International Action on Climate Change

RESULTS FROM A NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER TAKEN AUGUST 11-14, 2016

✓ Few Americans express much confidence that the United States will meet its obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement.
  • About 1 in 4 Americans say they are confident that the United States will uphold its agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  • Democrats (31 percent) are more likely to express confidence than independents (22 percent) or Republicans (21 percent).
  • Those with a bachelor’s degree or more are less likely to be confident than those with a high school diploma or less (22 percent vs. 32 percent).

✓ Despite low expectations, most Americans say they would like the United States to work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions based on the Paris Agreement even if other countries do not.
  • In the event that other countries do not meet their obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 8 in 10 Americans say the U.S. should continue making progress to meet its own obligations.
  • Democrats (91 percent) are more likely than Republicans (77 percent) and independents (72 percent) to say they would like the U.S. to continue to make progress despite the actions of other countries.
  • Those who say climate change is happening are more likely than those who say it is not happening, or are unsure, to say the U.S. should continue making progress on reducing emissions (89 percent vs. 61 percent).

Even fewer Americans are confident that China and India will oblige with the Paris Agreement.
  • Seven percent say they are extremely or very confident that China will uphold its agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  • Similarly, just 6 percent say they are confident that India will uphold its agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Though majorities of all groups would like the U.S. to make progress toward reducing emissions even if other countries fail to meet their obligations, differences exist by political party and belief in climate change.

% who say the U.S. should continue making progress to meet obligations

| Climate change not happening /not sure | 61 |
| Climate change is happening | 89 |
| Republicans | 77 |
| Independents | 72 |
| Democrats | 91 |

Question: As you may know, 190 countries recently signed an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Based on what you’ve seen, heard, or read about the agreement, how confident are you that each of the following countries will meet its obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Few Americans are confident that the U.S. will fulfill its obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but even fewer express confidence in China and India.