

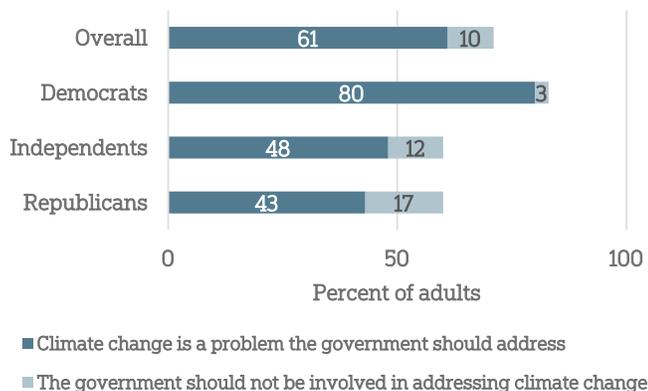
Reducing Carbon Emissions

FINDINGS FROM AN AUGUST 2017 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

✓ Sixty-one percent of Americans say climate change is a problem the U.S. government should address.

- Seventy-two percent say climate change is happening, 9% say it is not happening, and 19% are unsure.
- Among just those who believe climate change is happening, 85% believe the government should take steps to address it while 14% do not, including 95% of Democrats, 80% of independents, and 71% of Republicans.
- Among all adults, not just those who believe climate change is happening, 61% percent say the government should take steps to address climate change and 10% see climate change as a problem but not something the government should be involved with addressing.

Eight in 10 Democrats say the government should take a role in addressing climate change. Fewer than half of Republicans and independents say the same.



Full question wording is available at www.apnorc.org.

✓ Majorities support state and local governments taking action to reduce emissions.

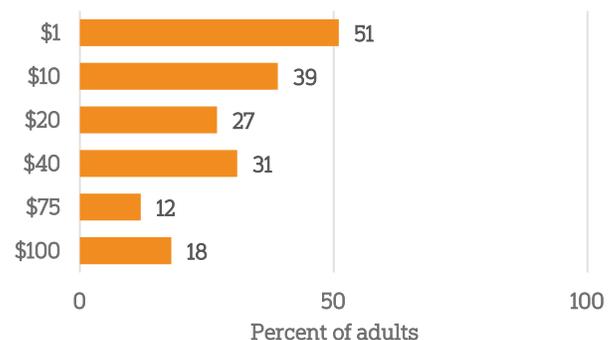
- Fifty-seven percent support actions taken by some mayors and governors to honor the goals of the Paris Agreement despite U.S. withdrawal. Ten percent oppose it, and 32% neither support nor oppose.
- Based on what they've seen, 55% think their state and local government should do more to address climate change, 10% say they should do less, and 33% say they should stick to the status quo.
- As with other policies to reduce emissions, support is largely driven by people's party identification and belief in climate change.

✓ To combat climate change, half of Americans would support a modest monthly fee on their electricity bill.

- Thirty-one percent would vote for a monthly fee of \$40, which is up from the 17% willing to pay that fee in 2016.
- Half of Americans are willing to pay a \$1 monthly fee.
- Political party and belief in climate change are the main determinants of whether people are willing to pay.
- Just 1 in 10 of those who either don't believe climate change is happening or who aren't sure would be willing to pay \$1.
- Just as in 2016, no differences emerge based on educational attainment or living in a coastal state.
- Forty-six percent of those with household incomes of \$100,000 or more would be willing to pay \$20 a month compared with 20% of those with household incomes of less than \$50,000. For other monthly fee amounts, there are no differences based on income.

Americans' willingness to pay to combat climate change varies, leveling off at steeper fees.

% who would support a monthly fee of...



Question: Suppose a proposal was on the ballot next year to add a monthly fee to consumers' monthly electricity bill to combat climate change. If this proposal passes, it would cost your household [\$1, \$10, \$20, \$40, \$75 or \$100] every month. Would you vote in favor of this monthly fee to combat change, or would you vote against this monthly fee?

✓ Climate change and energy are not top policy priorities for many Americans.

- Forty-eight percent say climate change is very or extremely important to them and 54% say the same about energy policy.
- In comparison, at least two-thirds say health care, the economy, and terrorism are important policy priorities.

Energy Policy in the U.S.

FINDINGS FROM AN AUGUST 2017 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

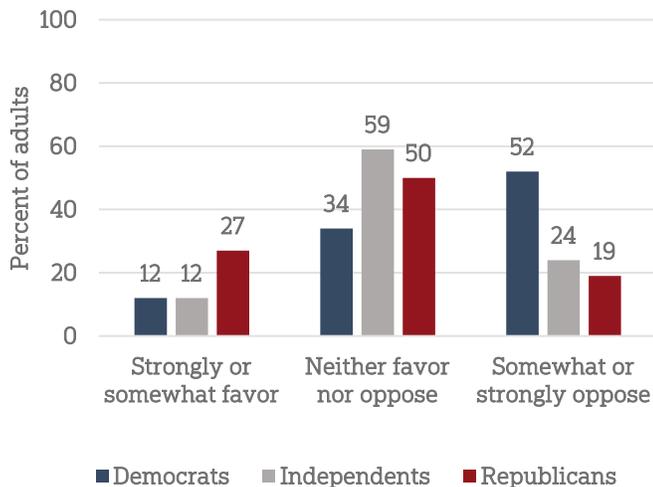
✓ **Most Americans say energy policy is personally important to them.**

- Fifty-four percent of adults say energy policy is important, 29% say it is moderately important, and 16% say it's not important.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say energy policy is important (61% vs. 45%).

✓ **A third oppose the current direction of U.S. energy policy while nearly half neither support nor oppose the current direction.**

- Seventeen percent favor the direction of energy policy in the U.S., 35% oppose it, and 45% neither favor nor oppose its direction.
- Republicans are more likely than Democrats to favor the direction of energy policy, but they are also most likely to say they neither favor nor oppose current policy.

A majority of Democrats oppose the direction of U.S. energy policy, while many Republicans and independents remain neutral.



Question: In general, do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the direction of U.S. energy policy?

✓ **More than 4 in 10 incorrectly believe the coal industry employs more people than the solar industry.**

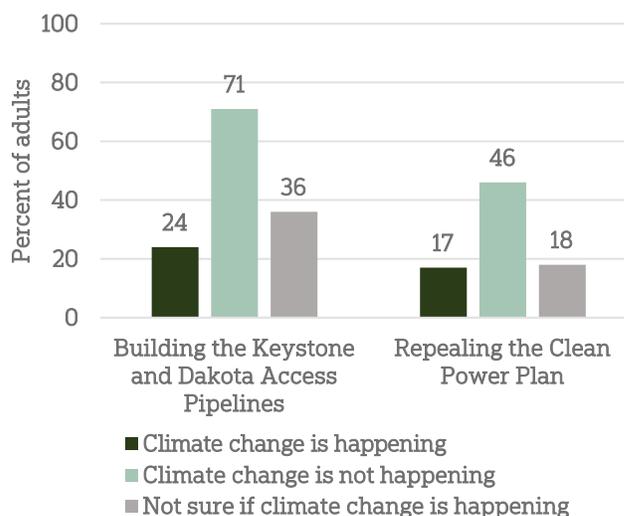
- The solar industry employed more than twice as many people as the coal industry in 2016, though 44% believe the opposite.
- Forty-eight percent correctly say the solar industry employs more people than the coal industry.
- Republicans are more likely than Democrats to incorrectly believe the coal industry employs more people (53% vs. 41%).

✓ **About a third of Americans lack opinions on the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines or the repeal of the Clean Power Plan.**

- Roughly equal numbers of Americans favor, oppose, and neither favor nor oppose the construction of the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines.
- While the Trump administration reviews the Clean Power Plan, 20% of Americans favor its repeal, 40% oppose repeal, and 37% neither favor nor oppose repeal.
- Views toward climate change influence support for each policy.

Attitudes about whether climate change is happening shape attitudes toward major U.S. energy policies.

% who favor...



Question: Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following? Building the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines; Repealing the Clean Power Plan

Fracking and Fossil Fuels

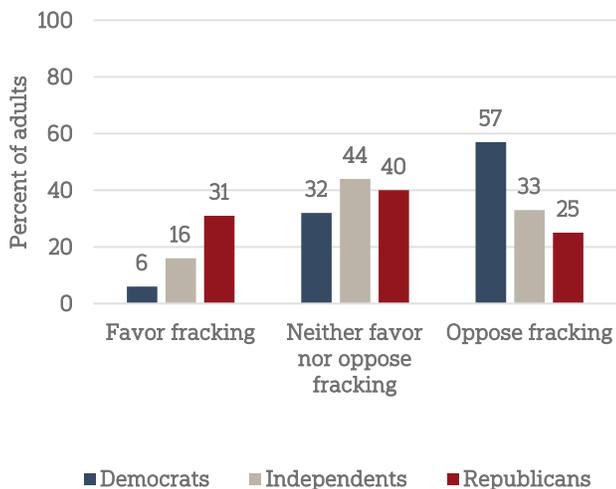
FINDINGS FROM AN AUGUST 2017 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

✓ **More Americans oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing in the United States than support it.**

- Seventeen percent favor the use of fracking in the U.S. while 41% oppose it. Thirty-seven percent neither favor nor oppose fracking.
- Those who say energy policy is personally important to them are more likely to oppose fracking in the U.S. than those who say energy policy is not important to them (52% vs. 18%).
- Those who say climate change is happening are more than four times as likely to oppose fracking as those who say climate change is not happening.
- Fewer Democrats now favor fracking (6% in 2017 vs. 13% in 2016). Independents and Republicans remain unchanged in their views toward fracking.

Attitudes about fracking are closely tied with partisanship.

% who say they...



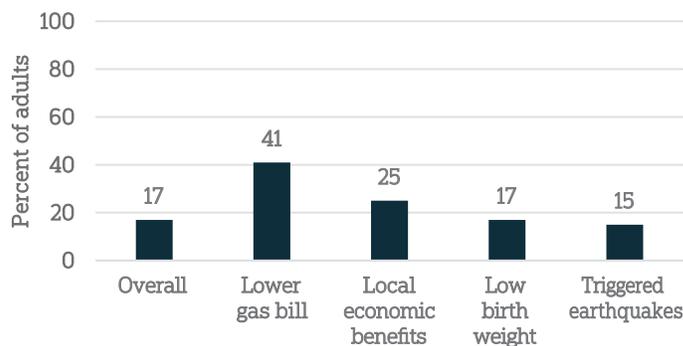
Questions: Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called “fracking,” in the United States?

✓ **The number of people who say they favor fracking more than doubles when presented with evidence that it will save them money, while arguments about the negative environmental and health effects of fracking have less of an impact on public opinion.**

- Support for fracking jumps from 17% to 41% when presented with evidence that it will save them \$250 annually on their natural gas bill.
- There is a smaller increase in support to 25% when told that communities where fracking takes place would see localized economic benefits equal to about \$1,900 annually for the average household.
- The 41% who initially oppose fracking increases to 51% when presented with an argument that it leads to an increased risk of low birth weights for babies born to women living in close proximity to the fracking site.
- The percent of those opposed to fracking increases to 58% when shown evidence that the fracking process could trigger earthquakes.

Support for fracking more than doubles when presented with evidence that it will lower natural gas bills.

% who favor fracking under each condition.



Full question wording is available in the topline at www.apnorc.org.

The Paris Agreement

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✓ More Americans oppose withdrawal from the Paris Agreement than support it, but 3 in 10 don't have an opinion.

- Twenty-eight percent say they support withdrawal, 42% oppose it, and 28% neither support nor oppose withdrawal.
- Opinion remains unchanged since June 2017.

✓ Half of those who support withdrawal say the agreement was too costly for the U.S.

- Among those who support withdrawal, 52% say a major reason why is because the agreement was too costly for the U.S.
- Not believing other countries would stick to the agreement is a major reason why 44% support withdrawal.
- Seven in 10 under age 45 are concerned that other countries won't stick to the agreement, compared with 84% of adults age 45 and older.
- Fewer support withdrawal because they believe climate change is not a serious threat.

Support for U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement has more to do with economics than attitudes toward climate change.

% who say a major or minor reason why they support withdrawal is because they...



Question: There are many reasons why someone might support U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. For each of the following, please indicate if it is a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason at all that you support U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

✓ Those who oppose withdrawal feel strongly that climate change is a serious threat, the U.S. should meet its commitments, and the U.S. should be a leader on climate change.

- Eight in 10 who oppose U.S. withdrawal say a major reason why is that they believe climate change is a serious threat.
- More than 7 in 10 say major reasons for their opposition are that the U.S. should make good on its commitments and that the U.S. should be a global leader on climate change.

Opposition to U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is motivated by several concerns.

% who say a major or minor reason why they oppose withdrawal is because they...



Questions: There are many reasons why someone might oppose U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. For each of the following, please indicate if it is a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason at all that you oppose U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

✓ Four in 10 Americans believe U.S. withdrawal will have a demotivating effect on other countries in the agreement.

- Thirty-seven percent say U.S. withdrawal from the agreement will make other countries less likely to meet their obligations.
- Twenty-one percent think U.S. withdrawal from the agreement will make other countries more likely to meet their obligations, while 38% don't think it will make a difference.
- Older adults are more likely than younger adults to say other countries will be less likely to meet their obligations (44% of adults age 45 and older vs. 29% of adults age 18 to 44).