Findings from a 2024 Survey of Adults Age 18 and Older

A majority of Americans believe that climate change is happening and that it is caused mostly or entirely by human activity, with subtle attitude shifts emerging.

- As in 2021 and 2023, around three-quarters of Americans believe that climate change is happening and just over half of them say it is caused by human activity.
- Democrats’ belief in human-driven climate change rose from 60% to 67% from 2023 to 2024.
- There is a large split between Democrats and Republicans about whether climate change is happening (93% vs 62%) and, among those who say it’s happening, if it is caused mostly by humans (67% vs 34%).
- More Republicans say it is caused equally by humans and nature (42%) than primarily by nature (24%).
- The number of Republicans under age 45 who say they believe climate change is happening rose from 60% in 2021 to 69% in 2024. There was no change in older Republicans’ views over the same period (55% in 2021 and 56% in 2024).
- Younger Republicans are also more likely than older Republicans to believe climate change is caused mostly by humans (40% vs 29%). This is a significant increase for younger Republicans compared to 2017, when 26% of both young and old Republicans believed in human-driven climate change.
- About half of Americans say their views on climate change have been influenced by recent extreme weather.

American who have experienced extreme weather over the past year are more likely to say climate change is happening and that action should be taken to mitigate or adapt to it.

- Most commonly, Americans have experienced unusually hot or cold days (74%), poor air quality (55%), and severe storms (47%) in their local community.

![Bar Chart]

**Question:** If experienced extreme weather event: Do you think climate change was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor contributing to each of the following in your local community?

- Those who have experienced extreme weather events are more likely to say that climate change is happening and is human-driven, and that extreme weather has influenced their views on climate change.
- Those who experienced extreme weather are also more likely to consider it an important issue this election season, and support actions to be taken to reduce emissions and provide communities with support to adapt.
• Similar to 2023, 23% of Americans have considered moving due to the impacts of extreme weather events. Younger people are more likely to consider moving.

Americans generally consider the air quality where they live to be good, and many would take action to avoid air pollution exposure.

- 33% of Americans say the air quality where they live is excellent or very good, 41% say it is good, and 22% say it is fair. Only 4% say it is poor.
- Those with lower incomes are more likely to say that their air quality is worse than those with higher incomes.
- About half of Americans say they would stay indoors on days with particularly poor air quality or install an air purifier in their homes. Fewer would wear a mask outside or move neighborhoods.
Americans agree that corporations and the federal government have a responsibility to address climate change. Fewer say that responsibility lies with individuals.

- Sixty-two percent say corporations and industry bear a great deal or a lot of responsibility for addressing climate change, and 59% say the same about the federal government. Fewer (41%) believe individuals bear a lot of responsibility.

- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say that corporations and industry (80% vs 45%), the federal government (76% vs 40%), and local and state government officials (63% vs 30%) have a responsibility to address climate change.

- When it comes to other countries’ role in addressing climate change, 57% of adults say rapidly developing countries have a great deal or a lot of responsibility and 52% say the same about developed countries.

- Forty-eight percent of Republicans say rapidly developing countries like China and India bear a responsibility to address climate change, the highest among the given options.

A majority of Americans say climate change policy is an important factor to their vote for president.

- The economy (87%) and healthcare (81%) are the most important issues to Americans when considering who to vote for in the November presidential election.

- Eighty-four percent of Democrats rank climate change policy as an important factor to their vote, and 78% say the same about energy policy—both ahead of immigration (68%). Climate (43%) and energy policy (65%) are the least important issues to Republicans.

Half say it’s at least very important for the next president to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Only a third of Americans think it is extremely or very important for the next president to protect and expand U.S. fossil fuel development. Likely voters over the age of 45 find this more important than younger voters (39% vs 31%).

- A range of priorities—including reducing emissions, expanding clean energy, and protecting air, water, conservation land, and wildlife—are considered important by at least half of Americans.
There is a large gap between Democrats and Republicans on most of the priorities, with Democrats placing a higher importance on each. There is a 44 percentage point divide on the goal of reducing emissions (71% vs 27%).

There is a 40 percentage point divide on expanding clean energy (72% vs 32%), though Republicans under 45 were more supportive than older Republicans (37% vs 28%).

There is a 39 percentage point divide on enforcing strict clean air and water regulations (75% vs 36%).

There is a 26 percentage point divide on protecting conservation lands and wildlife (74% vs. 49%).

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Those who say they'll definitely be voting in the upcoming presidential election are more likely to say climate actions are extremely or very important for the next president to take compared to those who say they won't be voting.

Most Americans support a field of solar panels and wind turbines being built in their community, while fewer support a nuclear power plant.

About 6 in 10 Americans say they would support solar fields and wind turbines being built in their communities. Only a third say the same about building a nuclear power plant.

About three-quarters of Democrats support solar and wind being built in their communities, while about half of Republicans support them. There is less of a partisan divide on nuclear energy.
After support fell in 2023, more Americans are willing to pay a monthly carbon fee to combat climate change.

- Support for a monthly carbon fee rebounded after a dip in 2023. Forty-five percent of Americans are willing to pay $1 for a monthly carbon fee, and 25% are willing to pay a $100 monthly fee.

- Democrats are more willing than Republicans and independents to pay a monthly carbon fee, regardless of the amount. Two-thirds of Democrats are willing to pay a $1 monthly fee. A quarter of Republicans say the same. More than a third of Democrats say they would pay $100, while only 14% of Republicans say they would pay that amount.
Findings from a 2024 Survey of Adults Age 18 and Older

Most Americans would prefer an American-made electric vehicle over one made in China, regardless of the price difference provided.

- When given the choice between a more expensive electric vehicle made in the United States and a less expensive one made in China, the majority of Americans would opt for the American-made vehicle. This holds true if told that the American-made vehicle costs $500, $1,000, $2,000, or $5,000 more than the Chinese vehicle.

- Majorities of both Republicans and Democrats would choose the more expensive American-made vehicle, regardless of the price difference.

- Majorities of Americans making less than $50,000, between $50,000-100,000, and more than $100,000 would choose the American-made vehicle.

- Americans aged 45 and younger are more likely than older Americans to choose the less expensive vehicle. However, at least half of both age groups opt for the American-made model at each price point.

A third of Americans support offering a consumer tax credit for purchasing an electric vehicle.

- Respondents were asked about a policy that offers consumer tax credits for purchasing electric vehicles with batteries manufactured in the U.S. They were given different arguments about the policy. Only about a third of Americans support the policy, regardless of which argument they received.

- Mentioning that the policy will lead to higher-paying jobs (39%) or an expansion of the electric vehicle manufacturing industry (39%) garners slightly more support for the rules than the possibility of fewer people purchasing electric vehicles (33%).

- Democrats support the tax credit rules more than Republicans when told the rules will lead to higher-paying jobs (50% vs 35%), expanding the electric vehicle manufacturing industry (51% vs 31%), and that electric vehicles will become more expensive (42% vs 32%).

- Democrats’ support grows when told the rules will lead to higher-paying U.S. jobs (50%) and an expanded electric vehicle manufacturing industry (51%) while Republican support remains mostly consistent.

As in 2023, few Americans currently own an electric vehicle (9%), but about 2 in 5 say they are at least somewhat likely to purchase one as their next car.

- Americans age 45 and younger are more likely than those age 45 and older to own an electric vehicle (13% vs 5%). Those who make $100,000 or more a year are more likely than those who make under $50,000 to own one (14% vs 6%), as well as those who believe climate change is happening (10% vs 4%).

- Eighty-one percent of those who already own an electric vehicle are at least somewhat likely to purchase one again.
Electric Vehicles

- Groups that are more likely to already own an electric vehicle – younger and wealthier Americans, as well as those who say climate change is happening – are also more likely to consider purchasing an electric vehicle in the future.

- Republicans and Democrats own electric vehicles at similar rates. But 54% of Democrats say they are at least somewhat likely to purchase one as their next vehicle. Twenty-nine percent of Republicans report the same.

- Twenty-eight percent of Americans living in the West say they are extremely or very likely to purchase an electric vehicle. Fewer say the same in the Midwest (15%), South (19%) and Northeast (22%).

Savings on gas and reducing personal impact on climate change top the list of reasons why the public would purchase an electric vehicle.

- 7 in 10 Americans would consider purchasing an electric vehicle to save on gas, while 66% said they would consider purchasing one to reduce their personal impact on climate change. These reasons remain largely unchanged since 2023.

- Americans cite vehicle cost as the top barrier to purchasing an electric vehicle; range and concerns about charging are also considerations.
  - Across income levels, about 8 in 10 Americans say the cost of electric vehicles is prohibitively expensive. This remains consistent with 2023.
  - About three-quarters say the range of electric vehicles is not far enough and are concerned that they take too long to charge.
  - Regardless of whether respondents live in a rural, suburban, or urban area, about two-thirds say they don’t know of charging stations nearby.

Question: Is each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason you would not purchase an electric vehicle?

- The cost of a new EV is too high
- The range on EVs is not far enough
- It takes too long to charge
- Prefer a gas engine vehicle
- Don’t know of charging stations nearby
- Not enough choices in EVs
- Owning an EV does not align with personal values
- To keep up with latest trends in vehicles
- To save money on gas
- To reduce personal impact on climate change
- To save money on vehicle maintenance
- To get a tax break
- Owning an EV aligns with personal values

Question: Is each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason you would not purchase an electric vehicle?

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<th>Reason</th>
<th>Major reason</th>
<th>Minor reason</th>
<th>Not a reason</th>
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<td>To reduce personal impact on climate change</td>
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