ	45	13	33	
Jan. 1996 ¹	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	61	21	8	
May 1996	NBC/WSJ	45	17	21	
Feb. 1997+	Pew	44	27	5	
Sep. 1997	NBC/WSJ	51	12	30	
Oct. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	57	26	10	
Jan. 1998	ABC/WP	54	31	9	
Mar. 1998	Pew	56	22	13	
Jul. 1998	ABC/WP	56	28	8	
Sep. 1998	NBC/WSJ	45	12	39	
Sep. 1998	Pew	51	25	12	
Oct. 1998	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	59	27	8	
Mar. 1999	ABC/WP	55	24	13	
Jun. 1999	Pew	45	27	12	
Nov. 1999	CBS/NYT	54	25	9	
Dec. 1999	NBC/WSJ	43	14	36	
Jul. 2000	CBS/NYT	52	24	11	
Apr. 2001 ¹	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	61	22	11	
May 2001	Pew	51	25	11	
Jun. 2001	NBC/WSJ	52	15	28	
Jan. 2002 ²	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	57	25	9	
Jan. 2002	CBS/NYT	57	23	10	
Jan. 2002	ABC/WP	59	29	8	
Jun. 2002	NBC/WSJ	44	14	37	
Jun. 2002 ²	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	62	22	8	
Jul. 2002	ABC/WP	55	27	12	
Jul. 2002	CBS/NYT	60	19	11	
Sep. 2002	ABC/WP	55	31	7	
Sep. 2002	Pew	46	25	15	
Oct. 2002	CBS/NYT	63	19	8	
May 2003	CBS/NYT	60	23		
Sep. 2003 ²	Tarrance(R)/Lake(D)	60	28	8	
Dec. 2003	NBC/WSJ	54	20	22	7%
Jan. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	57	35	8	
Jan. 2004	NBC/WSJ	51	18	20	9
Jul. 2004	Pew	51	24	11	
Nov. 2005	NBC/WSJ	49	10	21	13
Feb. 2006	Pew	56	24	6	5
Jun. 2006	NBC/WSJ	49	12	22	13
Sep. 2006	Pew	57	19	11	
Apr. 2007	CBS/NYT	57	14	17	
Jul. 2007	NBC/WSJ	48	9	19	
Jan. 2008	NBC/WSJ	53	8	22	
Feb. 2008	Pew	65	21	8	
Jul. 2009	NBC/WSJ	40	13	22	
Mar. 2010	NBC/WSJ	39	15	18	
Mar. 2010	CNN/ORC	57	34	8	

Note: *Neither/both/both equally/no difference. +Question wording was, "Please tell me which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, comes closer to your view on each issue I name...The environment...Which party's position comes closer to your own?" ^ Question wording was, "Regardless of which presidential candidate you intend to vote for next month, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party would do a better job of protecting the environment?" ~Question wording was, "Still thinking about the issues that some people have said are important. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, which political party – (1) the Republican Party, or (2) the Democrat Party – do you think can

do a better job of dealing with this issue...Cleaning up the environment?" ¹Asked of registered voters.
²Asked of likely voters.

Environment as a Voting Issue, 1982-2008

- Which of these issues were most important to you in deciding how you voted for U.S. House? Military strength, unemployment, Social Security, abortion, the environment, inflation, government spending, nuclear freeze, or Ronald Reagan’s policies? [accepted up to two responses] (CBS/NYT, Nov. 1982)
- Which issues – if any – were most important to you in deciding whom to vote for? No issues really, civil rights, the federal budget deficit, foreign relations, government spending, environmental protection, farm problems, inflation, nuclear arms control, taxes, or unemployment? [accepted up to two responses] (LA Times, Nov. 1984)
- Which issues mattered most in deciding how you voted? Punishing criminals, helping the middle class, environment and pollution, economic prosperity and jobs, the federal budget deficit, not raising taxes, defense spending, U.S.-Soviet relations, or abortion? [accepted up to two responses] (CBS/NYT, Nov. 1988)
- Which one or two issues on this list mattered most when you voted today for Congress? Environment, education, crime/drugs, federal budget deficit plan, abortion, federal taxes, Iraq/Persian Gulf, savings and loan, or national economy? [accepted up to two responses] (VRS, Nov. 1990)
- Which one or two issues mattered most in deciding how you voted for president? Health care, federal budget deficit, abortion, education, economy/jobs, environment, taxes, foreign policy, or family values? [accepted up to two responses] (VNS, Nov. 1992)
- Which issues, if any, were most important to you in deciding how you would vote for president today? Moral/ethical values, education, jobs/the economy, the environment, taxes, abortion, health care, poverty, federal budget deficit, crime/drugs, foreign affairs, or none of the above? [accepted up to two responses] (LA Times, Nov. 1996)
- Which issues, if any, were most important to you in deciding how you would vote for president today? Moral/ethical values, education, jobs/the economy, the environment, taxes, abortion, health care, Social Security, budget surplus, Medicare/prescription drugs, foreign affairs, or none of the above? [accepted up to two responses] (LA Times, Nov. 2000)

Year	National Exit Pollster	Top Issue (Compared with Environment)	-----How Voters Who Selected the Environment----- -----As Their Top Issue Voted-----				
1982	CBS/NYT	Unemployment Environment	38% 3	Democratic	68%	Republican	33%
1984	LA Times	Govt. Spending Environment	22 4	Mondale	75	Reagan	25
1988	CBS/NYT	Helping the middle class Environment	25 10	Dukakis	66	Bush	34
1990	VRS	Education Environment	26 21	Democratic	55	Republican	44
1992	VNS	Economy/Jobs Environment	42 5	Clinton	72	Bush	14
1996	LA Times	Morals/ Ethical Values Environment	40 6	Clinton	75	Dole	16
2000	LA Times	Morals/					

Ethical Values 35
Environment 9 Gore 76 Bush 12

2004 Not asked.

2006 Not asked.

2008 Not asked.

- Which one of the following issues mattered most in deciding your vote for Governor? (Nov. 4-5, 2002)
- Which one of the following issues mattered most in deciding your vote for Senator? (Nov. 4-5, 2002)

2002

State	National Pollster	Top Issue (Compared with Environment)	How People Who Selected the Environment----- -----As Their Top Issue Said They Voted----- -----Or Planned to Vote-----			
FL	Fox/OD	Education 43%				
		Environment 4	McBride	50%	Jeb Bush	43%
NJ	Fox/OD	Economy 35%				
		Environment 5	Lautenberg	81	Forrester	8

Note: **These polls are not exit polls.** Fox News/Opinion Dynamics surveyed approximately 900 voters and likely voters in each state on Election Day and the day before. In the Florida survey, “environment” tied for sixth out of nine issues. In the New Jersey survey, “environment” ranked last out of seven issues.

- If the Sierra Club said it was supporting a presidential candidate would you be more likely to vote for that candidate, less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make any difference?

		More Likely	No Difference	Less Likely
Dec. 2003-Jan. 2004	PSRA/Pew Research Center	9%	73%	9%

The Obama Administration and Environmental Policy

- Do you think Barack Obama will do a good job or a poor job in handling each of the following issues as president? How about protecting the nation's environment?

		Good Job	Poor Job
Mar. 2009	Gallup/USA Today	79%	14%
Mar. 2010	Gallup/USA Today	52%	33%

- How important is it to you that the president (Barack Obama) and Congress deal with each of the following issues in the next year—the environment?

		Extremely/Very Important	Moderately Important	Not That Important
Jan. 2010	CNN/ORC	53%	31%	16%

- And please tell me if you approve, disapprove or neither approve nor disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling each of the following issues. How about the environment?

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Apr. 2009	AP/Gfk	60%	19%	19%
Jul. 2009	AP/Gfk	55	31	13
Sept. 2009	AP/Gfk	51	34	14
Oct. 2009	AP/Gfk	53	28	18

Nov. 2009	AP/Gfk	54	29	16
Dec. 2009	Ap/Gfk	55	31	14
Jan. 2010	Ap/Gfk	53	16	31
Mar. 2010	Ap/Gfk	54	17	29
Apr. 2010	Ap/Gfk	50	14	35

Note: Survey asked for respondents who leaned one way or another. Those responses were not included here.

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling environmental policy?

		Approval	Disapprove
Oct.–Nov. 2009	CNN/ORC	62%	33%

- How much confidence do you have in Barack Obama to do the right thing when it comes to global climate change? Would you say you have a great deal, a fair amount, not too much, or no confidence at all?

		A Great Deal	A Fair Amount	Not Too Much	None
Dec. 2009	Pew Research Center	16%	32%	17%	22%

- Which comes closer to your point of view about the Obama administration; A) It is striking the right balance between helping reduce greenhouse gases and protecting American jobs; B) It is going too far in protecting the environment at the expense of American jobs or C) It is going too far protecting jobs at the expense of the environment?

		Right Balance	Too Far On Environment	Too Far On Jobs
Dec. 2009	Quinnipiac	36%	38%	8%

The Bush Administration and Environmental Policy

- When it comes to environmental protection, which of these do you think is happening under the Bush administration – the nation’s environmental protection policies are being strengthened, the nation’s environmental policies are being kept about the same, or the nation’s environmental protection policies are being weakened?

		Strengthened	The Same	Weakened
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	9%	53%	35%
Mar. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	6	53	39
Mar. 2005	Gallup	5	52	40
Mar. 2006	Gallup	5	49	43
Mar. 2007	Gallup	6	53	39
Mar. 2008	Gallup	6	52	39

- We’re interested in your opinion of the way George W. Bush is handling certain aspects of his job...First, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling...the environment?

		Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2001	PSRA/Newsweek	42%	39%
May 2001	PSRA/Newsweek	45	41
Aug. 2002	PSRA/Newsweek	52	36
Sep. 2002	PSRA/Newsweek	51	33
Apr. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	47	34
May 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	47	37
May 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	48	36
Jul. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	47	38
Sep. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	45	39

Sep. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	43	44
Sep. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	45	40
Oct. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	43	41
Nov. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	44	42
Dec. 2003	PSRA/Newsweek	43	41
Jan. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	44	40
Mar. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	41	45
Aug. 2005	PSRA/Newsweek	39	48
May 2006	PSRA/Newsweek	38	53
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek	32	56

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the environment?

		Approve	Disapprove
Aug. 2001	CBS News/NYT	43%	40%
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	33	56

- Overall, how would you rate the job President Bush has done in handling the environment during his time in office?

		Excellent	Pretty Good	Only Fair	Poor
Apr. 2008	Harris Interactive	6%	22%	27%	37%

Note: Sample is an internet sample.

- When it comes to protecting the environment, is the Bush administration doing too much, or too little, or just the right amount to protect the environment?

		Too Much	Too Little	Right Amount
Jul.-Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	3%	56%	36%

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling environmental issues?

		Approve	Disapprove
Jul. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	41%	47%

- Thinking about the way...President (George W.) Bush is handling issues involving the natural environment, do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove?

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Mar. 2006	ABC News/Time/Stanford	21%	53%	25%

- Do you think George W. Bush is doing a good job or a poor job in handling each of the following issues as president? How about protecting the nation's environment?

		Good Job	Poor Job
Mar. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	51%	38%
Apr. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	41
Mar. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	50	38
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	44	43
Mar. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	41	46
Mar. 2005	Gallup	39	50
Mar. 2006	Gallup	33	55

- Now I'm going to mention some issues facing the country and ask whether you believe the United States has made progress, stood still, or lost ground in each during the last eight years, since George W. Bush became president. How about in terms of...the environment?

		Made Progress	Stood Still	Lost Ground
Jan. 2009	Gallup/USA Today	28%	28%	42%

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling...the environment?

		Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	46%	44%
Jul. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	46	42
Mar. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	53	36
Feb. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	53	37
Jan. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	49	45

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling...the environment?

		Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	46%	41%
Apr. 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	47	41
Jun. 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	41	50
Jul. 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	45	49
Sept. 2001	ABC News/Wash Post	50	44
Jan. 2002	ABC News/Wash Post	54	31
Jul. 2002	ABC News/Wash Post	52	39
Sept. 2002	ABC News/Wash Post	49	40
Dec. 2002	ABC News/Wash Post	50	40
Apr. 2003	ABC News/Wash Post	49	40
Sept. 2003	ABC News/Wash Post	51	42
Jan. 2005	ABC News/Wash Post	48	44

- How much do you approve or disapprove of President Bush's positions on the following issues...environmental policies?

		Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 2005	Harris Interactive	36%	47%
May 2005	Harris Interactive	38	51
Jul. 2005	Harris Interactive	37	51

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling...the environment?

		Approve	Disapprove
Jun. 2002	PSRA/Pew Research Center	50%	38%
Feb. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	42	43
May 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	39	47
Feb. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	39	47
Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	32	51

- Whether or not you support Bush, do you think the Bush administration will or will not be able to do each of following in its second term in office? Whether or not you support Bush, in your view, do you think the Bush administration did or did not do each of the following in its first term in office?

Jan. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	Yes, Will	Did Improve	Did Not
	Improve military security for the country	73%		
	Keep the country safe from terrorism		68%	
	Keep America Prosperous	62		
	Improve education	58		
	Improve moral values in the United States	57		
	Increase respect for the Presidency	54		
	Improve respect for the United States abroad	50		
	Improve the federal tax system	49		
	Improve the health care system	44		
	Ensure the long-term strength of the Medicare system	42		
	Ensure the long-term strength of the Social Security System	40		
	Improve the quality of the environment	39	31%	63%
	Heal political divisions in this country	33		
	Reduce the federal budget deficit	26		

- For each of the issues I've named, please tell me if you think Bush will or will not make substantial progress on it in the next four years.

Jan. 2005	ABC News/Wash Post	Yes, Will
	The US campaign against terrorism	70%
	The situation in Iraq	58
	The economy	56
	Restricting medical malpractice and class-action lawsuits	54
	Education	53
	Taxes	52
	Health Care	48
	Social Security	46
	Immigration issues	39
	The Federal budget deficit	35
	The environment	32
	Reducing political partisanship in Washington	26

- When you think about how the Bush administration may deal with environmental policy, do you feel mostly hopeful or mostly fearful, or would you say your feelings are mixed?

Jan. 2005	ABC News/Wash Post	Hopeful	Fearful	Mixed
		35%	27%	35%

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the nation's environmental issues?

		Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2001	LA Times	41%	38%
Jan. 2002	LA Times	52	29
Dec. 2002	LA Times	48	34
Feb. 2003	LA Times	48	30

- Overall, how would you rate President Bush's performance on each of the following the environment – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Apr. 2001	Zogby	9%	25%	32%	21%
Jun. 2001	Zogby	6	23	38	25
Jun. 2003	Zogby	7	27	27	33
Jul. 2003	Zogby	8%	22%	39%	27%

- When it comes to the environment has the Bush administration lived up to your expectations or has it fallen short?

		Lived Up To Expectations	Fallen Short
Oct. 16-18, 2004	NBC/WSJ	36%	51%

- Now I'd like you to think about some specific issues. When it comes to each issue, please tell me whether you believe the country should continue in the direction Bush is headed or go in a significantly different direction...The environment?

		Different Direction	Bush's Direction
May 2003	Democracy Corps (Dem.)	47%	40%
Jun. 2003*	Democracy Corps (Dem.)	50	41

Note: *The other issues Democracy Corps inquired about were "the war on terrorism" (+37 Bush), "foreign policy" (+14 Bush), "respect for the United States in the world" (+10 Bush), "relations with countries around the world" (+8 Bush), "support for education (+3 Bush), "the moral climate in the country" (+1 Bush), "taxes" (no advantage), "prescription drugs for seniors" (-5 Bush), "energy policy" (-6 Bush), "retirement and Social Security" (-9 Bush), "the economy" (-11 Bush), "federal budget and deficits" (-17 Bush), and "health care" (-17 Bush).

- Do you think the Bush administration has made a lot of progress, some progress, not much progress, or no progress at all in improving the environment?

		A Lot	Some	Not Much	None
Aug. 2003	CBS/NYT	2%	33%	21%	34%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Recently a group of prominent scientists charged that the Bush administration is ignoring and distorting scientific evidence concerning the seriousness of environmental problems such as global warming. How much have you heard about this criticism before now – a great deal, a moderate amount, not much, or nothing at all?

		Great Deal	Moderate Amount	Not Much	Nothing At All
Mar. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	8%	26%	40%	26%

- Who do you tend to believe in this matter – the scientists, who claim that the Bush administration is ignoring and distorting scientific evidence about environmental problems, or the Bush administration, which denies ignoring and distorting scientific evidence about environmental problems?

		Scientists	Bush Administration
Mar. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	59%	32%

The Clinton Administration and Environmental Policy

- Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton has done in each of the following areas...Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton has handled...the environment?

		Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 1993*	PSRA/Newsweek	60%	24%
Apr. 1993	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	60	25
Aug. 1993	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	53	32
Nov. 1993	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	58	32
Jan. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	56	29
Jul. 1994	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	53	34
Jun. 1995	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	55	31
Mar. 1996	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	62	29
Aug. 1996+	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	58	31
Jan. 1999	Gallup	69	22
Jan. 2001	PSRA/Newsweek	65	27

Note: *Question wording was, "protecting the environment." +Asked of registered voters.

Obama v McCain on the Environment

- Who do you think would be better when it comes to...the environment and global warming--Barack Obama or John McCain, or do you think that both would be equally good or neither would be good?

		Obama Better	McCain Better	Equally Good	Neither
Aug. 2008	NBC/WSJ	47%	21%	14%	12%

- Regardless of how much detail you know, which 2008 presidential election candidate do you think would do more to reduce global warming in the future, Barack Obama or John McCain?

		Obama	McCain
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	56%	23%

- Regardless of who you may support for president in 2008, who do you trust more to handle...global warming and other environmental issues--Barack Obama or John McCain?

		Obama	McCain
Jun. 2008	ABC News/Wash Post	55%	28%

- How good a job do you think each of the following candidates would do in handling the environment if they were elected president?

		Harris Interactive				
		Excellent	Pretty Good	Only Fair	Poor	Not Sure
Apr. 2008						
	Obama	15%	32%	18%	14%	21%
	Clinton	14	33	20	15	18
	McCain	6	28	29	16	22

Bush v Kerry on the Environment

- Regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you trust George W. Bush or John Kerry to do better job handling each of the following issues. What about... the environment? Which do you trust to do a better job handling this issue...Bush or Kerry?

		Bush	Kerry
Jul. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	29%	59%
Sept. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	36	50
Oct. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	34	51
Oct. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	32	56
Oct. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	35	54

- Next, regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you think John Kerry or George W. Bush would better handle each of the following issues. How about...the environment?

		Bush	Kerry
Oct. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	31%	60%

- Now I'd like you to compare George W. Bush and John Kerry on a few issues. For each one, please tell me whether you think that George W. Bush or John Kerry would be better on that issue. If you think that both would be equally good or that neither would be good on a particular issue, just say so.

		George W. Bush Better	John Kerry Better	Both Would Be Equally Good	Neither Would Be Good
May 2004	NBC/WSJ	19%	47%	16%	6%
Sept. 2004	NBC/WSJ	25	50	9	8

- Which candidate – George W. Bush or John Kerry – do you think would do a better job on each of the following issues...protecting the environment?

		Bush	Kerry
May 2004	Harris/Time/CNN	33%	55%

- When it comes to George W. Bush's and John Kerry's positions on each of these issues, please tell me whether you think that there are real and important differences in their positions, or small and unimportant differences in their differences...the environment?

		Real and Important Differences	Small and Unimportant Differences
May 2004	NBC/WSJ	53%	22%

The Significance of the Issue

The Government and the Environment

- Agree strongly or somewhat: Federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution?

ACE/UCLA

College Freshmen

Strongly Agree/Somewhat Agree

1971	90.5%	1978	81.5%	1995	83.5%
1972	89.6	1979	80.8	1996	81.9
1973	88.1	1990	87.9	1997	80.7
1974	82.6	1991	85.5	2005	77.5
1975	81.1	1992	87.9	2006	79.2
1976	82.4	1993	84.4	2007	81.6
1977	81.2	1994	84.0	2008	77.9

Note: Asked of college freshmen.

- Do you think the U.S. government is doing too much, too little, or about the right amount in terms of protecting the environment?

		Too Much	Right Amount	Too Little
Jan.-Mar. 1992	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	4%	26%	68%
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	10	30	58
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	7	37	51
Mar. 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	5	37	55
Mar. 2005	Gallup	5	34	58
Mar. 2006	Gallup	4	33	62
Mar. 2010	Gallup	15	35	46

- Do you think the federal government should or should not regulate the release of greenhouse gases from sources like power plants, cars and factories in an effort to reduce global warming? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

		Should	Should Not
Apr. 2009	ABC News/WP	75%	21%
Jun. 2009	ABC News/WP	75	22

- While all are important, which two do you think government officials should make their top priority?

Apr. 2009	Harris	
	Air pollution	42%
	Water pollution	40
	Combating Global Warming	34
	Water shortages	34
	Reducing America's carbon footprint	18
	Deforestation	16
	Extinction of certain species	11

The Importance of the Issue

- What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

Gallup

	Percentage Who Say “Environment/ Pollution”	Percentage Who Say “Lack of energy sources/ energy crisis”	Percentage Who Say “Fuel/Oil Prices”	Top Response
Jan. 2003	2%	*	-	Economy (16%)
Feb. 2003	2	*	-	Economy (21)
Mar. 2003	2	*	-	Economy (21)
Apr. 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq (26)
May 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq (26)
Jun. 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq (27)
Jul. 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq (26)
Aug. 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq/Eco. (21)
Sept. 2003	2	1%	-	War in Iraq (23)
Oct. 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq (23)
Nov. 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq (26)
Dec. 2003	1	*	-	War in Iraq (23)
Jan. 2004	1	*	-	War in Iraq (25)
Feb. 2004	1	*	*	War in Iraq (24)
Mar. 2004	1	*	2%	War in Iraq (25)
Apr. 2004	1	1	3	War in Iraq (18)
Apr. 2006	1	3	11	War in Iraq (25)
May 2006	1	4	22	War in Iraq (29)
Jun. 2006	2	3	11	War in Iraq (27)
Jul. 2006	2	2	9	War in Iraq (25)
Aug. 2006	2	4	15	War in Iraq (26)
Sep. 2006	2	2	5	War in Iraq (24)
Oct. 2006	1	1	2	War in Iraq (28)
Nov. 2006	1	2	2	War in Iraq (36)
Dec. 2006	2	3	2	War in Iraq (29)
Jan. 2007	2	1	1	War in Iraq (36)
Feb. 2007	5	--	3	War in Iraq (38)
Mar. 2007	2	2	3	War in Iraq (35)
Apr. 2007	3	1	5	War in Iraq (33)
May 2007	2	2	7	War in Iraq (33)
Jun. 2007	2	2	7	War in Iraq (34)
Jul. 2007	2	2	4	War in Iraq (35)
Aug. 2007	2	1	4	War in Iraq (32)
Sep. 2007	3	1	3	War in Iraq (30)
Oct. 2007	1	*	2	War in Iraq (33)
Nov. 2007	3	2	7	War in Iraq (24)
Dec. 2007	1	2	5	War in Iraq (29)
Jan. 2008	2	2	6	War in Iraq (25)
Feb. 2008	1	1	3	The economy (34)
Mar. 2008	1	2	8	The economy (35)
Apr. 2008	1	2	9	The economy (41)
May 2008	2	3	17	The economy (35)
Jun. 2008	3	7	25	The economy (36)
Jul. 2008	2	6	23	The economy (35)
Aug. 2008	1	9	15	The economy (38)
Sep. 2008	2	6	7	The economy (41)
Oct. 2008	*	2	5	The economy (47)

Nov. 2008	1	1	1	The economy (58)
Dec. 2008	2	1	1	The economy (55)
Jan. 2009	2	1	1	The economy (57)
Feb. 2009	1	1	1	The economy (57)
Mar. 2009	2	1	1	The economy (51)
Apr. 2009	1	1	*	The economy (48)
May 2009	1	1	*	The economy (47)
Jun. 2009	*	1	1	The economy (41)
July 2009	2	1	1	The economy (38)
Aug 2009	1	1	*	The economy (33)
Aug-Sept 2009	1	1	1	The economy (29)
Oct. 2009	1	*	*	The economy (26)
Nov. 2009	1	*	*	The economy (31)
Dec. 2009	3	1	*	The economy (26)
Jan. 2010	1	1	1	The economy (25)
Feb. 2010	1	1	*	The economy/Jobs (31)*
Mar. 2010	2	1	*	Unemployment/Jobs (31)

Note: *The economy and unemployment/jobs were each tied with 35 percent.

- I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush/Obama and Congress this year. As I read from the list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, should it not be done?

PSRA/Pew Research Center

	-----Top Priority-----			
	Jan. 2007	Jan. 2008	Jan. 2009	Jan. 2010
Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	80%*	74%	76%	80%
Improving the educational system	69	66	61	65
Strengthening the nation's economy	68	75*	85*	83
Reducing healthcare costs	68	69	59	57
Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	64	64	63	66
Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	63	60	60	63
Reducing crime	62	54	46	49
Improving the job situation	57	61	82	81
Protecting the environment	57	56	41	44
Dealing with the nation's energy problem	57	59	60	49
Providing health insurance to the uninsured	56	54	52	49
Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	51	50	53
Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	55	51	41	40
Reducing the budget deficit	53	58	53	60
Increasing the minimum wage	53	NA	NA	NA
Making it tough for illegal immigrants to enter U.S.	51	NA	NA	NA
Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	48	46	43	42
Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	47	43	45	45
Strengthening the U.S. military	46	42	44	49
Dealing with global warming	38	35	30	28
Making the recent federal income tax cuts permanent	36	35	NA	NA
Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	35	39	36	36
Dealing with global trade issues	34	35	31	32

- I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Clinton/Bush/Obama and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done?...protecting the environment

		Top Priority	Important But Lower Priority	Not Too Important	Should Not Be Done
Jan. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	54%	35%	8%	2%
Jan. 1998	PSRA/Pew Research Center	53	37	8	1
Jan. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	52	39	7	1
Jul. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	59	32	7	1
Jan. 2000	PSRA/Pew Research Center	54	37	6	2
Jan. 2001	PSRA/Pew Research Center	63	30	3	3
Jan. 2002	PSRA/Pew Research Center	44	42	12	1
Jan. 2003	PSRA/Pew Research Center	39	50	9	1
Jan. 2004	PSRA/Pew Research Center	49	40	10	1
Jan. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	49	42	8	1
Jan. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	57	35	6	1
Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	57	32	9	1
Jan. 2008	PSRA/Pew Research Center	56	34	8	1
Jan. 2009	PSRA/Pew Research Center	41	42	12	3

Note: In 2009, out of the twenty issues asked about, global warming ranked twentieth in terms of being the top priority.

- Next, I'm going to read a list of problems facing this country. For each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all?

Gallup/USA Today

	-----Worry A Great Deal About-----			
	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2006	Mar. 2007	Mar. 2008
The availability and affordability of health care	62%	68%	63%	58%
Crime and violence	46	45	48	49
Drug use	46	48	45	43
The possibility of future terrorist attacks in the U.S.	42	45	41	40
The economy	41	43	39	60
Illegal immigration	37	43	45	40
Unemployment	36	31	25	36
Hunger and homelessness	35	43	43	38
The availability and affordability of energy	35	48	43	47
The quality of the environment	35	40	43	40
Race relations	19	22	19	18

Personal Worries about the Environment

- Next I am going to read a list of problems facing the country. For each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all? How much do you personally worry about the quality of the environment?

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only A Little	Not At All
Mar. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	42%	35%	17%	5%
Mar. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	35	31	27	6
Mar. 2003	Gallup	34	34	21	10
Mar. 2004	Gallup	35	27	31	7

Mar. 2005	Gallup	35	31	27	8
Mar. 2006	Gallup	40	37	18	5
Mar. 2007	Gallup	43	33	18	6
Mar. 2008	Gallup	40	34	19	7

- What in your opinion is the single biggest environmental problem the world faces at this time?

	ABC News/TIME/Stanford ABC News/Planet Green/Stanford	Mar. 2006, Apr. 2007 Jul. 2008		
		Mar. 2006	Apr. 2007	Jul. 2008
Air pollution		13%	13%	12%
Water pollution		6	NA	5
Pollution (unspecified)		4	4	4
Miscellaneous pollution mentions		3	4	3
Global Warming/Greenhouse effect/ climate change		16	33	25
Destruction/ fragmentation/ loss of habitat, rain forests, wetlands, forests, open spaces; over-development; logging and mining		7	4	4
Energy problems/ dependence on fossil fuels/ lack of oil		8	6	11
Toxic substances in environment		7	6	6
Tsunami/ tidal wave/ earthquake/ natural disasters		1	*	*
Oil drilling/ oil tankers		2	1	--
Waste/ landfills/ not enough recycling		9	3	4
Overpopulation/ over-consumption		4	3	3
Saving natural resources		3	1	2
Acid rain		*	*	--
Extinction of species		*	0	*
Spread of invasive non-native species		*	*	*

Note: Some categories not included.

- I'm going to read you a list of environmental problems. As I read each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all.

Mar. 2010	Gallup	Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only A Little/ Not at all
Pollution of drinking water		50%	27%	23%
Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs		46	32	22
Maintenance of the nation's supply of fresh water for household needs		45	30	25
Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste		44	33	23
Air pollution		38	32	30
The loss of tropical rain forests		33	33	33
Extinction of plant and animal species		31	30	39
Global Warming		28	24	48

Historical Trends:

Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs?

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	72%	19%	5%	3%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	64	23	9	4
Apr. 1991	Gallup	67	21	8	3
Mar. 1999	Gallup	55	30	12	3
Apr. 1999	Gallup	61	30	7	2
Apr. 2000	Gallup	66	24	8	2
Mar. 2001	Gallup	58	29	10	3
Mar. 2002	Gallup	53	32	12	3
Mar. 2003	Gallup	51	31	13	5
Mar. 2004	Gallup	48	31	16	5
Mar. 2006	Gallup	51	33	11	5
Mar. 2007	Gallup	53	31	13	3
Mar. 2008	Gallup	50	34	12	4
Mar. 2009	Gallup	52	31	13	4
Mar. 2010	Gallup	46	32	18	4

Air pollution

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	63%	24%	8%	4%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	58	29	9	4
Apr. 1991	Gallup	59	28	10	4
Oct. 1997	Gallup	42	34	18	5
Mar. 1999	Gallup	47	33	16	4
Apr. 1999	Gallup	52	35	10	3
Apr. 2000	Gallup	59	29	9	3
Mar. 2001	Gallup	48	34	14	4
Mar. 2002	Gallup	45	33	18	4
Mar. 2003	Gallup	42	32	20	6
Mar. 2004	Gallup	39	30	23	8
Mar. 2006	Gallup	44	34	15	7
Mar. 2007	Gallup	46	33	15	5
Mar. 2008	Gallup	43	35	17	6
Mar. 2009	Gallup	45	31	18	6
Mar. 2010	Gallup	38	32	22	8

Damage to the earth's ozone layer

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	51%	26%	13%	8%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	43	28	15	10
Apr. 1991	Gallup	49	24	16	8
Oct. 1997	Gallup	33	27	25	13
Apr. 1999	Gallup	44	32	15	8
Apr. 2000	Gallup	49	29	14	7
Mar. 2001	Gallup	47	28	16	8
Mar. 2002	Gallup	38	29	21	11
Mar. 2003	Gallup	35	31	21	12
Mar. 2004	Gallup	33	27	26	14
Mar. 2006	Gallup	40	28	19	13
Mar. 2007	Gallup	43	27	19	11

Mar. 2008	Gallup	39	29	19	12
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The loss of tropical rain forests

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	42%	25%	18%	12%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	40	24	19	14
Apr. 1991	Gallup	42	25	21	10
Apr. 1999	Gallup	49	30	14	6
Apr. 2000	Gallup	51	25	14	9
Mar. 2001	Gallup	44	32	15	8
Mar. 2002	Gallup	38	27	21	12
Mar. 2003	Gallup	39	29	21	11
Mar. 2004	Gallup	35	26	23	15
Mar. 2006	Gallup	40	24	22	13
Mar. 2007	Gallup	43	30	17	10
Mar. 2008	Gallup	40	29	20	11
Mar. 2009	Gallup	42	26	21	11
Mar. 2010	Gallup	33	33	22	11

The “greenhouse effect” or global warming

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	35%	28%	18%	12%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	30	27	20	16
Apr. 1991	Gallup	35	27	22	12
Oct. 1997	Gallup	24	26	29	17
Mar. 1999	Gallup	28	31	23	16
Apr. 1999	Gallup	34	34	18	12
Apr. 2000	Gallup	40	32	15	12
Mar. 2001	Gallup	33	30	22	13
Mar. 2002	Gallup	29	29	23	17
Mar. 2003	Gallup	28	30	23	17
Mar. 2004	Gallup	26	25	28	19
Mar. 2006	Gallup	36	26	21	15
Mar. 2007	Gallup	41	24	18	16
Mar. 2008	Gallup	37	29	16	17
Mar. 2009	Gallup	35	25	20	19

Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	69%	21%	6%	3%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	63	22	10	5
Apr. 1991	Gallup	62	21	11	5
Mar. 1999	Gallup	55	29	11	5
Apr. 1999	Gallup	63	27	7	3
Apr. 2000	Gallup	64	25	7	4
Mar. 2001	Gallup	58	27	12	3
Mar. 2002	Gallup	53	29	15	3
Mar. 2003	Gallup	51	28	16	5
Mar. 2004	Gallup	48	26	21	5
Mar. 2006	Gallup	52	29	13	6
Mar. 2007	Gallup	52	28	13	7
Mar. 2008	Gallup	50	30	14	6
Mar. 2009	Gallup	52	28	14	5

Mar. 2010	Gallup	44	33	18	5
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Acid rain

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	41%	27%	19%	11%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	34	30	18	14
Apr. 1991	Gallup	34	30	20	14
Apr. 1999	Gallup	29	35	23	11
Apr. 2000	Gallup	34	31	19	15
Mar. 2001	Gallup	28	28	26	16
Mar. 2002	Gallup	25	23	31	19
Mar. 2003	Gallup	24	26	27	21
Mar. 2004	Gallup	20	26	27	26
Mar. 2006	Gallup	24	28	24	23
Mar. 2007	Gallup	25	25	28	20
Mar. 2008	Gallup	23	27	26	23

Pollution of drinking water

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
Apr. 1990	Gallup	65%	22%	9%	4%
Apr. 1991	Gallup	67	19	10	3
Apr. 1999	Gallup	68	22	7	3
Apr. 2000	Gallup	72	20	6	2
Mar. 2001	Gallup	64	24	9	3
Mar. 2002	Gallup	57	25	13	5
Mar. 2003	Gallup	54	25	13	5
Mar. 2004	Gallup	53	24	17	6
Mar. 2006	Gallup	54	27	12	7
Mar. 2007	Gallup	58	24	12	5
Mar. 2008	Gallup	53	28	13	6
Mar. 2009	Gallup	59	25	11	5
Mar. 2010	Gallup	50	27	17	6

Extinction of plant and animal species

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
Apr. 2000	Gallup	45%	33%	14%	8%
Mar. 2001	Gallup	43	30	19	7
Mar. 2002	Gallup	35	30	22	12
Mar. 2003	Gallup	34	32	21	12
Mar. 2004	Gallup	36	26	23	15
Mar. 2006	Gallup	34	29	23	14
Mar. 2007	Gallup	39	30	19	12
Mar. 2008	Gallup	37	31	20	11
Mar. 2009	Gallup	37	28	22	12
Mar.2010	Gallup	31	30	24	15

Maintenance of the nation's supply of fresh water for household needs

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
Apr. 2000	Gallup	42%	31%	14%	12%
Mar. 2001	Gallup	35	34	19	10
Mar. 2002	Gallup	50	28	17	5
Mar. 2003	Gallup	49	28	15	8
Mar. 2004	Gallup	47	25	20	8

Mar. 2006	Gallup	49	27	14	9
Mar. 2007	Gallup	51	27	16	5
Mar. 2008	Gallup	48	31	15	5
Mar. 2009	Gallup	49	31	14	5
Mar. 2010	Gallup	45	30	18	7

The loss of natural habitat for wildlife

		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not at All
May 1989	Gallup	58%	27%	9%	5%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	51	30	12	7
Apr. 1991	Gallup	53	27	15	5
Apr. 1999	Gallup	51	31	13	5
Apr. 2000	Gallup	51	31	13	5
Mar. 2001	Gallup	48	33	15	4
Mar. 2008	Gallup	44	33	17	6

Urban sprawl and loss of open spaces

		Great deal	Fair amount	Only a little	Not at all
Apr. 2000	Gallup	42%	31%	14%	12%
Mar. 2001	Gallup	35	34	19	10
Mar. 2008	Gallup	33	35	19	12

- Is the following something that you worry about a lot, is this something you worry about somewhat or is this something you do not worry about? Global warming.

		Worry a Lot	Worry Somewhat	Do Not Worry
Jan. 2006	Public Agenda	32%	37%	29%
Sep. 2006	Public Agenda	33	35	30
Mar. 2007	Public Agenda	41	34	24

- How important are the following issues to you personally? How about the environment?

		Extremely/Very Important	Moderately Important	Slightly/Not at all Important
Apr. 2009	Ap/Gfk/Roper	64%	23%	13%
Jul. 2009	Ap/Gfk/Roper	63	21	15
Sept. 2009	Ap/Gfk/Roper	59	24	16
Oct. 2009	Ap/Gfk/Roper	64	23	13
Nov. 2009	Ap/Gfk/Roper	59	27	14
Dec. 2009	Ap/Gfk/Roper	64	22	14
Jan. 2010	Ap/Gfk/Roper	61	23	15
Mar. 2010	Ap/Gfk/Roper	62	20	17
Apr. 2010	Ap/Gfk/Roper	59	24	14

Rating the Environment Today

- How would you rate the overall quality of the environment in this country today – as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor
Mar. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	5%	41%	47%	6%
Mar. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	4	43	45	7
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	5	36	48	10
Mar. 2004	Gallup	4	39	46	11

Mar. 2005	Gallup	4	37	48	10
Mar. 2006	Gallup	5	35	49	11
Mar. 2007	Gallup	5	35	48	11
Mar. 2008	Gallup	5	35	49	11
Mar. 2009	Gallup	5	34	45	16
Mar. 2010	Gallup	4	42	44	9

- How would you rate the condition of the natural environment **in the world** today – excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor?

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	3%	21%	43%	25%	8%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/WP/Stanford	3	20	41	26	9
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	3	21	38	28	9

- Compared to 10 or so years ago, do you think the natural environment in the world today is better, worse or about the same? If better: Do you think it's much better or somewhat better? If worse: Do you think it's much worse or somewhat worse?

		----- Better -----		Same	----- Worse -----	
		Much	Somewhat		Somewhat	Much
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	4%	9%	27%	38%	22%

- Thinking ahead to 10 or so years from now, do you think the natural environment in the world will be better, worse or about the same? If better: Do you think it will be much better or somewhat better? If worse: Do you think it will be much worse or somewhat worse?

		-----Better-----		Same	-----Worse-----	
		Much	Somewhat		Somewhat	Much
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	5%	16%	23%	31%	24%

- Next, we'd like to know whether or not you feel good about various things in this country and in your life. Do you feel good about...the quality of the air, water and environment where you live and work, or not?

Feel Good About The Quality Of The
Air, Water And Environment
Where You Work & Live

Apr. 1997	Harris Interactive	61%
May 1998	Harris Interactive	68
May 1999	Harris Interactive	69
May 2000	Harris Interactive	69
May 2001	Harris Interactive	69
Jun. 2002	Harris Interactive	70
Oct. 2003	Harris Interactive	70
Oct. 2004	Harris Interactive	71

- Right now, do you think the quality of the environment in the country as a whole is getting better or getting worse?

		Better	Worse
Mar. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36%	57%
Mar. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40	54
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	33	57
Mar. 2004	Gallup	34	58
Mar. 2005	Gallup	29	63
Mar. 2006	Gallup	25	67
Mar. 2007	Gallup	25	67

Mar. 2008	Gallup	26	68
Mar. 2009	Gallup	41	51
Mar. 2010	Gallup	41	48

- Next, as I read you some problem areas, please tell me how you think each is affecting this country today. First, do you think the problem of environmental pollution is about the same as it has been, that the country is making progress in this area, or that the country is losing ground?

		Making Progress	About The Same	Losing Ground
Mar. 1989	PSRA/Pew Research Center	32%	20%	42%
Mar. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	37	26	34
Apr. 1995	PSRA/Pew Research Center	43	26	30
Dec. 1996	PSRA/Pew Research Center	42	26	30
Nov. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	38	32	27
May 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	21	35	37
Feb. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	20	26	52
Dec. 2008	PSRA/Pew Research Center	32	31	33

- How would you rate the condition of the environment in the world today – that is the overall condition and quality of the air, water, land, and wildlife – is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	1%	19%	49%	30%

- And what about where you live? How would you rate the condition of the environment where you live – is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	12%	44%	34%	10%

- Do you think the condition of the environment for the next generation will be better, worse, or about the same as it is now?

		Better	Worse	Same
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	11%	57%	29%

- Right now, do you think the quality of the environment in the United States is getting better, staying about the same, or getting worse?

		Better	Worse	The Same
Feb. 2007	Yale/Global Strategy Group	11%	62%	24%

- How would you rate the overall quality of the environment in the United States today?

		Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor
Feb. 2007	Yale/Global Strategy Group	4%	28%	44%	21%

- How would you rate the overall quality of the environment in the world today?

		Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor
Feb. 2007	Yale/Global Strategy Group	2%	15%	42%	33%

- How would you rate the overall quality of the environment in your local community today?

		Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor
Feb. 2007	Yale/Global Strategy Group	13%	43%	31%	13%

- Next, we'd like to know how you feel about the state of the nation in each of the following areas. For each one, please say whether you are--very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. If you don't have enough information about a particular subject to rate it, just say so. How about...the quality of the environment in the nation?

		Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Jan. 2001	Gallup	56%	40%
Jan. 2002	Gallup	56	41
Jan. 2003	Gallup	55	42
Jan. 2004	Gallup	52	45
Jan. 2005	Gallup	54	42
Jan. 2006	Gallup	52	45
Jan. 2007	Gallup	46	50
Jan. 2008	Gallup	47	49

- In your opinion, would you say that the United States tends to play a positive role, a negative role, or neither a positive nor a negative role regarding... protection of the environment?

		Positive Role	Negative Role	Neither
May 2004	Gallup	46%	31%	21%

Trade Offs

- Which one of these statements about the environment and the economy do you most agree with---protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth, or economic growth should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent?

		Environment	Economic Growth
Sep. 1984	Gallup	61%	28%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	71	19
Apr. 1991	Gallup	71	20
Jan.-Mar. 1992	Gallup	58	26
Apr. 1995	Gallup	62	32
Jul. 1997	Gallup	66	27
Apr. 1998	Gallup	68	24
Mar. 1999	Gallup	65	30
Apr. 1999	Gallup	67	28
Jan. 2000	Gallup	70	23
Apr. 2000	Gallup	67	28
Mar. 2001	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	57	33
Mar. 2002	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	54	36
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	47	42
Mar. 2004	Gallup	49	44
Mar. 2005	Gallup	53	36
Mar. 2006	Gallup	52	37
Mar. 2007	Gallup	55	37
Mar. 2008	Gallup	49	42
Jun. 2008	CNN/ORC	49	44
Mar. 2009	Gallup	42	51
Mar. 2010	CNN/ORC	45	44
Mar. 2010	Gallup	38	53

- Which worries you more – that the U.S. will not take the actions necessary to prevent the catastrophic effects of global warming because of fears those actions would harm the economy or that the U.S. will take actions to protect against global warming and those actions will cripple the U.S. economy?

		US Not Take Action	US Take Action And Cripple Economy
Dec. 2009	Gallup	38%	46%

- With which one of these statements about the environment and energy production do you most agree -- protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting the amount of energy supplies -- such as oil, gas and coal -- which the United States produces or development of U.S. energy supplies -- such as oil, gas and coal -- should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent?

		Priority To The Environment	Priority To Energy Supplies
Mar. 2001	Gallup	52%	36%
Mar. 2002	Gallup	52	40
Mar. 2003	Gallup	49	40
Mar. 2004	Gallup	48	44
Mar. 2005	Gallup	52	39
Mar. 2006	Gallup	49	42
Mar. 2007	Gallup	58	34
Mar. 2008	Gallup	50	41
Mar. 2009	Gallup	47	46
Mar. 2010	Gallup	43	50

- How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Protecting the environment should be as a high priority for the government as protecting jobs

		Agree	Disagree
Mar. 2007	Harvard IOP	68%	11%

Note: Sample is of 18-24 year olds.

- Which of the following approaches to solving the nation's energy problems do you think the U.S. should follow right now – emphasize production of more oil, gas, and oil supplies or emphasize more conservation by consumers of existing energy supplies?

		More Production	More Conservation	Both	Neither
Mar. 2001 (early)	Gallup	33%	56%	8%	1%
Mar. 2001 (mid)	Gallup	35	47	14	2
Mar. 2002	Gallup	30	60	6	2
Mar. 2003	Gallup	29	60	7	2
Mar. 2004	Gallup	31	59	6	2
Mar. 2005	Gallup	28	61	7	2
Mar. 2006	Gallup	35	55	6	1
Mar. 2007	Gallup	26	64	5	1
Mar. 2008	Gallup	29	61	5	3
Mar. 2010	Gallup	36	52	6	3

- Often there are trade-offs or sacrifices people must make in deciding what is important to them. Generally speaking, when a trade-off has to be made, which is more important to you – stimulating the economy or protecting the environment?

		Economy	Environment
May. 1992	CBS News/NYT	39%	46%
Sept. 1992	CBS News/NYT	45	44
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	36	52
Jan. 2009	CBS News/NYT	58	33
Dec. 2009	CBS News/NYT	61	29

- Right now, which do you think should be a higher priority for the government – increasing the production of petroleum, coal, and natural gas, or encouraging people to conserve energy?

		Production	Conservation
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	21%	62%

- Generally speaking, do you think improving the environment conflicts with economic growth, or do you think improving the environment does not have to conflict with economic growth?

		Conflicts	Does Not Have to Conflict
Jul.-Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	25%	70%

- Whether or not you personally think improving the environment conflicts with economic growth, if there is a conflict, which should take priority – improving the environment, or economic growth?

		Environment	Economy
Jul. -Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	57%	35%

- Do you think there is too much, too little, or about the right amount of government regulation and involvement in the area of environmental protection?

		Too Much	Too Little	Right Amount
1991	Harris Interactive	11%	63%	23%
1993	Harris Interactive	20	52	24
1996	Harris Interactive	24	41	30
1997	Harris Interactive	21	49	28
1998	Harris Interactive	29	41	29
1999	Harris Interactive	29	42	28
2000	Harris Interactive	22	39	33
2005	Harris Interactive	19	47	32
2007	Harris Interactive	21	53	21

- I'm going to read you some pairs of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. As I read each pair, tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... This country should do whatever it takes to protect the environment or This country has gone too far in its efforts to protect the environment.

		Should Do Whatever It Takes	Has Gone Too Far
Jul. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	78%	19%
Oct. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	77	19
Apr. 1995	PSRA/Pew Research Center	74	22
Oct. 1995	PSRA/Pew Research Center	77	20

Oct 1996	PSRA/Pew Research Center	77	18
Aug. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	80	15
Sep. 2000	PSRA/Pew Research Center	78	17
Dec. 2004	PSRA/Pew Research Center	77	18

- I'm going to read you some pairs of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. As I read each pair, tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is...stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy, or stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost.

		Hurt The Economy	Worth The Cost
Jul. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	33%	62%
Oct. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	32	62
Apr. 1995	PSRA/Pew Research Center	39	57
Oct. 1995	PSRA/Pew Research Center	35	61
Oct. 1996	PSRA/Pew Research Center	30	63
Aug. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	28	65
Sep. 2000	PSRA/Pew Research Center	31	61
Dec. 2004	PSRA/Pew Research Center	31	60
Dec. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	37	56
Apr. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	29	65
Jul. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	31	57
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	30	61

- Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Protecting the environment is so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high and continuing environmental improvements must be made regardless of the cost?

		Agree	Disagree
Nov. 2002	CBS News/NYT	57%	36%
Oct. 2006	CBS News/NYT	63	33
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	63	32

- For each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it. There needs to be stricter laws and regulations to protect the environment.

		Agree	Disagree
Jun. 1992	PSRA/Pew Research Center	90%	9%
Jul. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	82	17
Nov. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	81	18
Sep. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	83	16
Aug. 2002	PSRA/Pew Research Center	83	16
Aug. 2003	PSRA/Pew Research Center	86	13
Dec. 2006-			
Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	83	15
Apr. 2009	PSRA/Pew Research Center	83	16

Note: Responses are combined

- For each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it. People should be willing to pay higher prices in order to protect the environment.

		Agree	Disagree
Jun. 1992	PSRA/Pew Research Center	67%	32%

May 1993	PSRA/Pew Research Center	57	41
Jul. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	57	42
Nov. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	55	43
Sep. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	56	42
Aug. 2002	PSRA/Pew Research Center	62	36
Aug. 2003	PSRA/Pew Research Center	65	34
Dec. 2006-			
Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	60	37
Apr. 2009	PSRA/Pew Research Center	49	48

Note: Responses are combined

- I'm going to read you some pairs of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. As I read each pair, tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is...there are no real limits to growth in this country today, or people in this country should learn to live with less.

		No Real Limits To Growth	People Should Live With Less
Jul. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	51%	45%
Aug. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	54	40
Dec. 2004	PSRA/Pew Research Center	51	41

- Do you favor or oppose relaxing some environmental standards to increase oil and gas production in the United States?

		Favor	Oppose
May 2001	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	45%	44%
Apr. 2004	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	46	43

Environmental Activism

- Do you consider yourself an environmentalist?

		Consider Myself An Environmentalist	Do Not
May 1989	Gallup	76%	20%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	73	24
Apr. 1991	Gallup	78	19
Apr. 1995	Gallup	63	35
Apr. 1999	Gallup	50	48
Apr. 2000	Gallup	47	52
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	41	58

- Is your overall opinion of the environmentalist movement very favorable, mostly favorable, very unfavorable, or mostly unfavorable?

		Very/Mostly Favorable	Very/Mostly Unfavorable
Jul. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	63%	8%
Mar. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	63	7

- Do you think of yourself as an active environmentalist, sympathetic to the environmental movement, neutral, unsympathetic to the environmental causes, not sure?

		Active			
		Environmentalist	Sympathetic	Neutral	Unsympathetic
Apr. 2007	Harris Interactive	5%	55%	34%	2%

- During the past year, how much did you think about the impact that you personally had on the natural environment--a great deal, a lot, a moderate amount, a little, or not at all?

		Great Deal	A Lot	Moderate Amount	A Little	Not At All
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	16%	20%	35%	22%	8%

- All things considered, do you think the environmental movement in this nation has done more good than harm, or more harm than good? Would you say it has done – definitely more good than harm, probably more good than harm, probably more harm than good, or definitely more harm than good?

		Definitely More Good Than Harm	Probably More Good Than Harm	Probably More Harm Than Good	Definitely More Harm Than Good
Jan-Mar. 1992	Gallup	33%	43%	11%	3%
Apr. 2000	Gallup	33	42	12	9
Mar. 2005	Gallup	22	47	19	9
Mar. 2007	Gallup	22	44	21	10
Mar. 2010	Gallup	22	40	23	13

- Objectives considered essential or very important: Becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment?

ACE/UCLA

		College Freshmen	
		Essential/Very Important	
1971	42.9%	1990	33.9%
1972	44.6	1991	31.3
1973	34.3	1992	33.6
1974	25.9	1993	28.6
1975	28.8	1994	24.3
1976	27.7	1995	22.5
1977	29.4	1996	20.7
1978	27.5	1997	19.4
1979	26.0	1998	18.8
1980	26.7	1999	17.9
1981	24.8	2000	17.5
1982	22.9	2001	17.1
1983	21.2	2002	17.1
1984	20.5	2003	17.4
1985	20.3	2004	17.5
1986	15.9	2005	20.7
1987	17.7	2006	23.4
1988	NA	2007	27.7
1989	26.1	2008	28.1

Note: Asked of college freshmen. NA = Not asked.

- Objectives considered essential or very important: Adopting “green” practices to protect the environment?

College Freshmen
Essential/Very Important
2008 ACE/UCLA 42.5%

Note: Asked of college freshmen.

- Which of these, if any, have you, yourself, done in the past year?

Been active in a group or organization that works to protect the environment

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	15%
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	20
Mar. 2007	Gallup	19
Mar. 2010	Gallup	17

Voted for or worked for candidates because of their position on environmental issues

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	28%
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	30
Mar. 2007	Gallup	35
Mar. 2010	Gallup	28

Contributed money to an environmental, conservation or wildlife preservation group

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	40%
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	42
Mar. 2007	Gallup	43
Mar. 2010	Gallup	36

Contacted a public official about an environmental issue

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	18%
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	15
Mar. 2007	Gallup	17
Mar. 2010	Gallup	17

Bought some product specifically because you thought it was better for the environment than competing products

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	73%
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	72
Mar. 2007	Gallup	70
Mar. 2010	Gallup	76

Voluntarily recycled newspapers, glass, aluminum, motor oil or other items

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	90%
Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	89
Mar. 2007	Gallup	89
Mar. 2010	Gallup	90

Reduced your household’s use of energy

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	83%

Mar. 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	80
Mar. 2007	Gallup	85
Mar. 2010	Gallup	85

Contacted a business to complain about its products or policies because they harm the environment

		Yes
Apr. 2000	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	13 %
Mar. 2007	Gallup	9
Mar. 2010	Gallup	8

Replaced standard light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescent light bulbs

		Yes
Mar. 2010	Gallup	81%

Used re-usable shopping bags at the grocery store instead of the standard plastic or paper bags

		Yes
Mar. 2010	Gallup	70%

- Thinking about your own shopping and living habits over the last five years, would you say you have made major changes, minor changes, or not changes to help protect the environment?

		Major Changes	Minor Changes	No Changes
Apr. 2000	Gallup	31%	58%	11%
Mar. 2003	Gallup	23	61	15
Mar. 2008	Gallup	28	55	17

- Next I'm going to read you some words and phrases and ask you to rate how well each describes you. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where "10" represents a description that is perfect for you, and "1" represents a description that is totally wrong for you. First, on this scale of 1 to 10, how well does...an environmentalist describe you? (Pew Research Center)

	Perfect		Wrong
	8-10	4-7	1-3
Apr. 1987	39%	49%	9%
May 1990	42	43	9
Mar. 1994	43	41	13
Sep. 1999	43	44	12

- In recent years, interest in the environment has increased. Do you think of yourself as an active environmentalist, or sympathetic toward environmental concerns but not active, or neutral, or generally unsympathetic to environmental concerns?

Gallup/CNN/USA Today

	Active	Sympathetic	Neutral	Unsympathetic
1992	29%	52%	15%	2%
1993	21	55	20	2
1994	23	56	16	2

- Thinking specifically about the environmental movement, do you think of yourself as an active participant in the environmental movement, sympathetic toward the movement, but not active, neutral, or unsympathetic toward the environmental movement?

Gallup/USA Today

	Active	Sympathetic	Neutral	Unsympathetic
Apr. 2000	16%	55%	23%	5%

Mar. 2001	18	50	25	5
Mar. 2002	19	51	24	5
Mar. 2003	14	47	32	6
Mar. 2004	14	47	30	8
Mar. 2005	16	49	28	5
Mar. 2006	14	48	29	7
Mar. 2007	21	49	23	5
Mar. 2008	22	47	25	6
Mar. 2010	19	42	28	10

- Do you think of yourself as an active environmentalist, sympathetic to environmental concerns, neutral, or unsympathetic to environmental concerns?

		Active	Sympathetic	Neutral	Unsympathetic
Jul. 2006	Diageo/Hotline	16%	45%	28%	5%

- Now, on a scale of 1 to 10, where “10” represents a description that is perfect for you and “1” a description that is totally wrong for you, how well do each of the following describe you? You can, of course, use any number between one and ten. To what extent do you regard yourself as...?

Oct. 2002	NPR/Greenberg/POS	Perfect			Wrong
		10	8-9	4-7	1-3
	An environmentalist	14%	36%	49%	14%
	A union supporter	17	28	36	34
	A supporter of the National Rifle Association	16	27	32	40
	A supporter of conservative religious groups	11	21	36	40

- About how often do you usually recycle products like paper, plastics or cans? Overall, do you... always or almost always recycle, sometimes recycle, rarely recycle or never recycle?

		Always/Almost Always Recycle	Sometimes Recycle	Rarely Recycle	Never Recycle
2004	ORC	56%	20%	11%	13%

Note: Forty percent of respondents age 18-24 recycled always or almost always. Of those 25-34 years of age, 46 percent always or almost always recycle. Sixty one percent of respondents age 35-44 recycle always or almost always. Respondents age 45-54 always or almost always recycle 60 percent of the time. Sixty three percent of respondents age 55-64 recycle always or almost always 63 percent of the time. Respondents over the age of 65 always or almost always recycle 62 percent of the time.

Global Warming

Global warming has received an enormous amount of media attention over the past several years, but it still doesn't rank at or near the top of issues people want the President and Congress to address.

In January 2010, when the Pew Research Center updated its yearly poll on priorities for the president and Congress, 28 percent said global warming should be a top priority. For the second year in a row, it ranked last of the twenty issues Pew asked about. Eighty-three percent said strengthening the economy should be a top priority. Other polls show that global warming is not a top-tier concern. Why doesn't the issue have a bigger public opinion footprint?

First, many people see global warming as a problem for the future. Other issues such as the economy seem more immediate to larger numbers of people. For most people, there have been few tangible manifestations of global warming. Polling on environmental issues over the past several decades shows that people are usually most concerned about problems they can see in their communities.

Another possible explanation relates to changing views of the media. When the environment emerged as a powerful political issue in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the media had more credibility than it has today. The media has joined other powerful institutions such as government, labor, and business about which the public is skeptical. In a 2010 Gallup poll, 48 percent said that what was said about global warming in the news was generally exaggerated. This was the highest response given since the question was first asked in 1997. The deep partisan polarization that we see on so many issues in public opinion polls also appears on global warming questions, with Democrats expressing more concern about it than Republicans.

It's also possible that Americans think they have been heard on the issue and will let politicians, interest groups, and others take over. The manner in which the environment emerged as an issue is instructive. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Americans decided that a clean and healthful environment was important to them. Once they agreed on ends policy should serve, most people pulled away from the debate about the means -- that is, exactly what kinds of legislation should be enacted to ensure environmental progress. They had neither the time nor the knowledge to get involved in complex debates about ambient air quality or energy options. Americans aren't indifferent, but they are inattentive. Their benign neglect is a backhanded compliment to representative democracy, an indication of confidence in the process. Lobbyists and activists can't pack their bags and go home. The debates in Washington on global warming will be as intense as ever, but most Americans will be on the sidelines. Interest groups will claim they have public opinion on their side in terms of how to respond to global warming, but how you word questions on complex hypothetical policy choices often determines the answers.

Finally, there may be another reason Americans have not elevated the issue. We're all environmentalists now, and it is hard to make a political issue out of a commitment shared by most of the population.

Portions of the above essay appeared on WashingtonPost.com

How Much People Know

- Thinking about the issue of global warming, sometimes called the greenhouse effect, how well do you feel you understand this issue--would you say very well, fairly well, not very well, or not at all?

		Very Well	Fairly Well	Not Very Well	Not at All
Jan. 1992	Gallup	11%	42%	22%	22%
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	16	45	28	10
Mar. 2001	Gallup	15	54	24	6
Mar. 2002	Gallup	17	52	25	6
Mar. 2003	Gallup	15	53	27	5
Mar. 2004	Gallup	18	50	26	6
Mar. 2005	Gallup	16	54	24	6
Mar. 2006	Gallup	21	53	20	6
Mar. 2007	Gallup	22	54	19	4
Mar. 2008	Gallup	21	59	18	2
Mar. 2010*	Gallup	26	56	15	3

Note: *The Mar. 2010 iteration did not include "sometimes called the greenhouse effect"

- I am going to read you some statements, and after each I would like you to tell me if you mostly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or mostly disagree with this statement?...If I had to, I could explain global warming to someone I meet in passing.

		Mostly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Mostly Disagree
Feb. 2007	Yale/Global Strategy Group	35%	32%	10%	20%

Note: Seventy-one percent of men said they could explain global warming while 63 percent of women said the same.

- Global warming is a term used to describe changes in the earth's climate. How much have you heard or read about global warming--a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

		A lot	Some	Not Much	Nothing
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	27%	38%	20%	14%
Jun. 2001	CBS News/NYT	37	38	19	6
Sept. 2003	CBS News	27	39	23	10
May 2006	CBS News/NYT	41	37	16	6
Apr. 2007*	CBS/NYT	42	47	9	3

Note: Wording for this question varies: "Global warming is a term used to describe changes in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere, which could result in changes in the environment. How much have you heard or read about global warming—a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?"

- How well do you feel that you understand the issue of global warming?

		Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Very Well	Not Well at All
Oct. 2005	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	27%	48%	14%	8%
Jan. 2007	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	32	47	13	5

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- How much do you feel you know about global warming – a lot, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?

		A Lot	Moderate Amount	Little	Nothing
Nov. 1997	ABC News/Ohio State	5%	38%	51%	7%
Feb. 1998	ABC News/Ohio State	5	39	46	10
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	11	47	36	6
Apr. 2007	ABC News/WP/Stanford	11	51	33	4
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	13	49	33	4

- Have you ever seen, heard, or read about the theory of global warming--that average temperatures are rising slowly and will continue to rise mainly because of the burning of coal, oil, and other fuels?

		Yes, Have Seen, Heard, or Read	Have Not
Aug. 2000	Harris Interactive	89%	10%
Aug. 2001	Harris Interactive	88	11
Sept. 2002	Harris Interactive	85	14

- Now I will read a list of some things that have happened in the world recently. For each one, please tell me if you've heard or it or not....The environmental problem of global warming...Have you heard of it or not?

		Heard of It	Never Heard of It
May 2006	PSRA/Pew	91%	9%

- Have you heard or read anything about the issue of global warming?

		Yes	No
Apr. 2001	LA Times	82%	14%

- Overall, would you say it is easy or difficult to find the scientific information you need to understand global warming and climate change?

		Easy to Find	Difficult to Find
Jan. - Feb. 2006	PSRA/Pew	64%	26%

- Some people believe that the earth's atmosphere is gradually warming and that, in the long run, the warming could have catastrophic consequences. Which of the following best describes your opinion about global warming? It is a major threat to civilization, it is little or no threat to civilization, it is not really proven that it is happening, I do not know enough about it to have an opinion.

		Major Threat	Minor Threat	No Threat	I Do Not Know Enough
May1992	USA Today	39%	6%	17%	38%

- Where have you gotten most of your news and information about global warming and climate change? From school, from television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet and email?

Jan.-Feb. 2006	PSRA/Pew	
	Television	51%
	Newspapers	23
	The Internet and email	19
	Magazines	9
	School	8
	Radio	5

- How often do you get news or information about global warming and climate change from the Internet or through email--everyday or almost everyday, several times a week, several times a month, or less often?

		Everyday Or Almost Everyday	Several Times A Week	Several Times A Month	Less Often
Jan.-Feb. 2006	PSRA/Pew	4%	5%	37%	53%

Note: Sample is those who said they use the internet.

- How closely do you follow stories about global warming and climate change--very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not Very Closely	Not at All Closely
Jan.-Feb. 2006	PSRA/Pew	21%	47%	25%	7%

- As I read a short list of science topics, please tell me if you are very interested, somewhat interested, or not at all interested in each topic....Global warming and changes in the earth's climate

		Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not at All Interested
Jan.-Feb. 2006	PSRA/Pew	42%	39%	18%

- Have you seen any television ads by groups opposing a new international treaty on global warming? (If yes, ask:) Has your opinion changed as a result of the ads? (If changed, ask:) Are you more likely to be in favor of the treaty or against the treaty?

		Yes, More in Favor	Yes, More Against	Yes, No Change	No
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	1%	2%	5%	91%

- How familiar are you with the environmental issue known as 'global warming'--are you very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all with that term and what it means?

		Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Too Familiar	Not Familiar at All
Oct.-Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	18%	53%	15%	13%

Is It Real? Americans' Views

- Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen? They have already begun to happen. They will start happening within a few years. They will start happening within your lifetime. They will not happen within your lifetime, but they will effect future generations. They will never happen.

		-----Effects of Global Warming-----				
		Have Already Begun	Will Start Within Few Years	Will Start Within Lifetime	Will Effect Future Generations	Never Happen
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	48%	3%	14%	19%	9%
Mar. 2001	Gallup	54	4	13	18	
Mar. 2002	Gallup	53	5	13	17	9
Mar. 2003	Gallup	51	6	12	17	10
Mar. 2004	Gallup	51	5	12	18	11
Mar. 2005	Gallup	54	5	10	19	9
Mar. 2006	Gallup	58	5	10	15	8

Mar. 2007	Gallup	59	3	8	19	8
Mar. 2007	Gallup	60	4	7	15	11
Mar. 2008	Gallup	61	4	10	13	11
Mar. 2009	Gallup	53	5	10	15	16
Mar. 2010	Gallup	50	3	10	16	19

- Recently, you may have noticed that global warming has been getting some attention in the news. Global warming refers to the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing over the past 150 years, may be increasing in the future, and that the world's climate may change as a result. What do you think? Do you think Global Warming is happening? How sure are you that global warming is/is not happening?

Sep.-Oct. 2008 Yale/George Mason

Extremely sure it's happening	25%
Very sure it's happening	27
Somewhat sure it's happening	17
Not at all sure it's happening	3
Don't know	19
Not at all sure it's not happening	1
Somewhat sure it's not happening	4
Very sure it's not happening	3
Extremely sure it's not happening	3

- How much do you trust or distrust the following as a source of information about global warming?

Sep.-Oct. 2008 Yale/George Mason

	Strongly Trust	Somewhat Trust	Somewhat Distrust	Strongly Distrust
Scientists	28%	54%	14%	4%
Environmental organizations	17	49	20	14
Al Gore	15	43	20	22
Barack Obama	14	37	23	26
Family and friends	13	64	19	4
TV weather reports	6	60	25	10
Religious leaders	5	43	30	22
John McCain	4	34	37	25
Mainstream media	4	43	33	20
Corporations	1	18	49	33

- Do you believe the theory that increased carbon dioxide and other gases released into the atmosphere will, if unchecked, lead to global warming and an increase in average temperatures, or not?

		Believe	Do Not Believe	Don't Know
Dec. 1997	Harris	67%	21%	12%
Aug. 2000	Harris Interactive	72	20	9
Mar. 2001*	TIME/CNN/Harris	64	23	14
Aug. 2001	Harris Interactive	75	19	6
Sept. 2002	Harris Interactive	74	19	7
Oct. 2007	Harris Interactive	71	23	6

Note: *Question wording was "Do you believe that emissions of gases like carbon dioxide are causing global temperature increases?"

- From what you know about global climate change or global warming, which one of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?

NBC News/WSJ	Jul. 99	Jun. 06	Jan. 07	Oct. 09	Dec. 09
Global climate change has been established as a serious problem, and immediate action is necessary	23%	29%	34%	29%	23
There is enough evidence that climate change is taking place and some action should be taken	28	30	30	27	31
We don't know enough about global climate change, and more research is necessary before we take any actions	32	28	25	29	29
Concern about global climate change is unwarranted	11	9	8	13	12

- Which of these statements about the earth's temperature comes closest to your views?

Apr. - May, 2009 PSRA/Pew

The earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural changes in the atmosphere	36%
The earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels	49
The earth is not getting warmer	11

- Do you believe global warming exists?

		Yes	No
Oct. 2005	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	77%	13%
Jan. 2007	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	82	10
May 2009	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	69	26

Note: Asked of national registered voters.

- Would you say that average temperatures in the county where you live have been higher in the last three years than before that, lower, or about the same?

		Higher	Lower	About the Same
Mar. 2006	ABC News/Time/Stanford	50%	9%	37%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	41	17	38

- Would you say weather patterns in the country where you live have been more stable in the last three years than before that, more unstable, or about the same?

		More Stable	More Unstable	About the Same
Mar. 2006	ABC News/Time/Stanford	3%	52%	43%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	2	54	41
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	5	43	49

- As far as you know, would you say that average temperatures around the world have been higher in the last three years than before that, lower, or about the same?

		Higher	Lower	About the same
Mar. 2006	ABC News/Time/Stanford	56%	8%	33%

Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	56	9	28
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	58	8	31

- You may have heard about the idea that the world's temperature may have been going up slowly over the past 100 years. What is your personal opinion on this – do you think this has probably been happening, or do you think it probably has not been happening?

		Has Been Happening	Has Not
Oct. 1997	Ohio State University	76%	22%
Feb. 1998	Ohio State University	80	18
Mar. 2006	ABC News/Time/Stanford	85	13
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	84	13
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	80	18
Nov. 2009	ABC News/Wash Post	72	26
Dec. 2009	Ipsos/McClatchy	70	28

- In the past few years, would you say the weather has followed its normal patterns, or has the weather been stranger than usual?

		Normal	Stranger
Feb. 2007	CBS News/NYT	23%	76%
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	24	75

--(Among those who say the weather has been stranger than usual) What do you think is the biggest cause of the strange weather?

Global warming	43%
Pollution/damage to the environment	15
Part of nature's cycle	11
God/end of the world	4
Depletion of the ozone layer	3

Note: Only the top five shown.

- Do you believe that we are currently experiencing global warming?

		Yes	No
Oct. 2007	Harris Interactive	71%	24%
	Republicans	56	37
	Democrats	82	13
	Independents	74	22

- Which of the following statement comes closest to your view of global warming?

		Global Warming Is Proven Fact	Global Warming Is A Theory That Has Not Yet Been Proven
Jan. 2007	CNN/ORC	57%	38%

- Which of the following statement comes closest to your view of global warming? Global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by emissions from cars and industrial facilities such as power plants and factories. Global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by natural changes that have nothing to do with emissions from cars and industrial facilities. Global Warming is a theory that has not yet been proven.

		Fact Caused By Human Emissions	Fact Caused By Natural Changes	Not A Fact Just A Theory
May 2007	CNN/ORC	54%	20%	22%

Oct. 2007	CNN/ORC	56	21	21
Jun. 2008	CNN/ORC	54	22	23
Dec. 2009	CNN/ORC	45	23	31

- From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

		Yes	No
June 2006	PSRA/Pew	70%	20%
July 2006	PSRA/Pew	79	17
Jan, 2007	PSRA/Pew	77	16
Apr. 2008	PSRA/Pew	71	21
Sept./Oct. 2009	PSRA/Pew	57	33

- How convinced are you that global warming or the greenhouse effect is actually happening--would you say you are completely convinced, mostly convinced, not so convinced, or not convinced at all?

		Completely Convinced	Mostly Convinced	Not So Convinced	Not At All Convinced
Jun. 2005	ABC News/WP	23%	36%	24%	16%
Sept. 2005	ABC News/WP	23	33	22	17

Is It Real?: Americans' Views of Scientists' Views

- Just your impression, which one of the following statements do you think is most accurate? Most scientists believe that global warming is occurring. Most scientists believe that global warming is not occurring. Most scientists are unsure about whether global warming is occurring or not.

		-----Most Scientists Believe-----		
		Is Occurring	Is Not Occurring	Unsure
Nov. 1997	Gallup	48%	7%	39%
Mar. 2001	Gallup	61	4	30
Mar. 2006	Gallup	65	3	29
Mar. 2008	Gallup	65	7	26
Mar. 2010	Gallup	52	10	36

- Do you think most scientists agree with one another about whether or not global warming is happening or do you think there is a lot of disagreement among scientists on this issue?

		Most Agree	A Lot of Disagreement
Oct. 1997	Ohio State University	35%	62%
Feb. 1998	Ohio State University	30	67
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	35	64
Apr. 2007	ABC News/WP/Stanford	40	56
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	39	57

- Which comes closer to your own view?

Sep.-Oct. 2008	Yale/George Mason	
Most scientists think global warming is happening		47%
There is a lot of disagreement among scientist about whether or not global warming is happening		33
Most scientists think global warming is not happening		3
Don't know enough to say		18

- How much do you trust the things that scientists say about the environment – completely, a lot, a moderate amount, a little, or not at all?

		A Moderate Trust	Do Not Trust Amount	Trust
Mar. 2006	ABC News/Time/Stanford	31%	41%	27%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	32	43	24
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	30	39	30

- We'd like your impression of what scientists believe about global warming. From what you've heard or read, do scientists mostly believe that global warming is a serious threat, mostly believe that global warming is not a serious threat, or are scientists generally divided on this issue?

		Mostly Believe Serious Threat	Mostly Believe Not Serious Threat	Generally Divided On The Issue
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	42%	6%	44%

- From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or do they not generally agree about this?

Apr.-May 2009	PSRA/Pew	May 2009	July 2006
Yes, scientists generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity.		56%	59%
No, scientists do not generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity.		35	29

- Which of these statements about the earth's temperature comes closest to your views?

Apr.- May 2009	PSRA/Pew	Adults	Scientists
The earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural changes in the atmosphere		36%	10%
The earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels		49	84
The earth is not getting warmer		11	4

Causes of Global Warming

Q: I'm going to read two statements. Please tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

Global warming is caused more by human actions than by naturally occurring forces.

		Feel Strongly	Do Not Feel Strongly
May 2006	NBC/WSJ	48%	12%
Mar. 2007	NBC/WSJ	47	12
Mar. 2009	NBC/WSJ	48	11
Dec. 2009	NBC/WSJ	48	26

Global warming is caused more by naturally occurring forces than by human actions.

		Feel Strongly	Do Not Feel Strongly
May 2006	NBC/WSJ	24%	11%
Mar. 2007	NBC/WSJ	26	9
Mar. 2009	NBC/WSJ	27	7
Dec. 2009	NBC/WSJ	13	7

- And from what you have heard or read, do you believe increases in the Earth's temperature over the last century are due more to – the effects of pollution from human activities or natural changes in the environment that are not due to human activities?

		Pollution From Human Activities	Natural Causes Not Due To Human Activities
Mar. 2001	Gallup	61%	33%
Mar. 2003	Gallup	61	33
Mar. 2006	Gallup	58	36
Mar. 2007	Gallup	61	35
Mar. 2008	Gallup	58	38
Mar. 2010	Gallup	50	46

- Do you think a rise in the world's temperatures is being caused mostly by things people do, mostly by natural causes, or about equally by things people do and by natural causes?

		Things People Do	Natural Causes	About Equally
Mar. 2006	ABC News/Time/Stanford	31%	19%	49%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	41	17	42
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	33	22	44

- (If believe in global warming) Do you believe global warming is caused by normal climate patterns or by people's behavior, such as driving and burning too much fossil fuel like coal and oil?

		Climate Patterns	People's Behavior	Both
Oct. 2005	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	17%	46%	30%
Jan. 2007	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	14	41	38
May 2009	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	15	54	28

Note: Asked of national registered voters. Asked as a follow-up to "Do you believe Global Warming exists?"

- Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer?

-----Yes, mostly because of-----				
		Human Activities Such as Burning Fossil Fuels	Natural Patterns In the Earth's Environment	No
Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew	41%	21%	20%
Jul. 2006	PSRA/Pew	50	23	17
Aug. 2006	PSRA/Pew	47	20	17
Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew	47	20	16
Apr. 2008	PSRA/Pew	47	18	21
Sept/Oct. 2009	PSRA/Pew	36	16	33

Note: Question asked as a follow-up to the question, "From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decade, or not?"

- From what you have heard or read about global warming, what do you think is causing it? Do you think it is caused more by human activities, such as driving cars and burning fuel, or is it caused more by natural changes in the climate?

		Human Activities	Natural Changes	Both
Apr. 2001	LA Times	60%	20%	15%

Jul.-Aug. 2006 LA Times/Bloomberg 47 32 16

- Do you think global warming is a result of normal fluctuations in the earth's atmosphere, or is global warming a result of things that people do--burning coal, oil and gasoline to power cars, utilities and other industry or is global warming a combination of both?

		Normal Fluctuations	Things People Do	Combination	Neither/Not Happening
Nov. 1997*	CBS News/NYT	18%	58%	10%	1%
Aug. 2003	CBS News	12	20	65	2

Note: *Question wording was, "Do you think global warming is a result of normal fluctuations in the earth's climate, or is global warming a result of greenhouse gases--gases released when coal, oil, and gasoline are burned by cars, utilities, and other industry?"

- As you may know, carbon dioxide is one of the primary gases thought to cause global warming. Do you happen to know if the US (United States) produces more carbon dioxide than other countries with as many people, less carbon dioxide than other countries with as many people, or about the same amount?

		More	Less	The Same
Nov. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	45%	9%	23%
Apr. 2001	PSRA/Pew Research Center	45	8	16

- Turning now to the subject of climate change, do you think the world is becoming warmer as a result of human activity, not because of human activity or the world is not becoming warmer

		Warming Due To Human Activity	Warming Not Due To Human Activity	The World Is Not Warming
Mar. 2008	Economist/Polimetrix/YouGov	49%	19%	18%

Note: Sample is an internet sample.

- Which of the following best describes your opinion of the relationship between global climate change/global warming and human behavior?

		No Connection	Some Connection/ No Significant Impact	Strong Connection
Jun. 2007	Zogby International	18%	31%	47%

- Greenhouse gases are released when coal, oil, and gasoline are burned by cars, utilities, and factories. Which comes closest to your opinion: 1. The release of greenhouse gases is the most important factor causing global warming, or 2. The release of greenhouse gases is one factor among many causes of global warming, or 3. The release of greenhouse gases is not a factor causing global warming at all.

		Most Important	One Among Many	Not a Factor
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	21%	63%	9%

- Thinking about climate change, do you believe that the activities of human beings are contributing to an increase in global temperatures?

		Yes	No	Not Sure
Apr. 2007	Harris Interactive	65%	21%	13%

--(Of those who believe humans are contributing to increased global temperatures) Would you characterize this increase in global temperatures as slight, moderate, or substantial?

		Slight	Moderate	Substantial
Apr. 2007	Harris Interactive	14%	33%	50%

- Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming? Do you think global warming is mostly caused by emissions from cars and industrial facilities such as power plants and factories, or mostly caused by natural changes that have nothing to do with industrial facilities?

		Caused By Emissions	Caused By Natural Changes	Global Warming Not Yet Proven
Jan. 2007	CNN/ORC	42%	10%	38%

- In particular, what do you think is causing the recent big storms like Katrina and hotter than normal temperatures? Do you think they are caused by global warming, or do you think they are caused by natural changes in the climate?

-----Big Storms and Hotter Temperatures-----				
		Caused By Global Warming	Caused By Natural Changes In Climate	Both
Jul. -Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	36%	46%	9%

- Do you think human activities such as driving cars and burning fossil fuel are the single most important cause of global warming, one of several significant causes, a minor cause, or not a cause of global warming?

		Single Most Important Cause	One of Several Significant Causes	Minor Cause	Not A Cause
Jun. 2005	ABC News/WP	10%	51%	27%	10%

- Do you think that the exceptionally hot weather that much of the country has been experiencing is due to a long-term global warming problem, is the result of El Nino or does this just happen to be an exceptionally hot summer?

		Long Term Global Problem	Result Of El Nino	Just Exceptionally Hot
Jul. 1998	NBC/WSJ	24%	28%	43%

Seriousness of Global Warming: Today

- Regarding the following list of environmental problems, do you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all . . . Greenhouse effect or global warming

-----Worry About-----					
		Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only A Little	Not At All
May 1989	Gallup	35%	28%	18%	12%
Apr. 1990	Gallup	30	27	20	16
Apr. 1991	Gallup	35	27	22	12
Oct. 1997	Gallup	24	26	29	17
Nov. 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	22	27	26	22
Mar. 1999	Gallup	28	31	23	16
Apr. 1999	Gallup	34	34	18	12
Apr. 2000	Gallup	40	32	15	12
Mar. 2001	Gallup	33	30	22	13
Mar. 2002	Gallup	29	29	23	17

Mar. 2003	Gallup	28	30	23	17
Mar. 2004	Gallup	26	25	28	19
Mar. 2006	Gallup	36	26	21	15
Mar. 2007	Gallup	41	24	18	16
Mar. 2008	Gallup	37	29	16	17
Mar. 2009	Gallup	34	26	20	20
Mar. 2010	Gallup	28	24	19	29

Note: The wording was altered in 2009. "Greenhouse effect" was omitted from the question.

- Thinking about what is said in the news, in your view is the seriousness of global warming--generally exaggerated, generally correct, or is it generally underestimated?

		-----Seriousness of Global Warming-----		
		Generally Exaggerated	Generally Correct	Generally Underestimated
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	31%	34%	27%
Mar. 2001	Gallup	30	34	32
Mar. 2002	Gallup	31	32	32
Mar. 2003	Gallup	33	29	33
Mar. 2004	Gallup	38	25	33
Mar. 2005	Gallup	31	29	35
Mar. 2006	Gallup	30	28	38
Mar. 2007	Gallup	33	29	35
Mar. 2008	Gallup	35	33	29
Mar. 2009	Gallup	41	29	28
Mar. 2010	Gallup	48	24	25

- Do you think global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now, or do you think the impact of global warming won't happen until sometime in the future, or do you think global warming won't have a serious impact at all?

		Impact Now	In The Future	No Serious Impact
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	28%	51%	15%
Jun. 2001	CBS News/NYT	35	41	17
Sept. 2003*	CBS News	59	--	37
May 2006*	CBS News/NYT	66	--	30
Aug. 2006*	CBS News/NYT	67	--	28
Jan 2007*	CBS News	70	--	23
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	49	36	11
Oct. 2007	CBS News	52	28	13
Dec. 2007	CBS News/NYT	55	27	13
Feb. 2009	CBS News	43	30	19

Note: *Question worded, "Do you think global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now, or do you think global warming isn't having a serious impact?"

- In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

		Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not Too Serious	Not a Problem
June 2006	PSRA/Pew	41%	33%	13%	11%
July 2006	PSRA/Pew	43	36	11	9
Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew	45	32	12	8
April 2008	PSRA/Pew	44	29	13	11
Apr./May 2009	PSRA/Pew	47	26	11	13

Sept./Oct. 2009 PSRA/Pew 35 30 15 17

- What would you say is the one most important problem you would like to see Barack Obama and the Congress deal with next year (2009)?

Dec. 2008, Dec. 2009

ABC News/Wash Post

	For 2009	For 2010
Economy	55%	26%
Iraq/War in Iraq	9	6
Jobs/Unemployment	8	13
Health care	6	24
Other	4	5
Terrorism/War on terrorism/Homeland security	2	5
Poverty/Homelessness/Hunger	2	1
Abortion	1	*
Morals/Family values	1	*
Gasoline prices/Energy prices	1	1
Housing/Mortgages	1	*
Immigration	1	1
Education	1	1
Taxes	1	1
Federal budget deficit	1	5
Environment	1	*
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in government	1	1
Afghanistan	*	2
Medicare	*	1
Global Warming/Greenhouse Effect	*	1

Note: Responses with less than 1 percent in either year are not shown. *Indicates less than one percent.

- What would you say is the one most important problem you would like to see (George W.) Bush and the Congress deal with this year?

ABC News/Wash Post

	Dec. 15-18, 2005+	Dec. 7-11, 2006*	Jan. 16-19, 2007
Iraq/War in Iraq	32%	44%	48%
Economy	15	10	9
Health care	11	6	4
Immigration	6	5	7
Terrorism/War on terrorism/ Homeland security	5	4	5
Education	3	4	2
Medicare	3	1	2
Social Security	3	2	1
Jobs/Unemployment	2	3	2
Taxes	2	2	1
Gasoline prices/Energy prices	2	3	2
Federal budget deficit	1	*	1
Environment	1	*	*
Poverty/Homelessness/Hunger	1	2	2
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in Government	1	2	*
Crime/drugs	1	1	1
Prescription drug benefits	*	*	1
Global warming/Greenhouse effect	*	1	2

Note: *Question worded as, "...deal with next year?" +Question worded as, "...deal with next year (2006)?"

- How important is the issue of global warming to you personally-- extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

		Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Too Important	Not At All Important
Nov. 1997	ABC News/Ohio State	7%	20%	47%	20%	6%
Feb. 1998	ABC News/Ohio State	9	21	49	15	5
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	17	33	32	10	8
Apr. 2007	ABC News/WP/Stanford	18	34	30	8	9
Jul. 2008	ABC News/Planet Green/Stanford	16	30	32	13	9
Sep-Oct. 2008	Yale/George Mason	11	21	40	18	11

- How worried are you about global warming?

		Very Worried	Somewhat Worried	Not Very Worried	Not At All Worried
Sep.-Oct. 2008	Yale/George Mason	17%	46%	24%	13%

- How concerned are you about global warming or climate change?

		Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Too Concerned	Not Concerned
Dec. 2009	Quinnipiac	29%	30%	17%	23%

- As I read a list of possible long-range foreign policy goals which the United States might have, tell me how much priority you think each should be given. Do you think this should have top priority, some priority, or no priority at all?... Dealing with global warming

		Top Priority	Some Priority	No Priority
Oct. 2001	PSRA/Pew Research Center	31%	51%	13%
Jul. 2004	PSRA/Pew Research Center	36	46	12

- Agree strongly or somewhat: Addressing global warming should be a federal priority?

ACE/UCLA	College Freshmen
2008	Strongly/Somewhat Agree 73.1

- Next, as you may know there is a lot of talk these days about global warming and what its effects might be. How worried are you that each of the following will happen as a result of global warming – very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all? How about...?

Feb. 2007	Gallup/USA Today	Worried	Not Worried
	Hurricanes will become more powerful	69%	31%
	Flooding and droughts will become more common	67	33
	Ocean levels will rise, leaving many coastal lands under water	63	37
	Animal species will become extinct	57	42
	Tropical diseases will become more prevalent in the world	62	38
	Human life will cease to exist on earth	33	66
	Northern Europe will cool dramatically due to changes in the		

- Lately there have been a lot of reports about threats to the environment. In general, which is closer to your view? The media is exaggerating these threats in order to get the public to pay more attention to them. These threats to the environment are as serious as the media portrays.

		Exaggerating	Media Is Serious	Threats Are Not Sure
Apr. 2007	Harris Interactive	37%	46%	17%

- When people talk about protecting the environment, it can mean a lot of different things. Which environmental problem do you think is most important?

Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	Most Important Environmental Problem	
		Clean air/air pollution	23%
		Global warming	15
		Pollution (general)/air & water	12
		Car exhaust	6
		Water pollution	3

Note: Only the top five of thirteen shown.

- Which comes closer to your view: 1. Global warming is a very serious problem and should be one of the highest priorities for government leaders or 2. Global warming is serious but does not need to be a high priority or 3. Global warming is not serious and can be addressed years from now.

		Very Serious/ High Priority	Serious But Not A High Priority	Not Serious/ Addressed Later
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	52%	37%	8%
Dec. 2009	CBS News/NYT	37	33	23

- On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not at all concerned and 5 being highly concerned, how would you rate your concern about global climate change/global warming?

		1	2	3	4	5
Jun. 2007	Zogby International	27%	12%	13%	18%	30%

- How concerned are you about the issue of global warming--is it something that worries you a great deal, a good amount, just some, or hardly at all?

		Great Deal	Good Amount	Some	Hardly At All
Jan. 2007	ABC News/WP	26%	23%	24%	22%

- As you may know, scientists have found evidence that the earth's climate is warming. From what you have heard or read, do you think global warming is a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not too much of a serious problem, or not a serious problem at all?

		Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not Too Serious	Not At All Serious
Apr. 2001*	LA Times	40%	43%	10%	7%
Jul.-Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	43	31	8	8

Note: *Asked of those who have heard/read about global warming (82 percent).

- By any chance, have you seen the movie 'An Inconvenient Truth' which is a documentary about global warming narrated by Al Gore, or not? (If Yes, ask:) Do you think the documentary is an exaggeration of the issues of global warming, or do you think it is an accurate portrayal of the issues of global warming, or don't you think it goes far enough in portraying the issues of global warming?

		Haven't Seen The Movie	Exaggeration Of Global Warming	Accurate Portrayal Of Global Warming
Jul.-Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	96%	1%	3%

- In the last few years, which of the following – if any – have had an important influence on your own views about global warming? What about Al Gore's movie 'An Inconvenient Truth'? Has this had an important influence on your views about global warming, or not?

		Yes	No	Don't Know
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek Poll	25%	28%	18% (p)

- Thinking about the increase in strength of hurricanes in recent years, do you think global warming has been a major cause, a minor cause, or not a cause of the increase in strength of hurricanes?

		Major Cause	Minor Cause	Not a Cause
Oct. 2005	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	36%	29%	30%
Mar. 2006	Gallup	35	33	26

Note: Oct 2005 wording read “increase in the number and strength of hurricanes”.

- Which do you think was more likely the cause of Hurricane Katrina's extraordinary strength--global warming or random act of nature?

		Global Warming	Random Act Of Nature	Both Equally
Sept. 2005	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	22%	56%	11%

NOTE: Asked of national registered voters.

- As I name some issues that are in the news these days, please tell me how important the issue is to you personally. Is global warming an issue that is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

		Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Too Important	Not At All Important
Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew research Center	44%	31%	10%	11%

- Do you think it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of global warming right away, or isn't it necessary to take steps yet?

		Right Away	Not Necessary Yet	No Steps Ever
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	81%	13%	1%
Jun. 2001	CBS News/NYT	72	19	3
Aug. 2006	CBS News/NYT	76	19	1
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	78	19	1

- How serious a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for the United States' future--very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

		Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not so Serious	Not at all Serious
Aug. 2006	CBS News/NYT	49%	30%	11%	6%

- Do you think global warming threatens...a great deal, somewhat, not so much, or not at all?

		Threatens a Great Deal	Threatens Somewhat	Not So Much	Not At All
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford				
	Plants and animal species	56%	30%	8%	4%
	Future generations	60	28	7	5
	Poor people in undeveloped countries around the world today	51	33	9	5
	People living now in other modern industrialized countries	34	44	14	7
	Other Americans	32	45	11	10
	You personally	25	37	18	19
	The world's environment	51	32	6	9

- Now I am going to read you a list of some things people say are potential threats to the quality of life here in the United States. As I read each one, please tell me how serious a threat you think it is to the quality of life here. What about...environmental problems like global warming? Is this a very serious threat, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a serious threat at all to the quality of life here in the United States?

		Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not Too Serious	Not serious At All
Jun. 2002	Washington Post	38%	37%	13%	6%

- Do you think that global warming is a very serious problem, a fairly serious problem, not a very serious problem, or not at all a serious problem?

		Very Serious	Fairly Serious	Not Very Serious	Not At All Serious
Mar. 2001	TIME/CNN/Harris	43%	32%	14%	7%

- Do you think that the possibility of global warming should be treated as a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a serious problem?

		Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not A Serious Problem
Dec. 1997	Harris	47%	40%	11%
Aug. 2000	Harris	46	39	13

A poll conducted by American University, George Mason, and Yale looks at attitudes toward global warming by age. It is available at http://scienceblogs.com/framing-science/The_Climate_Change_Generation_2010.pdf.

Seriousness of Global Warming: In the Future

- Looking ahead, what do you think will be the most important problem facing our nation 25 years from now?

Gallup

	Percent saying Environment/pollution	The top response
Mar. 2001	11%	The environment (11)
Mar. 2002	10	The economy (12)
Mar. 2003	9	The economy (14)
Mar. 2004	8	The economy (12)
Mar. 2005	6	Social security (23)
Mar. 2006	8	Lack of energy sources/energy crisis, Social Security (10)
Mar. 2007	14	The environment (14)
Mar. 2010	11	The federal budget deficit (14)

- Over the coming decades, which do you think will pose a more serious threat to the world – the effects of climate change and global warming or the effects of global terrorism?

		Climate Change	Terrorism
Jun. 2007	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	28%	52%

- Will global warming present a threat to you and your family within your lifetime?

		Yes	No	Not Sure
Apr. 2007	Harris Interactive	36%	41%	24%
Apr. 2008	Harris Interactive	30	39	31

- If efforts to address the effects of global warming are not increased, which comes closest to your view of what will happen in 50 years – there will be extreme changes in climate and weather, with disastrous consequences in some parts of the world, there will be major changes in climate and weather, but most people and animals will be able to adapt, or there will be minor changes that will have little effect on the way people live?

		Extreme Changes	Major Changes	Minor Changes	No Changes (vol.)
Mar. 2007	Gallup	28%	38%	19%	11%

- Just your best guess, when do you think the earth would see – due to the effects of global warming – within the next 10 years, within the next 50 years, within the next 100 years, longer than that, or never?

Feb. 2007

Gallup

	Next 10 Years	Next 50 years	Next 10-50 Years
Hurricanes will become more powerful	49%	71%	22%
Flooding and droughts will become more common	41	67	26
Ocean levels will rise, leaving many coastal lands under water	25	59	34
Tropical diseases will become more prevalent around the world	31	58	27
Animal species will become extinct	21	48	27
Northern Europe will cool dramatically due to changes in the Gulf Stream	18	45	27

Human life will cease to exist on earth	3	10	7
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- Do you think that global warming will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?

		Yes	No
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	25%	69%
Mar. 2001	Gallup	31	66
Mar. 2002	Gallup	33	65
Jun. 2005	ABC News/WP	33	66
Mar. 2006	Gallup	35	62
Mar. 2008	Gallup	40	58
Mar. 2009	Gallup	38	60
Mar. 2010	Gallup	32	67

- If nothing is done to address it, do you think the effects of global warming will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime, or not?

		Yes, threat	No
Jul. 2008	ABC/Planet Green/Stanford	37	61

- Do you think global warming threatens future generations a great deal, somewhat, not so much or not at all?

		Great Deal	Good Amount	Just Some	Hardly Anything
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	60%	28%	7%	5%

- How much do you think can be done to reduce the amount of future global warming – a great deal, a good amount, just some, or hardly anything?

		Great Deal	Good Amount	Just Some	Hardly Anything
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	31%	31%	19%	16%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	27	36	20	15

- If nothing is done to reduce global warming in the future, how serious of a problem do you think it will be?

		Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not So Serious	Not At All Serious
Apr. 2007	ABC News/WP/Stanford	57%	29%	8%	4%
For the world					
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	57	28	8	5
For the United States					
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	49	34	10	6

- Do you think global warming is already a serious problem, or do you think it will become one in the future?

		Already A Serious Problem	Will Be In The Future
Mar. 2006	ABC News//TIME/Stanford	44%	54%

- About how many years from now do you think global warming will become a serious problem?

		1-15	16-49	50-99	100+
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	32%	27%	18%	19%

- Do you think global warming will get more serious in the future, or not?

		Will Get More Serious	Will Not	Don't Know
Sept. 2003	CBS News	77%	16%	7%

- Would you tell me how harmful, if at all, you think global warming will be to each of the following during the next 25 years: very harmful, somewhat harmful, not very harmful, or not at all harmful? How harmful, if at all, will global warming be to... the levels of the oceans?

		Very Harmful	Somewhat Harmful	Not Very Harmful	Not At All Harmful
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	27%	33%	14%	10

- Do you think that global warming will pose a threat to your children or the next generation of Americans in their lifetime?

		Yes	No
Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	65%	27%

- We'd like your opinion about how things might change over the next century. Do you think global warming will turn out to be a serious problem, or not?

		Serious Problem	Not Serious Problem
Jan. 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	54%	35%

What Should Be Done: Government Steps

- Next, I am going to read some specific environmental proposals. For each one, please say whether you generally favor or oppose it?

Gallup	Favor	Oppose
Setting higher fuel efficiency standards for automobiles		
Mar. 2009	80%	19%
Imposing mandatory controls on carbon dioxide emissions by businesses		
Mar. 2009	70	28
Setting legal limits on the amount of energy that average consumers can use		
Mar. 2001	35	62
Mar. 2002	35	62
Mar. 2009	33	65
Spending government money to develop alternate sources of fuel for automobiles		
Mar. 2006	85	14
Mar. 2007	86	12
Setting higher emissions and pollution standards for business and industry		
Mar. 2001	81	17
Mar. 2002	83	16
Mar. 2003	80	19
Mar. 2006	77	22
Mar. 2007	84	15

More strongly enforcing federal environmental regulations		
Mar. 2001	77	20
Mar. 2002	78	19
Mar. 2003	75	21
Mar. 2006	79	20
Mar. 2007	82	15
Spending more government money on developing solar and wind power		
Mar. 2001	79	19
Mar. 2006	77	21
Mar. 2007	81	17
Setting higher auto emissions standards for automobiles		
Mar. 2001	75	23
Mar. 2002	72	26
Mar. 2003	73	24
Mar. 2006	73	25
Mar. 2007	79	18
Imposing mandatory controls on carbon dioxide emissions/other greenhouse gases		
Mar. 2003	75	22
Mar. 2006	75	23
Mar. 2007	79	19
Expanding the use of nuclear energy		
Mar. 2001	44	51
Mar. 2002	45	51
Mar. 2003	43	51
Mar. 2006	55	40
Mar. 2007	50	46
Opening up the Arctic National Wildlife refuge for oil exploration		
Mar. 2001	40	56
May 2001	38	57
Nov. 2001	44	51
Mar. 2003	41	55
Mar. 2006	49	47
Mar. 2007	41	57
Providing tax deductions to Americans who spend money to increase the energy efficiency of their homes		
Mar. 2009	88	10

- As I read some possible government policies to address America's energy supply, tell me whether you would favor or oppose each.

		Favor	Oppose
Promoting the increased use of nuclear power			
Sep. 2005	Pew Research Center	39%	53%
Feb. 2006	Pew Research Center	44	49
Feb. 2008	Pew Research Center	44	48
Sep. 2008	Pew Research Center	50	43
Apr. 2009	Pew Research Center	45	48
Feb. 2010	Pew Research Center	52	41

Allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters

Sep. 2008	Pew Research Center	67	28
Apr. 2009	Pew Research Center	68	27
Feb. 2010	Pew Research Center	63	31

- Do you believe that new environmental and energy laws designed to reduce global warming will hurt or help the economy?

		Definitely Hurt	Probably Hurt	Probably Help	Definitely Help
Dec. 2009	Gallup	19%	23%	27%	9%
Mar. 2010	Gallup	20	29	24	6

- How big of an effort should the United States make to reduce global warming?

		A Large Scale Effort, Even If It Has Large Economic Costs	A Medium Scale Effort, Even If It Has Moderate Economic Costs	A Small Scale Effort, Even If It Has Small Economic Costs	No Effort
Sep.-Oct. 2008	Yale/George Mason	34%	40%	17%	9%

- How much do you support or oppose the following policies?

Sep.-Oct. 2008 Yale/George Mason

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Fund renewable energy research	53%	39%	6%	2%
Require increased fuel-efficiency in cars	41	38	13	8
Provide tax rebates for efficient cars and solar panels	38	47	11	4
Expand offshore drilling	37	38	14	11
Require utilities produce 20% clean energy	31	41	17	11
Regulate CO2	30	50	13	7
Subsidize home efficiency improvements	27	45	15	12
Sign international treaty to cut emissions	25	44	19	13
Drill for oil in ANWR	25	32	22	22
Build more nuclear power plants	23	38	24	15
Fund building efficiency	20	43	21	16
Create national carbon market	11	42	24	23
Increase gas tax by 25 cents	9	24	30	37

- Now, I'm going to read a list of steps the government can take to reduce global warming. Please say for each if that is something the government should or should not be doing. How about?

Mar. 2007	Gallup/USA Today	Should	Should Not
Starting major research effort to develop new energy sources		65%	33%
Requiring government office buildings to use renewable energy sources		60	38
Requiring surcharge on utility bills when energy use limits exceeded		46	52
Banning vehicles that do not average at least 30 miles per gallon		44	55
Imposing tough restrictions on U.S. industries and utilities		38	58
Setting land-use policies to discourage suburban sprawl		36	60

- Is the following something our government can do a lot about, something about or not much about? Reducing global warming.

		A lot	Something	Not Much
Jan. 2006	Public Agenda	30%	40%	26%

Sep. 2006	Public Agenda	35	36	24
Mar. 2007	Public Agenda	34	36	26
Sep. 2007	Public Agenda	37	33	26
Mar. 2008	Public Agenda	37	34	25

- Would you support or oppose the following measures to reduce global warming?

Mar. 2008	Economist/Polimetrix/YouGov		
		Support	Oppose
	Increased taxes on gasoline	14%	79%
	Increase airline fares	20	67
	Build more nuclear power stations	48	33
	Increase taxes generally in order to subsidize clean energy such as solar power and wind farms	36	50

Note: Sample is an internet sample.

- Is reducing global warming something the federal government can do a lot about, can do something about, or cannot do much about?

		A Lot	Something	Not Much
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	40%	42%	14%

- In order to cut down on energy consumption and reduce global-warming do you favor or oppose requiring car manufacturers to produce cars that are more energy efficient?

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	92%	6 %

- In order to cut down on energy consumption and reduce global-warming, would you favor or oppose an increased federal tax on gasoline?

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	38%	58%

- In your view, what are the one or two most important things the government should do in order to address environmental problems?

Gallup/USA Today	Feb. 2007	
More research to find alternative energy sources/fuels		19%
Acknowledge and address global warming concerns		16
Impose stricter standards over fuel emissions/greenhouse gases		10
Encourage conservation/less waste		10
Greater enforcement of existing environmental laws/regulations		9

Note: Only the top five responses shown.

- Do you think that the environmental laws and regulations that are currently on the books are adequate, should go further than they do, or have they gone too far already?

		Adequate	Should Go Further	Have Gone Too Far
Mar. 2010	CNN/ORC	26%	43%	29% (p)

- Do you think the government should or should not put new restrictions on emissions from cars and industrial facilities such as power plants and factories in an attempt to reduce the effects of global warming?

		Should Put New Restrictions	Should Not Put New Restrictions
Jan. 2007	CNN/ORC	75%	21%

- Do you favor or oppose setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

		Favor	Oppose
Sep.-Oct. 2009	PSRA/Pew Research Center	50%	39%
Feb. 2010	PSRA/Pew Research Center	52	35

- How important is it to you that the president and Congress deal with each of the following issues in the next year – is it extremely important, very important, moderately important or not that important?...Global warming

		Extremely Important	Very Important	Moderately Important	Not that Important
Jan. 2007	CNN/ORC	29%	30%	23%	16%

Note: Out of the ten issues asked about, global warming ranked eighth in terms of importance.

- How important will each of the following issues be to your vote for Congress this year?

		Extremely Important	Very Important
Mar. 2010	Gallup		
The economy		57%	36%
Healthcare		49	35
Unemployment		46	41
The federal budget deficit		45	33
Terrorism		40	36
The situation in Afghanistan		32	38
The environment, including global warming		22	24

- Do you think global warming is a problem that requires immediate government action, or don't you think it requires immediate government action?

		Yes, It Is A Problem That Requires Immediate Government Action	No, Don't Think Global Requires Immediate Government Action
Jul. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	68%	29%
Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	62	35

- Do you think global warming is an urgent problem that requires immediate government action, or a longer-term problem that requires more study before government action is taken?

		Urgent Problem	Longer-Term Problem	Not A Problem
Jun. 2005	ABC News/WP	38%	53%	3%
Sept. 2005	ABC News/WP	41	47	6

- Do you think . . . ?

PSRA/Pew Research Center	Nov. 2007	April 2001	Sept/Oct. 2009
The United States should join other countries in setting standards to address global climate change	55%	58%	56%
The United States should set its own standards to address global climate change	41%	38%	32 %

- One suggestion for reducing the problem of global warming is to increase the use of nuclear power as a source of energy and to decrease the use of fossil fuels, such as oil and gas. Would you, personally, support or oppose the increased use of nuclear power as a source of energy in order to prevent global warming?

		Support	Oppose
Apr. 2001	LA Times	52%	33%
Jul. -Aug. 2006*	LA Times/Bloomberg	61	30

Note: *Question wording was “One suggestion for reducing the problem of global warming is to increase the use of nuclear power as a source of energy and to decrease the use of fossil fuels, such as oil and natural gas. Would you, personally, support or oppose the increased use of nuclear power as a source of energy in order to prevent global warming? (If Support/Oppose, ask:) Do you strongly support/ oppose that or only somewhat support/oppose that?”

- Overall, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity to the US?

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Feb. 1994	21%	36%	20%	17%
Mar. 2001*	20	26	28	20
Mar. 2004*	19	37	20	19
Mar. 2005*	17	37	22	21
Mar. 2006*	22	34	19	19
Mar. 2007*	22	31	23	20
Mar. 2009*	27	32	23	14
Mar. 2010	28	34	17	16

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Will the issue of global warming play an important or not important role in your decision to vote for a congressional candidate in Nov. (2006), or will it not be a factor in your vote? (If Important, ask:) Will it be very important or fairly important? (If Not important, ask:) Will it be not too important or not important at all?

		Very Important	Fairly Important	Not too Important	Not at all Important	Not a Factor
Jul.-Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	27%	17%	3%	3%	47%

- Do you think it is possible to reduce the effects of global warming, or not?

		Yes, Possible	No, Not Possible
Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	67%	22%
Apr. 2008	PSRA/Pew Research Center	74	19

- How much do you think can be done to reduce global warming's effects on people and the environment--a great deal, a good amount, just some, or hardly anything?

		Great Deal	Good Amount	Just Some	Hardly Anything
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	28%	32%	22%	16%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/WP/Stanford	25	38	23	13

- For each of the following, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it as a way for the federal government to try to reduce future global warming....

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford		
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford		
Nov. 2009	AP/Stanford/Gfk		
Give companies tax breaks to produce more electricity from water, wind and solar power			
Mar. 2006		87%	12%
Nov. 2009		88	12
Give companies tax breaks to build nuclear power plants			
Mar. 2006		41	56
Nov. 2009		54	43
Increase taxes on gasoline so people either drive less, or buy cars that use less gas			
Mar. 2006		31	68
Apr. 2007		32	67
Nov. 2009*		35	64
Increase taxes on electricity so people use less of it			
Mar. 2006		19	81
Apr. 2007		20	79
Nov. 2009		20	78

Note: Asked of a half sample. Not all responses shown.

- Which of these would you rather see the federal government do: require companies and individuals to do things to reduce global warming, offer tax cuts to encourage these things, but not require them, or do nothing to influence whether companies and individuals do these things?

		Require	Encourage	Do nothing
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	52%	38%	8%

- For the next items, please tell me for each one whether it's something the government should require by law, encourage with tax breaks but not require, or stay out of entire?

Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek

	Require	Encourage	Stay out
Building cars that use less gasoline			
Mar. 2006	45%	40%	15%
Apr. 2007	42	44	14
Aug. 2007	44	33	16

Building air conditioners, refrigerators and other appliances that use less electricity

Mar. 2006	42	41	17
Apr. 2007	36	43	19
Aug. 2007	34	39	21

Building new homes and offices that use less energy for heating and cooling

Mar. 2006	33	51	15
Apr. 2007	30	51	17
Aug. 2007	27	48	19

Lowering the amount of greenhouse gases that power plants are allowed to release into the air

Mar. 2006	61	26	11
Apr. 2007	62	26	10
Aug. 2007	57	21	14

- Do you think the federal government should do more than it's doing now to try to deal with global warming, should do less than it's doing now, or is it doing about the right amount? (If More, ask:) Should it do much more or somewhat more? If Less, ask: Should it do much less or somewhat less?

		Much More	Somewhat More	Right Amount	Somewhat Less	Much Less
Mar. 2006	ABC News/TIME/Stanford	46%	22%	25%	2%	3%
Apr. 2007	ABC News/WP/Stanford	49	20	21	2	5

- For each issue I name, please tell me what kind of priority you think (George W.) Bush and the Congress should give it--the highest priority, a high priority but not the highest, or a lower priority than that....Global warming

		Highest	High	Lower
Jan. 2006	ABC News/WP	26%	37%	35%

- Now, I am going to read you some statements and I want you to tell me if you agree or disagree with them....Very much agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, very much disagree....Our government needs to do something about global warming right now.

		Very Much Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Very Much Disagree
Apr. 2005	IPSOS-Reid	42%	28%	13%	13%

- Next, turning to the agreement on global warming that was drawn up at a world conference in Kyoto, Japan several years ago....If the United States does agree to abide by the provisions in the Kyoto agreement, would you be--very upset, somewhat upset, not too upset, or not at all upset?

		Should Not, Not Upset If Does	Should Not, Upset If Does
Mar. 2005	Gallup	48%	52%

- Next, turning to the agreement on global warming that was drawn up at a world conference in Kyoto, Japan several years ago...Based on what you have heard or read, do you think the United States should--or should not--agree to abide by those provisions of the Kyoto agreement on global warming?

		Yes, Should	No, Should Not
Mar. 2004	Gallup	42%	22

- Which policy would you prefer the government follow to help stop global warming...1. extra taxes on gasoline, coal, oil, and natural gas, 2. tax breaks for other forms of energy, like solar and wind, or 3. regulations that force manufacturers to produce more efficient cars, home appliances, and other equipment?

		Extra taxes on Gasoline, Coal, Oil, And Natural Gas	Tax Breaks	Regulations That Force More Efficient Equipment	All Three
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	3%	24%	59%	4%
Sept. 2003	CBS News	2	37	47	15

- Would you be willing to pay an extra 25 cents per gallon of gas to reduce pollution and global warming? (If Willing, ask:) Would you be willing to pay an extra 50 cents per gallon?

		Willing, 50 Cents	Willing, Only 25 Cents	Not Willing
Sept. 2003	CBS News	18%	28%	51%

- Would you be willing to pay an extra 50 cents per gallon of gas to reduce pollution and global warming?

		Yes	No
Nov. 1990	TIME/CNN/Yankelovich	48%	49%
Mar. 2001	TIME/CNN/Harris	44	54

- Would you be willing to pay an extra 25 cents per gallon of gas to reduce pollution and global warming?

		Yes	No
Nov. 1990	TIME/CNN/Yankelovich	59%	36%
Nov. 1997*	PSRA/Pew Research Center	60	37

Note: * Question worded as “Would you be willing to pay 25 cents more per gallon of gasoline if it would significantly reduce global warming, or wouldn't you?”

- Would you be willing to pay 5 cents more per gallon of gasoline if it would significantly reduce global warming, or wouldn't you?

		Yes	No
Nov. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	73%	24%

- Which of these positions do you agree with most? The United States should reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases that may contribute to global warming even if it does so by itself. The United States should reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases that may contribute to global warming only if other countries do so as well.

US should reduce emissions of gases that contribute to Global Warming...

		Even If By Itself	Only If Other Countries Do So As Well	Should Not Reduce Emissions
Mar. 2001	TIME/CNN/Harris	52%	34%	10%

- Would you personally be willing to support tough government actions to help reduce global warming even if each of the following things happened as a result or wouldn't you be willing to do so?...

		Yes	No
Mar. 2001	TIME/CNN/Harris		
	There was a mild increase in inflation	54%	39%

Unemployment increased	38	55
Your utility bills went up	47	49

- Some people have suggested another approach. The government would issue permits that allow companies to give off a certain amount of greenhouse gases. Companies that do better than required would be allowed to sell at a profit their leftover permits to companies that do worse than required. These permits would give companies a financial reason to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. Do you think this is a good idea, a bad idea, or don't you know enough about it to say?

		Good Idea	Bad Idea	Don't Know Enough to Say
Nov. 1997	CBS News/ NYT	18%	20%	58%

Note: Asked of those who heard or read a lot/some/not much about global warming (85 percent).

- All countries release greenhouse gases and the United States releases more greenhouse gases than any other country. Should the United States take steps now to cut its own emissions of greenhouse gases, regardless of what other countries do, or should the US wait for many countries to agree to take steps together to cut down on greenhouse gases?

		US Should Cut Emissions Now	All Countries Should Act Together
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	76%	18%

- Which of the following statements do you agree with more concerning new energy regulations to reduce global warming? The same energy regulations to reduce global warming should apply to all countries around the world. There should be strict energy regulations for the United States and other advanced countries, and less strict regulations for Third World countries that have not yet achieved economic development.

		Same regulations for US, Same Regulations Around The World	Less Strict For Third World Countries
Oct.-Nov. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	73%	21%

- Do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems? Global warming.

		Republican	Democrat	No Difference
Oct. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	22%	47%	12%

- As you may know, President Clinton recently announced a plan to reduce emissions in the United States which contribute to the problem of global warming. From what you have read or heard about Bill Clinton's plan, do you think it goes too far in its attempts to reduce global warming, does it not go far enough, or is it about right?

		Goes Too Far	Does Not Go Far Enough	About Right
Oct. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	15%	20%	42%

- What if signing the treaty (an international treaty that would take steps to slow down global warming) would not significantly harm the economy, but would increase the cost of gasoline and electricity. Should (President) Bush sign the treaty?

		Yes	No
May 1992	USA Today	58%	33%

- President Bush has not yet signed an international treaty that would take steps to slow down global warming. Some of Bush's advisors say the treaty will harm our economy. Should Bush sign the treaty if it harms our economy now, but helps the environment in the long run?

		Yes	No
May 1992	USA Today	58%	26%

- Do you think the United States should take action on global warming only if other major industrial countries such as China and India agree to do equally effective things, that the United States should take action even if these other countries do less, or that the United States should not take action on this at all?

		Take Action Only If Other Countries Do	Take Action Even if Other Countries Do Less	Should Not Take Action At All
July 2008	ABC/Wash Post	18%	68%	13%
June 2009	ABC/Wash Post	20	59	18
Nov. 2009	ABC/Wash Post	21	55	22

What Should be Done: Miscellaneous

- How likely is it that people you know would be willing to change their driving habits and drive less in order to save energy and cut down on greenhouse gases – would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

		Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Very Likely	Not at All Likely
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	12%	41%	30%	16%

- In order to help reduce global warming, would you be willing or not willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources like solar or wind energy?

		Willing	Not Willing
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	75%	20%

- Is reducing global warming something people like you can do a lot about, can do something about, or cannot do much about?

		A Lot	Something	Not Much
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	27%	52%	19%

- When you go shopping and you're deciding what to buy, do you consider the manufacturer's environmental record or do you decide mainly on the basis of price and quality?

		Record	Price and Quality
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	11%	79%

- And when you decide where to shop, do you consider the store's environmental policies, or do you decide mainly on the basis of other factors, such as convenience, price and brands?

		Record	Other Factors
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford	8%	87%

- In the past year, have you chosen to buy any specific products because they were better for the environment, even though they cost more? (If yes), what were they?

Apr. 2007		CBS News/NYT	
	Apr. 2007	Sep. 2006	
Household products	18%	22%	
Car – hybrid/fuel efficient	6	8	
Light bulbs	6	--	
New appliances	4	--	
Food items/organic foods	4	6	
Home improvement/energy	3	8	
No, nothing	45	44	

- Do you separate out newspapers, cans or glass bottles in your household recycling, or don't you?

		Yes	No
Mar. 1990	CBS News/NYT	69%	27%
Apr. 2007	CBS News/NYT	78	22

- Do you buy products made from recycled materials regularly, or is that something you do occasionally, or is buying products made from recycled material something you do not do?

Apr. 2007		Regularly	Occasionally	Never
CBS News/NYT		41%	49%	8%

- How much more (as a percentage of cost) would you be willing to pay for electricity if you knew it was being generated by renewable sources such as wind power and solar power?

Jun. 2007		1 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 25	More than 25	Nothing
Zogby International		26%	26%	11%	4%	27%

- Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes on gasoline and other fuels if the money was used for research into renewable sources like solar and wind energy?

Apr. 2007		Willing	Not Willing
CBS News/NYT		64%	33%

- For each of the following, please tell us if you think they've done too much, too little or about the right amount to help reduce greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming?

Apr. 2007		Harris Interactive			
	Too Much	Right Amount	Too Little	Not Sure	
The media	20%	23%	44%	13%	
The president	3	22	62	13	
The general public	3	20	66	12	
Large corporations	3	12	74	12	

- When it comes to the environmental impact of your purchases and habits, would you say you are very conscious of impact, somewhat conscious, not too conscious of impact, not at all conscious of impact?

Jun. 2007		Very Conscious	Somewhat Conscious	Not Too Conscious	Not At All Conscious
Harris Interactive		14%	55%	22%	5%

- Do you think the effects of global warming can be controlled if most people take steps such as driving less, recycling, and turning down their thermostat, or will more drastic measures be needed?

Mar. 2007	Gallup/USA Today	Can be Controlled 30%	More Drastic Measures 58%
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- All in all, how good a job would you say you, personally, are doing in protecting the environment?

Mar. 2007	Gallup/USA Today	Excellent 7%	Good 52%	Only Fair 34%	Poor 5%
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- Next, I'm going to read a list of steps individuals can take to reduce global warming. Please say each if that is something you, personally, should or should not be doing

Mar. 2007	Gallup/USA Today		Should	Should Not
		Spending several thousand dollars to make your home more efficient	78%	19%
		Riding mass transit such as buses and subways whenever possible	77	18
		Installing a solar panel to produce energy for your house	71	27
		Using only fluorescent light bulbs in your home	69	27
		Buying a hybrid car	62	33
		Unplugging your electronic equipment when not using it	57	39
		Supporting the construction of a nuclear energy plant near your home	34	62

- I am going to read you some statements, and after each I would like you to tell me if you mostly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or mostly disagree?...It is my responsibility to help reduce the impacts of global warming.

Feb. 2007	Yale/Global Strategy Group	Mostly Agree 55%	Somewhat Agree 26%	Somewhat Disagree 7%	Mostly Disagree 9%
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- Should people like yourself be doing more to help reduce global warming, or is there not much that individuals like yourself can do?

Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	Should Be Doing More 67%	Not Much Individuals Can Do 29%
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- To reduce the effects of global warming will we have to make major sacrifices, or can technology solve the problem without requiring major sacrifices?

Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	Have to Make Major Sacrifices 58%	Technology Can Solve the Problem Without Major Sacrifices 34%
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- Some people say that since poorer countries did not cause much pollution, they should not have to bear as much of the burden in dealing with global warming. Others say that every country, rich or poor, should make the same changes now in order to limit future global warming, no matter how much of the pollution they created originally. Which of these views comes closer to your own?

		Developing Countries Should Not Bear as Much Of The Burden	All Countries Should Make Some Changes
Nov. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	19%	70%
Apr. 2001	PSRA/Pew Research Center	24	67

- Suppose you could cut your household's emissions of greenhouse gases and save money on your monthly gas and electric bills. But to do this, you would have to make an initial investment and spend money on new appliances and insulation. Would you be willing or not willing to spend money on new appliances and insulation?

		Willing	Not willing	Depends
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	56%	24%	12%

- Which comes closer to your opinion? Efforts in the United States to reduce the release of greenhouse gases will cost too much money and hurt the US economy, or the US economy will become more competitive because these efforts will result in more efficient energy use, saving money in the long run.

		Hurt Economy/ Costs Too Much	Help Economy/ Saves Money	Depends
Nov. 1997	CBS News/NYT	20%	67%	2%

- Would you, personally, be willing or not willing to have the United States take steps to reduce global warming if each of the following things happened as a result...

		Yes, Willing	No, Not Willing	Depends
Oct. 1997	Gallup/CNN/USA Today			
	If unemployment went up a great deal?	34%	54%	5%
	If costs for gasoline or electricity went up a great deal?	44	48	4

- Do you find you are more concerned about worldwide environmental problems--such as the greenhouse effect that may result in global warming--or do you find that local environmental problems concern you more?

		Global	Local	Both
Nov. 1989	LA Times	44%	46%	6%
Mar. 1990*	Washington Post	45	48	7

Note: *Question worded as "Generally speaking, are you more concerned about worldwide environmental problems like global warming and saving the rain forests or do local environmental problems concern you more?"

Handling the Issue

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling global warming?

		Approve	Disapprove
Apr. 2009	ABC News/Wash Post	61%	23%
Dec. 2009	Quinnipiac	40	40

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling...the issue of global warming?

		Approve	Disapprove
Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	26%	44%
Jan. 2007*	ABC News/WP	27	61

Note: *Question worded as “Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling...global warming?”

- In general, which political party do you trust more to handle the issue of global warming – the Republicans or the Democrats?

		Democrats	Republicans
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek	52%	21%

Note: Sample is registered voters.

- Do you think the Bush administration has done as much as it should to try to address climate change and reduce global warming, or hasn't done enough?

		Done As Much As It Could	Hasn't Done Enough
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek	21%	68%

- Who do you trust to do a better job handling _____, George W. Bush or the Democrats in Congress? How about?

		Bush	Democrats
Apr. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post/Stanford		
	The environment overall	21%	53%
	Global warming	19	59
	Issues involving national parks	24	57

- When it comes to reducing global warming in particular, is the Bush administration doing too much, or too little, or just the right amount to reduce global warming?

		Too Much	Too Little	Right Amount	Don't Know
Jul.-Aug. 2006	LA Times/Bloomberg	3%	58%	29%	10%

- Recently a group of prominent scientists charged that the Bush Administration is ignoring and distorting scientific evidence concerning the seriousness of environmental problems such as global warming. Who do you tend to believe in this matter--the scientists who claim that the Bush administration is ignoring and distorting scientific evidence about environmental problems, or the Bush administration, which denies ignoring and distorting scientific evidence about environmental problems?

		Scientists	Bush Administration
Mar. 2004	Gallup	59%	32%

- Would you say the Bush administration's handling of global warming has been excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Jun. 2002	Harris Interactive	6%	19%	33%	32%
Sept. 2003	CBS News	4	15	35	28

- Should President (George W.) Bush develop a plan to reduce the emission of gases that may contribute to global warming or shouldn't he do so?

Mar. 2001	TIME/CNN/Harris	Should 67%	Should Not 26%
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Kyoto Protocol

- There have been international agreements to reduce global warming by limiting emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases released when fuel is burned. The United States government says those agreements are not based on sound research and would damage the American economy. Do you think the American position is right or wrong?

Sept. 2003	CBS News	Right 37%	Wrong 49%
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- Based on what you know, do you think the U.S. (United States) should or should not participate in the following treaties and agreements?...The Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming

Jun. 2002	Harris Interactive	Should Participate 64%	Should Not Participate 21%
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- An international treaty calls on the U.S., United States, and other industrialized nations to cut back on their emissions from power plants and cars in order to reduce global warming, also known as the greenhouse effect. Some people say this would hurt the U.S. economy and is based on uncertain science. Others say this is needed to protect the environment and could create new business opportunities. What's your view--do you think the United States should or should not join this treaty requiring less emissions from U.S. power plants and cars?

Jun. 2002	Harris Interactive	Should Join 70%	Should Not Join 25%
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- The United States government says that it cannot accept the Kyoto and Bonn agreements to limit emissions of greenhouse gases because they are not based on sound research and would damage the American economy. Do you think the American position is right or wrong?

Aug. 2001	Harris Interactive	Right 42%	Wrong 46%
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- Have you seen, heard, or read of recent international agreements in Kyoto and Bonn to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to reduce global warming?

Aug. 2001	Harris Interactive	Have Seen, Heard, or Read 58%	Have Not 41%
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- As you may know, George W. Bush has decided that the US (United States) should withdraw its support from the global warming agreement, adopted in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

Apr. 2001	PSRA/Pew Research Center	Approve 25%	Disapprove 47%
Jul. 2001	PSRA/Pew Research Center	32	51

- The US and many of its allies signed an international treaty known as the Kyoto Accord under which many developed countries promised to limit production of gases such as carbon dioxide. Opponents say its provisions would hurt the United States' economy by restricting use of coal, oil, and other fossil fuels, and that the Accord places an unfair burden on the United States when compared with other countries. Supporters say the United States is a major producer of the gases which cause global warming and should do its part in reducing them. What do you think? Do you think the US should abide by the provisions of the Kyoto Accord, or not?

		Abide By Kyoto	Do Not Abide By Kyoto
Apr. 2001	LA Times	59%	21%

- Recently, George W. Bush decided not to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which are thought to be one of the causes of global warming, because of concerns about energy shortages and the rising cost of energy in the US (United States). Do you favor or oppose his decision?

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 2001	CBS News	29%	59%

- Do you think that the agreement (from the meeting that took place in Kyoto, Japan which discussed what should be done about global warming and so-called greenhouse gases) to reduce emissions to below the 1990 level is too strict, about right, or not strict enough?

		Too Strict	About Right	Not Strict Enough
Dec. 1997	Harris	18%	41%	31%

- Are you aware of the meeting that took place in Kyoto, Japan which discussed what should be done about global warming and so-called greenhouse gases, or not?

		Aware	Not aware/ Not sure
Dec. 1997	Harris	55%	45%

Cap and Trade

- How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called "Cap-and-Trade" that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions?

		A Lot	A Little	Nothing At All
Sep-Oct. 2009	PSRA/Pew	14%	30%	55%
Feb. 2010	PSRA/Pew	17	37	46

- As you may have heard, Congress recently passed a bill called "cap and trade" that creates a market for businesses to buy and sell energy usage credits. Now I would like to read you two statements about this law. Please tell me which one comes closest to your own view.

July 2009 GWU Battleground

Some people say that this law will lead to higher energy costs, thousands of lost jobs, and an increase in the production cost of almost every consumer good. 40%

Other people say this law is a good way to develop clean energy technologies, to create jobs, and to reduce pollution. 44

- There's a proposed system called "cap and trade." The government would issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that did not use all their permits could sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies would find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that would be cheaper than buying permits. Would you support or oppose this system?

		Support	Oppose
Jul. 2008	ABC News/Washington post	59%	34%
Jun. 2009	ABC News/Washington post	52	42
Aug. 2009	ABC News/Washington post	52	43
Nov. 2009	ABC News/Washington post	53	42

- Do you favor or oppose setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

		Favor	Oppose
Sep.-Oct. 2009	PSRA/Pew	50%	39%
Feb. 2010	PSRA/Pew	52	35

The data in this report come from the archive of public opinion polls at AEI and from The Roper Center's archive at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. The Roper Center is the oldest and largest archive of public opinion data in the world. To learn more about the Roper Center, visit <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies published "Opinion of African Americans on Climate Change AND 2010 Midterm Elections: The Results Of A Multi-State Poll". It can be found [here](#).

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