

American Attitudes about Global Warming and Energy Policy

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
with funding from Yale University

Interview dates: November 20, 2014 – December 1, 2014

Interviews: 1,578 American adults (age 18 and over)

Margin of error: +/- 2.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Some items held for later release.

Q3. Generally speaking, how interested are you in environmental issues?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Extremely/very interested NET	25
Extremely interested	5
Very interested	19
Moderately interested	53
Not very/Not at all interested NET	21
Not very interested	16
Not at all interested	5
Refused	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1578</i>

Q20. For each of the following, please rate how serious a problem you think it is for the earth as a whole.

	Very/Extremely serious NET	Extremely serious	Very serious	Moderately serious	Not too/not at all serious NET	Not too serious	Not at all serious	Not Sure	Refused
Unsafe disposal of toxic waste	68	38	30	20	6	4	1	5	1
Loss of tropical rain forests	58	32	26	27	9	7	2	5	1
Water pollution	62	31	31	25	7	6	2	4	1
Air pollution	59	27	32	27	8	6	2	4	1
Damage to the Earth's ozone layer	53	27	26	24	15	11	4	6	1
Extinction of plant and animal species	53	26	26	25	16	11	4	5	1
Too much garbage, waste, and landfills	56	26	30	29	9	7	2	4	1
Global warming	46	24	22	22	25	13	12	6	1
Overuse of natural resources	54	24	29	27	13	10	3	6	1
The condition of the world's oceans	48	23	25	30	14	12	3	6	1
Population growth	48	22	26	30	16	11	5	5	2
Inefficient or wasteful use of energy	53	22	30	30	11	8	3	5	2
Use of genetically modified organisms in foods (GMOs)	44	22	22	26	20	14	7	9	1
Clean energy is not widely available	48	19	29	29	15	11	4	7	2
Loss of open spaces and undeveloped land	44	17	26	31	18	14	4	6	2

N=1578

Q22. Please indicate which one of these statements comes closest to your own views – even if it is not exactly right.

In the long-run, protecting the environment will...

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Reduce economic growth and cost jobs	15
Have no impact on economic growth or jobs	22
Improve economic growth and provide new jobs	60
Refused	3
<i>N=</i>	1578

Q24. Do you think that global warming is happening, or do you think global warming is not happening?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Yes, global warming is happening	56
No, global warming is not happening	20
Not sure	23
Refused	1
<i>N=</i>	1578

Asked if “yes” or “not sure” in Q24

Q25. How worried, if at all, are you about global warming?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Extremely/Somewhat worried NET	34
Extremely worried	12
Very worried	22
Moderately worried	38
Not very/Not at all worried NET	20
Not very worried	16
Not worried at all	4
Not sure	7
Refused	1
<i>N=</i>	1213

Asked if “yes” in Q24

Q26. Do you think global warming is...

	AP-NORC 11/19- 12/1
Caused entirely by human activities	10
Caused mostly by human activities	47
Caused about equally by human activities and natural changes in the environment	31
Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment	4
Caused entirely by natural changes in the environment	3
Not sure	4
Refused	1

N=

889

Asked if “no” in Q24

Q27. Please indicate which statements describe your opinion(s) about global warming – even if it is not exactly right. You may choose more than one.

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
I don’t think global warming is happening because I don’t find the scientific evidence convincing	42
I could be convinced global warming is happening	7
Some people and the press are exaggerating the risks of global warming	58
Global warming is a hoax	38
Global warming is not caused by human activity	29
Refused	1

N=

355

Q29. Should each of the following be doing much more, somewhat more, somewhat less, much less, or the same amount as they are doing now to reduce the effects of global warming?

	Much/Somewhat more NET	Much more	Somewhat more	Same amount	Much/Somewhat more NET	Somewhat less	Much less	Refused
AP-NORC 11/19-12/1								
Developed or industrialized countries outside the U.S.	62	32	30	24	12	6	6	2
Corporations and industry	61	35	26	24	12	6	6	3
Citizens themselves	57	27	30	30	11	5	6	2
Developing countries	57	25	32	27	14	6	8	2
The U.S. federal government	52	26	26	26	20	8	11	2
Your state government officials	49	18	31	32	17	8	8	2
Your local government officials	45	15	30	37	16	7	9	2

N=1578

Q32. Generally speaking, do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose each of the following government policies?

	Favor NET	Strongly favor	Moderately favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Oppose NET	Moderately oppose	Strongly Oppose	Refused
AP-NORC 11/19-12/1								
Require drilling companies to publicly disclose all the chemicals they use when extracting natural gas or oil using hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”)	66	39	27	25	7	4	3	2
Fund research into renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power	66	37	29	22	9	6	3	3
Regulate carbon dioxide emissions	60	26	33	26	11	6	6	3
Expand offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast	41	14	27	34	22	15	8	3
Encourage the building of more nuclear power plants	29	9	20	40	28	15	12	3
Allow more widespread use of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) to extract oil and natural gas	28	10	18	39	31	15	15	2

N=1578

Q34. How concerned are you about the risks posed to the environment by each of the following energy sources?

	Very/Extremely concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Not too/not at all concerned NET	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned	Refused
AP-NORC 11/19-12/1								
Nuclear	36	16	20	36	25	19	6	3
Coal	31	13	19	37	29	19	9	3
Oil	30	12	19	39	27	18	9	3
Natural gas	17	6	11	37	43	29	14	3
Solar	9	3	6	20	69	30	39	3
Wind	9	3	6	22	67	30	36	3
Water (dams, tidal power)	14	5	9	28	56	34	22	2
Geothermal (capturing natural heat emitted by the earth)	10	3	8	26	61	33	29	3

N=1578

Q35. In general, do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose the building of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport heavy oil from Canada into the United States for refining?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Favor	31
Neither favor nor oppose	31
Oppose	18
Not sure	19
Refused	1

N=

1578

Asked if "favor" in Q35

Q35D. What if the majority of the energy produced using the Canadian oil transported by the Keystone XL pipeline was exported overseas after it passed through the U.S. - would you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose the building of the pipeline in that case?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Favor	37
Neither favor or oppose	27
Oppose	35
Refused	1
<i>N=</i>	485

Q36. If the Keystone XL pipeline is approved, how confident are you that the pipeline would be a safe way to transport the heavy oil?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Extremely/Somewhat confident NET	24
Extremely confident	8
Very confident	16
Moderately confident	43
Not very/Not at all confident NET	31
Not very confident	19
Not confident at all	13
Refused	2
<i>N=</i>	1578

Q37. If the Keystone XL pipeline is NOT approved, much of the heavy oil it would have transported would instead be transported by freight trains. How confident are you that freight trains would be a safe way to transport the heavy oil?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Extremely/Somewhat confident NET	10
Extremely confident	2
Very confident	8
Moderately confident	44
Not very/Not at all confident NET	44
Not very confident	31
Not confident at all	13
Refused	2

N= 1578

Q39. And when it comes to safety around energy sources, which comes closer to your opinion - even if neither is exactly right:

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
It is the responsibility of <u>government</u> to make sure that energy companies keep consumers and workers safe while conducting their business	35
It is the responsibility of <u>energy companies</u> to make sure that consumers and workers are safe, regardless of what government regulations exist	62
Refused	3

N= 1578

Q41A. As you may know, the United States and China recently reached an agreement to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and to cap China's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Based on what you've seen, heard or read about the agreement, do you think it places too much of the responsibility for reducing greenhouse gases on [INSERT IF DOV_Q41A=1 the United States; INSERT IF DOV_Q41A=2 China], places too much of the responsibility on [INSERT IF DOV_Q41A=1 China; INSERT IF DOV_Q41A=2 the United States], or divides responsibility fairly between both countries?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Places too much responsibility on the United States	21
Places too much responsibility on China	2
Divides responsibility fairly between both countries	20
Don't know enough to say	54
Refused	1

N=

1578

Q41B. Which best describes your feelings about the agreement between the United States and China:

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
It is a helpful first step toward a broader international treaty to address global warming	65
It is an unnecessary step that will hinder the U.S. economy	30
Refused	5

N=

1578

Q42. Do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose U.S. participation in the development of a new international treaty to address global warming?

Asked if "neither" in Q42

Q42A. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward favoring or opposing U.S. participation in the development of a new international treaty to address global warming?

Asked if "favor" in Q42

Q42B. Would you say you strongly favor U.S. participation in the development of a new international treaty to address global warming, or favor it somewhat?

Asked if "oppose" in Q42

Q42C. Would you say you strongly oppose U.S. participation in the development of a new international treaty to address global warming, or oppose it somewhat?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Total Favor	50
Strongly favor	27
Somewhat favor	12
Lean towards favoring	11
Do not lean either way	27
Total Oppose	23
Lean towards opposing	8
Somewhat oppose	5
Strongly oppose	9
Refused	-

N=

1578

Q43. Which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion about how President Obama should handle negotiations for developing a new international agreement to address global warming?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
President Obama should negotiate and act on a new international agreement to address global warming even if it will not be approved by the U.S. Senate	37
President Obama should only negotiate a new international agreement to address global warming if it will be approved by the U.S. Senate	36
President Obama should not pursue a new international agreement to address global warming	22
Refused	5

N=

1578

Q44. Which of the following comes closer to your opinion?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
The United States should be a leader on global warming, even if it means taking action when other countries do not	61
The United States should avoid taking action on global warming unless other countries take action too	18
The United States should not take action on global warming, regardless of what other countries do	16
Refused	5

N=

1578

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

REL1. What is your religion?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Baptist—any denomination	16
Protestant (e.g., Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal)	19
Catholic	24
Mormon	1
Jewish	2
Muslim	1
Hindu	1
Buddhist	1
Pentecostal	4
Eastern Orthodox	*
Other Christian	10
Other non-Christian	2
None	18
Refused	*
N=	1578

Asked if Christian in REL1

PPP20071. Would you describe yourself as a born-again or evangelical Christian?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Yes	26
No	47
Not asked	25
Refused	2
N=	1578

REL2. How often do you attend religious services?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
More than once a week	10
Once a week	20
Once or twice a month	9
A few times a year	17
Once a year or less	19
Never	24
Refused	1
<i>N=</i>	1578

D4. To what extent do you consider yourself a religious person? Are you...?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Very religious	19
Moderately religious	34
Slightly religious	21
Not religious at all	23
Refused	3
<i>N=</i>	1578

D5. To what extent do you consider yourself a spiritual person? Are you...?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Very spiritual	25
Moderately spiritual	33
Slightly spiritual	22
Not spiritual at all	18
Refused	3
<i>N=</i>	1578

D6. Which of the following best describes where you live?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Urban area	23
Suburban area	49
Rural area	26
Refused	2
<i>N=</i>	1578

PARTY1. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Republican	28
Democrat	33
Independent	18
Another party, please specify: _____	1
No preference	18
Refused	2
<i>N=</i>	1578

PARTY2. If "Republican," ASK: Would you call yourself a strong or not very strong Republican?

PARTY3. If "Democrat," ASK: Would you call yourself a strong or not very strong Democrat?

PARTY4. If "Independent", "Another party", "No preference", or "Refused," ASK: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican party or the Democratic party?

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Strong Republican	13
Not Strong Republican	14
Leans Republican	16
Undecided/Independent/Other	7
Leans Democrat	17
Not Strong Democrat	15
Strong Democrat	17
Refused	-
<i>N=</i>	1578

IDEOLOGY. In general, do you think of yourself as...

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Extremely liberal	4
Liberal	14
Slightly liberal	9
Moderate, middle of the road	35
Slightly conservative	10
Conservative	20
Extremely conservative	5
Refused	3
<i>N=</i>	<i>1578</i>

GENDER.

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1578</i>

RACE/ETHNICITY.

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
White, Non-Hispanic	66
Black, Non-Hispanic	12
Other, Non-Hispanic	7
Hispanic	15
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1578</i>

AGE.

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
18-29	21
30-49	25
50-64	27
65+	27
<i>N=</i>	<i>1578</i>

INCOME.

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Under \$10,000	4
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	18
\$150,000 or more	9
<i>N=</i>	1578

EDUCATION.

	AP-NORC 11/19-12/1
Less than high school	12
High school	30
Some college	29
Bachelor's degree or higher	29
<i>N=</i>	1578

About the Study

This survey was funded by Yale University and conducted by GfK using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate but do not already have internet access, GfK provides, at no cost, a laptop and ISP connection. People who already have computers and internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique login information for accessing surveys online, and they are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in the research.

Interviews were conducted between November 20 and December 1, 2014, with 1,578 adults 18 and over from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. A total of 3,285 panel members were randomly drawn from GfK's KnowledgePanel®, 1,578 (excluding breakoffs) responded to the invitation, yielding a final stage completion rate of 48 percent. The recruitment rate for this study, reported by GfK, was 14 percent, and the profile rate was 63.6 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 4.3 percent. The overall margin of error is +/- 2.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data has been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, sex, education, race, region, and metropolitan status using the latest March supplement of the Current Population Survey. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

A study report is available on the AP-NORC Center website: www.apnorc.org.

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The two organizations have established the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.