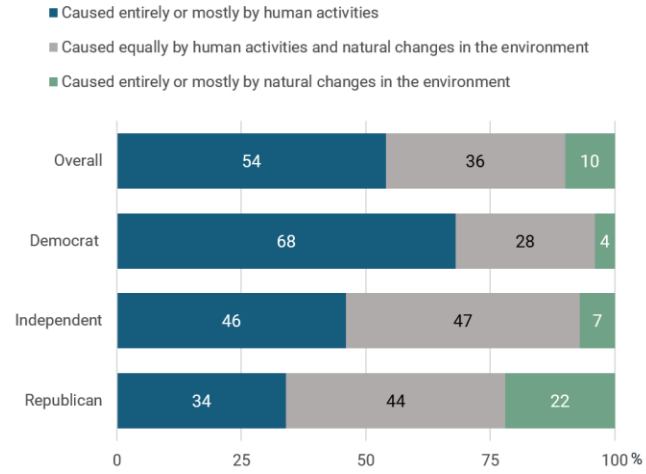
Findings from a 2026 Survey of Adults Age 18 and Older

Views on climate change have remained stable in recent years, with most Americans agreeing climate change is happening.

- Consistent with prior years, 74% of Americans believe climate change is happening. Among them, 54% say it is caused entirely or mostly by human activity.
- A large partisan divide on climate change remains. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to believe climate change is occurring (92% vs. 55%) and to say it is caused mostly by human activity (68% vs. 34%).

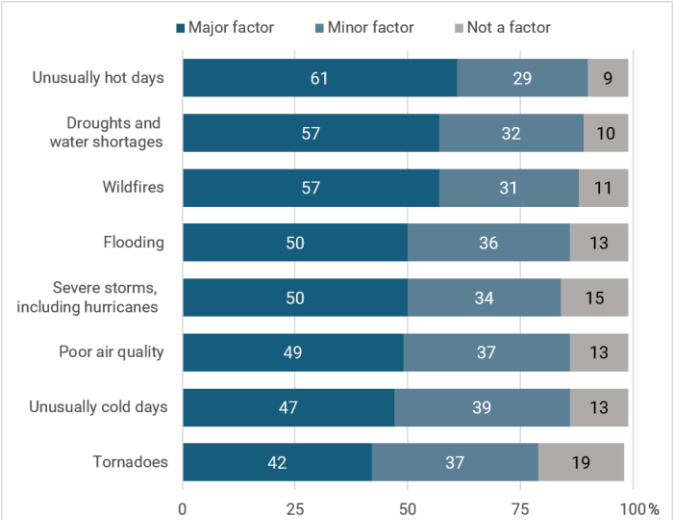


Question: *If believes climate change is happening*: Do you think climate change is caused entirely by human activities, caused mostly by human activities, caused about equally by human activities and natural changes in the environment, caused mostly by natural changes in the environment, or caused entirely by natural changes in the environment?

- Americans under the age of 45 are more likely than older Americans to believe that climate change is mostly due to human activity, regardless of partisanship.

A third of Americans experienced an increase in homeowners or renters insurance as a result of extreme weather events in their area.

- 94% of Americans experienced extreme weather in their community in the past year, most commonly in the form of unusually hot days (80%) or poor air quality (58%). This is similar to 2025.
- As in prior years, those who experienced an extreme weather event are more likely to say that climate change is happening.
- About 8 in 10 or more believe climate change was a contributing factor to the extreme weather they experienced. Democrats are especially likely to say climate change was a factor.

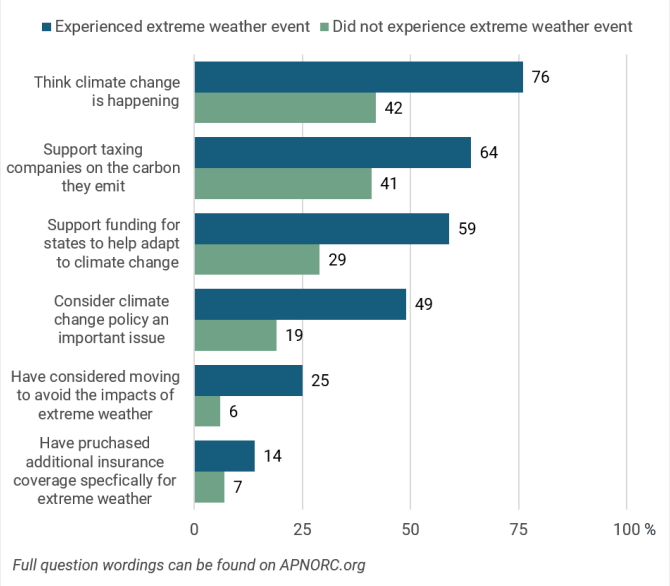


Question: *If experienced extreme weather event*: Do you think climate change was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor contributing to each of the following in your local community?

- A third of Americans experienced an increase in premiums or deductibles for homeowners or renters insurance as a result of extreme weather events. Fewer filed a claim with their insurance (14%), purchased additional insurance specifically for extreme weather (13%), or had difficulty getting or renewing insurance (12%).
- 22% of people living in the Northeast experienced an increase in premiums or deductibles for homeowners or renters insurance compared with 35% of those in the Midwest, 36% of those in the South, and 39% of those in the West.
- Americans who experienced some type of extreme weather are twice as likely as those who have not to purchase additional or separate insurance coverage specifically for extreme weather (14% vs. 7%).
- 24% considered moving to avoid the impact of extreme weather. Those who experienced extreme weather are more likely to consider moving than those who did not. Adults living in urban areas are more likely to consider moving than those in suburban areas, and younger adults are more likely to consider moving to avoid extreme weather than older adults.

This nationwide poll was conducted by The AP-NORC Center and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) from July 6-24, 2026, using TrueNorth®, which combines a sample from AmeriSpeak, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago, with a non-probability panel sample. Online and telephone interviews using landlines and cell phones were conducted with 3,424 adults. The margin of sampling error is +/- 2.2 percentage points. A full topline is available at www.apnorc.org.

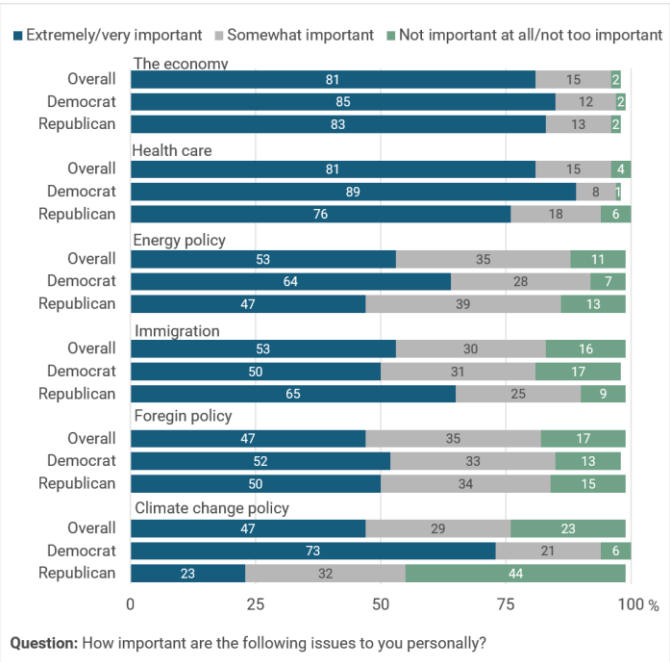
- Those who experienced extreme weather are more likely to consider climate change policy to be personally important, and to support taxing companies for the carbon they emit and to support funding to help communities adapt to climate change.



Full question wordings can be found on APNORC.org

Compared with health care and the economy, energy and climate change policy are lower personal priorities for Americans.

- Similar to previous years, about half of Americans consider energy policy and climate change policy very or extremely important. About another third consider each issue somewhat important. These are in line with views on immigration and foreign policy.



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

- There is a 49-percentage point divide between Democrats and Republicans when considering whether climate change policy is extremely or very important. Partisan differences are smaller on energy policy, health care and immigration, while Democrats and Republicans agree when it comes to the economy and foreign policy.
- Americans who believe that climate change is happening are more likely to consider both energy policy and climate change policy extremely or very important than Americans who don't believe that climate change is actually occurring.

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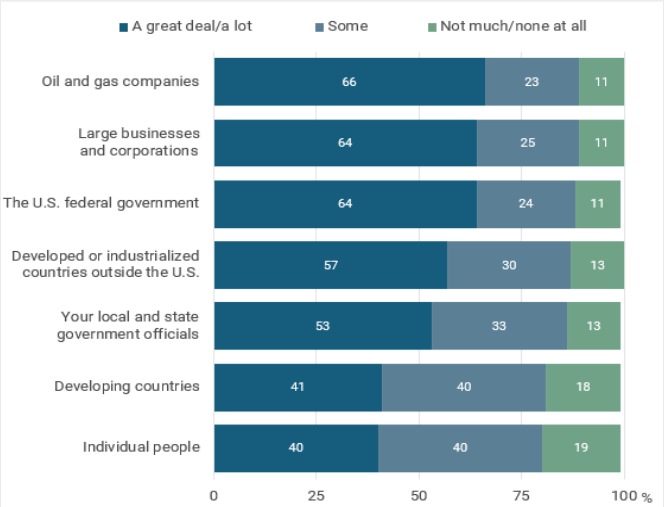
Findings from a 2026 Survey of Adults Age 18 and Older

As in prior years, Americans agree that the federal government, large businesses and corporations, and oil and gas companies have the most responsibility to address climate change.

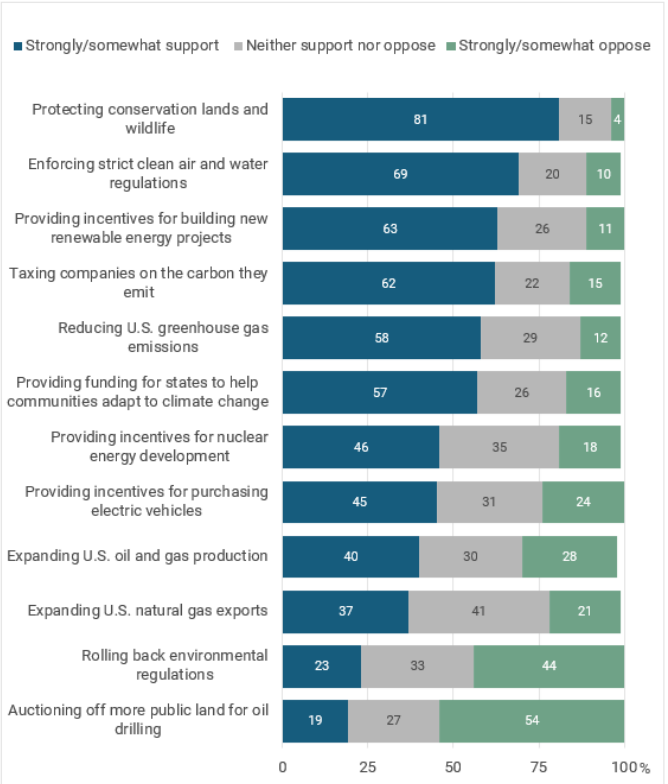
- 2 in 3 adults believe that oil and gas companies, large businesses and corporations, and the federal government have a great deal or a lot of responsibility for addressing climate change. Democrats place more responsibility on them than Republicans, with as much as a 40-percentage point gap in attitudes towards the responsibility of the federal government.
- Fewer view developing countries and individuals as bearing a great deal or a lot of responsibility for addressing climate change, though more say individuals do than last year (40% vs. 31% in 2025). More also say large businesses and corporations (64% vs. 58% in 2025) and local and state governments (53% vs. 46% in 2025) share the responsibility.
- There are some generational differences. Adults age 60 and older are more likely than those age 18-29 to assign a great deal or a lot of responsibility to developing countries (48% vs. 33%) and individual people (45% vs. 35%).
- Within Republicans, generational differences also emerge. Younger Republicans, those ages 18-45, are more likely than older Republicans to feel that the U.S. federal government bears responsibility to address climate change (49% vs. 40%) while older Republicans place more responsibility on developing countries than younger Republicans (42% vs. 29%).



Question: How much responsibility does each of the following have for addressing climate change?

There is widespread support for conservation, clean energy, and climate policies, and much less support for fossil fuel policies.

- 8 in 10 Americans, including a large majority of Democrats and Republicans, support protecting conservation lands and wildlife. There is more support from adults age 60 and older than from adults age 18-29 (86% vs. 73%).
- Yet, half of adults age 60 and older (50%) support expanding U.S. oil and gas production, a policy that receives considerably less support among Americans age 18-29 (28%).
- A majority of Americans support enforcing strict clean air and water regulations and providing incentives for building new renewable energy projects, including 6 in 10 Republicans and 8 in 10 Democrats.



Question: Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose the federal government doing each of the following?

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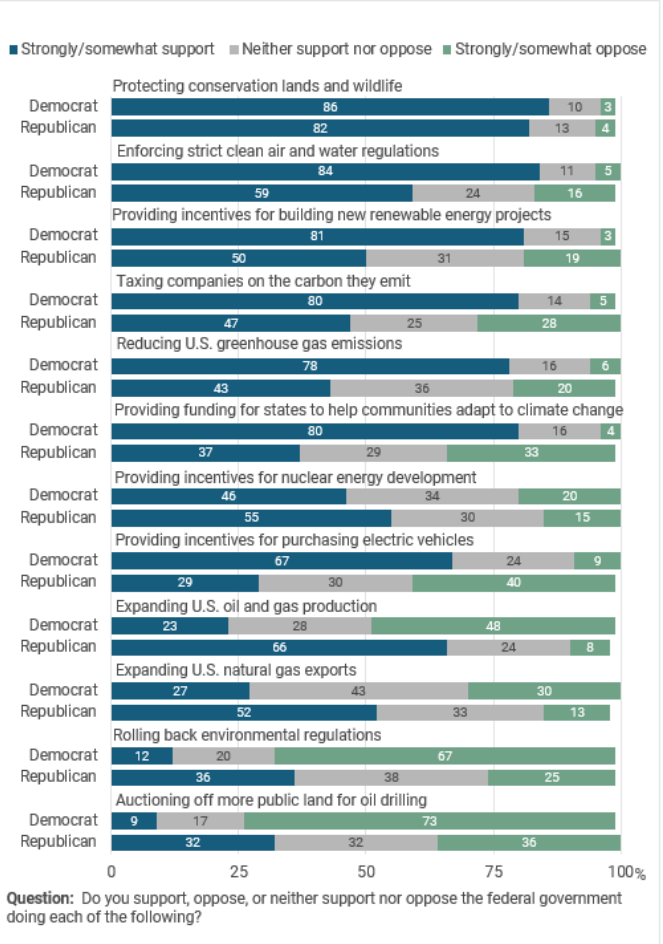
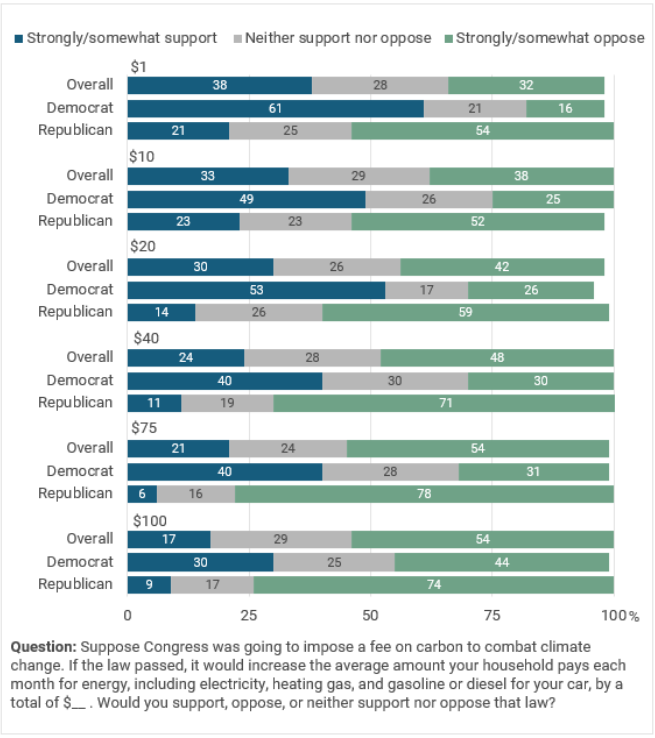
- More than half support climate policies including taxing companies on the carbon they emit, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, or providing funding to help communities adapt to climate change. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to support these policies, with about 30 to 40 percentage points between them. Republicans, in contrast, are more likely to support expanding oil and gas production, incentives for nuclear energy development, or expanding natural gas exports.
- Few support rolling back environmental regulations, and half of adults oppose auctioning off more public land for oil drilling, though Republicans are more likely than Democrats to favor both policies.
- Republicans age 18-45 are more likely than older Republicans to support providing funding for states to help them adapt to climate change (45% vs. 32%) or providing incentives for purchasing electric vehicles (35% vs. 25%).



Question: Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose the federal government doing each of the following?

While more than half of Americans support companies paying a carbon tax, few are willing to pay a large monthly carbon fee themselves.

- 38% of Americans support a $1 monthly carbon fee to combat climate change, and 3 in 10 support a $10 or $20 monthly fee. About a quarter or less support a monthly fee of $40, $75, or $100.
- Americans are similarly willing to pay a tax of each amount as they were in 2025.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to support a carbon fee at any price point.



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

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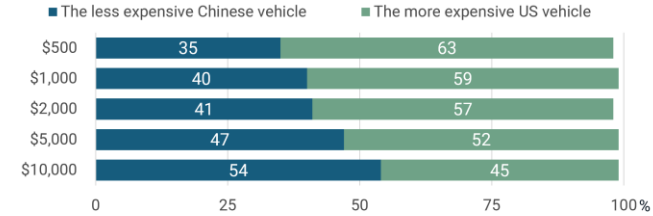
Findings from a 2026 Survey of Adults Age 18 and Older

Many Americans are willing to pay more for an electric vehicle made in the United States.

- At least half of Americans would prefer to purchase an American-made electric vehicle (EV) over a cheaper Chinese-made option when the price difference is $5,000 or less. When the price gap reaches $10,000, more would choose the Chinese-made EV.

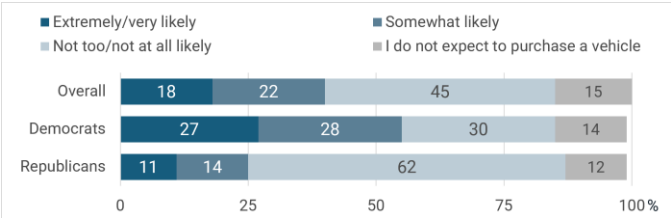


Question: Suppose you were planning on purchasing an electric vehicle and you had the choice between buying a vehicle made in China and one made in the United States. The U.S. made vehicle costs $___ more than the Chinese-made vehicle, but they are otherwise similiar in performance and appearance. Would you purchase the less expensive vehicle made in China or the more expensive vehicle made in the U.S.?

- Americans are more likely to prefer the cheaper Chinese-made vehicle than they were in 2024, including a 13-percentage point shift at the $500 price point and a 14-point shift at the $1,000 price point. Preferences have remained relatively stable since 2025.
- Most Republicans favor American-made EVs over Chinese-made no matter the price point, while most Democrats prefer the cheaper Chinese-made EV when the price difference is $5,000 or higher. Democrats are more split when the price difference is smaller.
- As was the case last year, Americans age 45 and older are more likely than younger Americans to choose the more expensive American-made vehicle.

Few American households own or lease an electric vehicle, but 4 in 10 say they are likely to purchase one in the future.

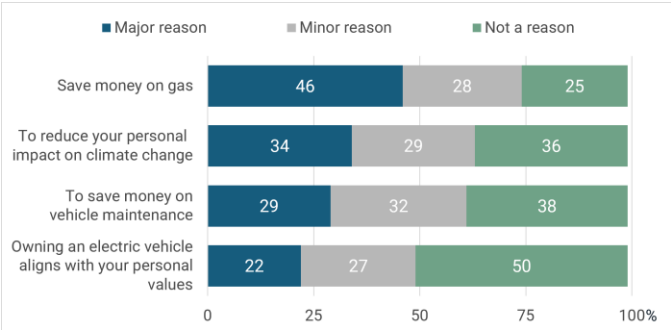
- Similar to prior years, 8% of Americans report living in a household that owns or leases an EV, while 40% say they are at least somewhat likely to purchase one.
- Belief in climate change does not make a difference in whether a household has an EV. But 45% of those who believe climate change is happening say they are at least somewhat likely to purchase one, compared with 22% of those who do not.
- While a similar number of Democrats and Republicans (10% vs. 7%) own an EV, about half of Democrats and only a quarter of Republicans say they are at least somewhat likely to buy one.
- Urban and suburban residents are more likely than rural residents to say they are at least somewhat likely to purchase an EV (44% and 43% vs. 28%), as are adults under age 45 (47% vs. 34%). Adults living in the West are also more likely than those in the Midwest or South to say the same (47% vs. 36% and 37%).



Question: The next time you purchase a vehicle, how likely are you to purchase a new or used electric vehicle?

Saving money on gas is the biggest reason Americans would purchase an EV.

- A majority of Americans say that savings on gas, reducing personal impact on climate change, and vehicle maintenance are major or minor reasons they would purchase an EV.
- Compared with 2025, slightly more now say saving money on gas (74% vs. 68%) and alignment with their values (49% vs. 44%) are reasons they would purchase an EV.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to cite each of these factors as a reason they would purchase an EV, as are those who believe climate change is happening compared with those who do not.



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

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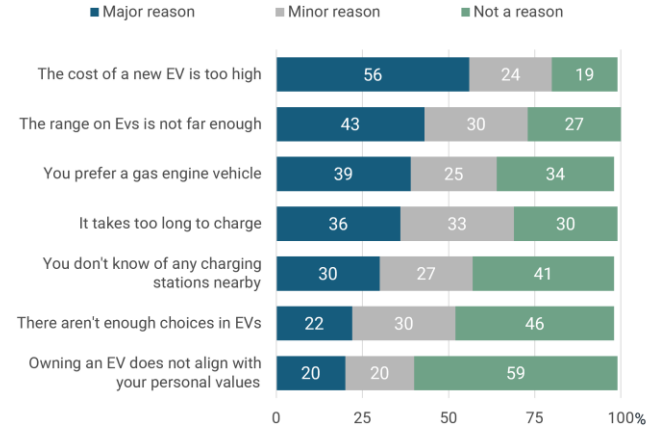
- Aside from reducing their personal impact on climate change, adults under age 45 are more likely than older adults to say each is a reason they would buy an EV.

Cost remains the biggest barrier for Americans to purchase an EV.

- Similar to polling from prior years, 8 in 10 Americans across income levels say the cost of buying a new EV is a major or minor reason they would not purchase one. Roughly two-thirds say the range on EVs, a preference for gas engine cars, and the time it takes to charge an EV are all reasons why they would not purchase an EV.

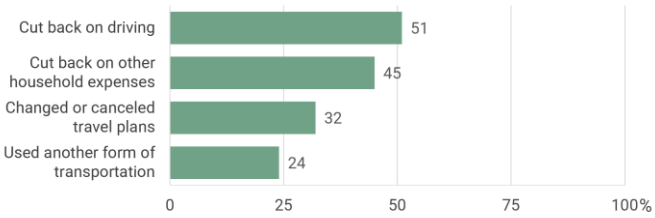


Question: Is each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason you would not purchase an electric vehicle?

- Republicans are more likely than Democrats to cite a preference for gas engine vehicles (80% vs. 51%), the time EVs take to charge (77% vs. 65%), and a belief that owning an EV does not align with their personal values (51% vs. 27%) as reasons for not purchasing an EV.
- Democrats and Republicans are aligned in saying the cost of a new EV (82% and 80%) and not knowing of any nearby charging stations (59% and 58%) would stop them from getting one. And about half from each party say a lack of choices in EVs would be a reason not to buy one (54% of Democrats and 53% of Republicans).
- Rural residents are more likely than suburban residents to say they would not buy an EV because they do not know of any charging stations nearby (62% vs. 55%). They are also more likely to say that the range is not far enough compared with urban residents (74% vs. 67%).

Many have had to cut back on driving or other household expenses, change travel plans, or use other transportation because of rising gas prices.

- About half of adults have cut back on driving or other household expenses because of rising gas prices in the last few months. A third have changed or canceled travel plans while a quarter have used another form of transportation.
- Adults with lower incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to have cut back on driving (57% vs. 41%), cut back on other household expenses (50% vs. 36%), changed or canceled travel plans (38% vs. 25%), or used another form of transportation (31% vs. 19%) because of rising gas prices.
- Those who believe climate change is happening are more likely to say they have taken each action listed, as are Democrats with the biggest partisan divides on cutting back on driving (56% vs. 42%) and using another form of transportation (30% vs. 14%).
- More urban residents than suburban or rural residents have used another form of transportation because of high gas prices (37% vs. 22% and 15%), as have adults under 45 compared with older adults (30% vs. 20%).



Question: Have you done any of the following because of high gas prices in the last few months, or not?

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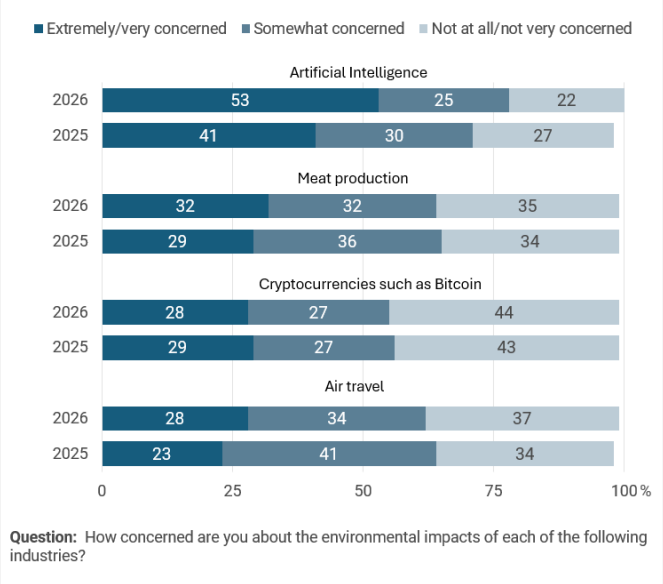
Findings from a 2026 Survey of Adults Age 18 and Older

An increasing number of Americans express concern about the environmental impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

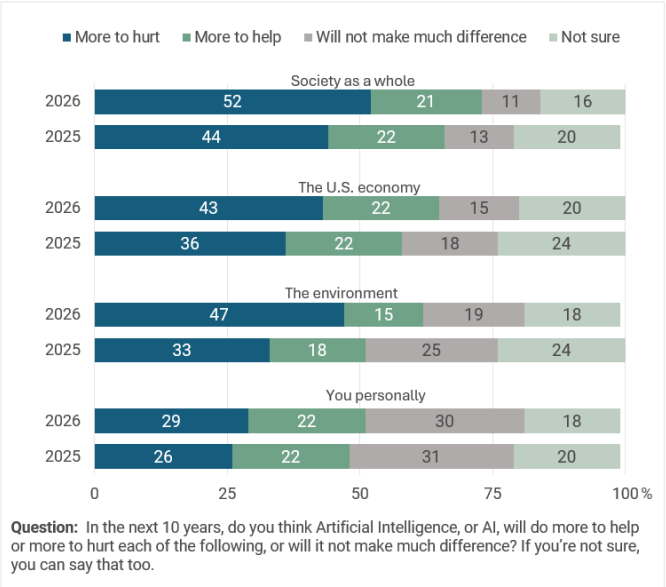
- 53% of Americans are extremely or very concerned about the environmental impacts of AI, up from 41% a year ago. Concern over the environmental impact of meat production, cryptocurrency, and air travel industries remain similar to 2025.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to be extremely or very concerned about the environmental impact of AI (65% vs. 42%), cryptocurrency (40% vs. 18%), meat production (42% vs. 21%), and air travel (38% vs. 17%). More Democrats are concerned about the environmental impact of AI compared with last year (65% vs. 49%).
- While Americans of all ages are more concerned about AI's impact on the environment over the last year, the increase is largest for younger Americans. Adults 18-29 went from in line with other age brackets in 2025 to the most concerned this year (38% to 60%).



Question: How concerned are you about the environmental impacts of each of the following industries?

Nearly half of Americans feel AI will do more to hurt than help the environment, up from a third a year ago.

- 47% of Americans think AI will do more to hurt rather than help the environment, up from 33% who said the same in 2025.
- As in 2025, more Americans feel that AI will do more to hurt rather than help society as a whole, the U.S. economy, and the environment. Americans remain divided on how AI will impact them personally.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say that AI will be more hurtful than helpful for the environment (57% vs. 40%), the U.S. economy (49% vs. 40%), or themselves personally (34% vs. 26%). Democrats are also more likely to feel that AI will be hurtful to society as a whole (57% vs. 50%), though half of Republicans share this concern.
- Democrats are growing more pessimistic about AI. They are more likely than they were in 2025 to say that AI will do more to hurt the environment (57% vs. 37%), society as a whole (57% vs. 46%), and the economy (49% vs. 38%). However, many remain unsure of AI's impact.
- More than half of adults 18-29 believe AI will do more to hurt than help the environment, a sharp increase from 2025 (39% to 57%).



Question: In the next 10 years, do you think Artificial Intelligence, or AI, will do more to help or more to hurt each of the following, or will it not make much difference? If you're not sure, you can say that too.

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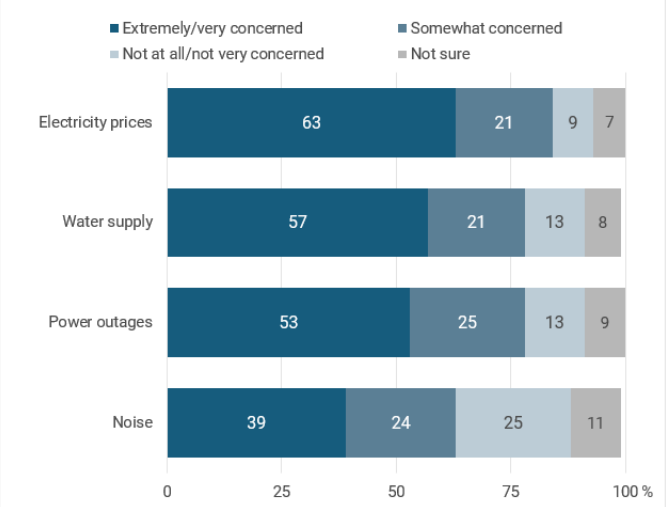
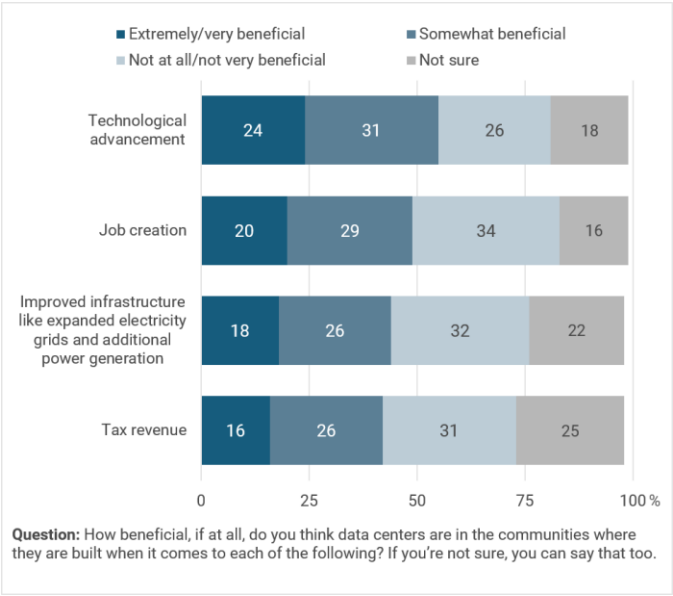
Most adults are concerned about the impact of data centers on local electricity prices, water supply, and power outages.

- About 8 in 10 adults are at least somewhat concerned about how data centers will impact electricity prices, power outages, or water supply in the communities where they are being built. About 6 in 10 are extremely or very concerned about prices and water supply.
- Similar to attitudes about AI, Democrats express more concerns about data centers than Republicans. Democrats are more likely to be extremely or very concerned about how data centers are impacting the electricity prices (70% vs. 58%), water supply (67% vs. 49%), power outages (61% vs. 46%), and noise levels (45% vs. 33%) in the communities where they are being built, though large shares of Republicans share these concerns.
- Concerns are mostly equally spread geographically, with a few exceptions. Americans living in the Northeast are less concerned than those in the South about issues relating to electricity prices (58% vs. 66%) and water supply (50% vs. 60%). Those in the West are also less worried about electricity prices (60% vs. 66%) and power outages (50% vs. 56%) compared with those in the South. There are no differences in levels of concern among people living in urban, suburban or rural communities even though more data centers are being planned in rural areas.[1]



Question: How concerned are you, if at all, about the impacts of data centers in the communities where they are built when it comes to each of the following? If you're not sure, you can say that too.

- Adults show mixed confidence about the benefits of data centers. About half feel data centers will be at least somewhat beneficial for technological advancement (55%) and job creation (49%). Slightly fewer are confident that data centers will be at least somewhat beneficial for improving infrastructure (44%) or tax revenue (43%).
- Republicans show slightly more optimism than Democrats about the potential benefits of data centers. More Republicans feel that data centers could be at least somewhat beneficial for technological advancement (60% vs. 54%), job creation (55% vs. 46%), and improved infrastructure (51% vs. 41%).
- Education and income play no significant role in adults' confidence in data centers' ability to provide the following benefits.



Question: How beneficial, if at all, do you think data centers are in the communities where they are built when it comes to each of the following? If you're not sure, you can say that too.

Most Americans would support policies that require data centers to cover electric grid upgrade costs and use clean energy.

- About 7 in 10 Americans strongly or somewhat support policies that require data centers to pay for electric grid updates and use clean energy sources. Another 6 in 10 support limiting the number of new data centers that can be built.

[1] https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/04/13/most-new-data-centers-in-the-us-are-coming-to-rural-areas/

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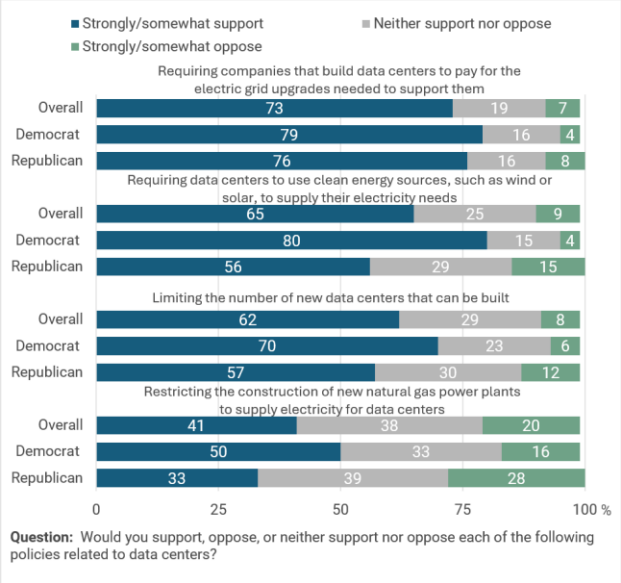
- There is some bipartisan support for policies surrounding data centers. About 8 in 10 of both Democrats and Republicans support requiring data centers to pay for electric grid updates. And although Democrats are more likely than Republicans, majorities of both parties support requiring data centers to use clean energy sources and limiting the number of new data centers that can be built.
- Older adults and adults with a college degree are more supportive of some policies regarding data centers compared with their counterparts. Adults ages 45 and older are more likely than younger adults to support requiring companies that build data centers to pay for the electric grid updates necessary to support them (80% vs. 66%) and requiring data centers to use clean energy sources (68% vs. 63%). Adults with a college degree are more likely than those without a college degree to favor requiring companies to pay for electric grid updates (83% vs. 68%), requiring data centers to use clean energy sources (73% vs. 61%), and restricting the construction of new natural gas power plants to supply data centers (47% vs. 37%).



Question: Would you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose each of the following policies related to data centers?

This nationwide poll was conducted by The AP-NORC Center and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) from July 6-24, 2026, using TrueNorth®, which combines a sample from AmeriSpeak, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago, with a non-probability panel sample. Online and telephone interviews using landlines and cell phones were conducted with 3,424 adults. The margin of sampling error is +/- 2.2 percentage points. A full topline is available at www.apnorc.org.