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.

☑️ 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.

| Monthly Fee | Percent of Adults
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☑️ 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.

☑️ 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.