Climate change is not the top issue for adults: The economy and jobs, healthcare, Seniors' issues, national security, immigration, and gun policy are top of mind issues for U.S. adults.

81% of adults say it is important that any national climate solution be bipartisan.

Adults do not trust the government to address climate change: 61% distrust President Trump to do the right thing to address climate change, 64% distrust Congress, and 64% distrust the federal government.

70% of respondents are not willing to pay more in electric bills, 67% are not willing to pay more in transportation costs, 66% are not willing to pay more in taxes, and 67% are not willing to pay more in food costs to see a shift to 100% renewable energy.

When given more information about natural gas and its clean energy nature, abundance, and source of cutting carbon emissions, a majority (70%) of adults support continued use of natural gas for electricity.

Affordability, over environmental friendliness, efficiency, or reliability, is the most important factor when thinking about the energy adults use every day.

51% of adults don’t know/have no opinion when thinking of their support/opposition of the Green New Deal. When given more information about the Green New Deal, 36% of adults say it will be realistically implemented, while 44% say it will not be realistically implemented.

When asked how much more in taxes they are willing to spend a month to combat climate change, 73% of adults are willing to spend between $0 and $5, while only 4% are willing to spend $100 or more a month.

Methodology
This poll was conducted from September 13-15, 2019, among a national sample of 2,198 Adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data was weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of ±2%.
Top Issues and the Environment

The Green New Deal

Willingness to Shift to Renewables
The economy and jobs, healthcare, Seniors' issues, national security, immigration, and gun policy are top of mind issues for U.S. adults.

Now, thinking about your vote, what would you say is the top issue on your mind when you cast your vote for federal offices such as U.S. Senate or Congress?
A vast majority of adults (81%) are worried about the quality of the environment.

How worried, if at all, are you about the quality of the environment?

- Very worried: 81%
- Somewhat worried: 40%
- Not too worried: 15%
- Not at all worried: 6%
Nearly half (46%) of respondents feel the world’s climate has changed *a lot* in their lifetime.

*In your lifetime, do you think the world’s climate has changed a lot, some, not much, or not at all?*
Over half (57%) of adults say climate change is happening, and it is caused by human activity.

Which of the following comes closest to your opinion, even if none are exactly correct?
45% of adults rank themselves the least capable of addressing climate change, while 45% rank the U.S. government as the most capable.

Please rank each of the following by their level of capability in addressing climate change in the United States, with 1 being the most capable for addressing and 5 being the least capable for addressing?

- The U.S. government: 45% rank 1, 20% rank 2, 10% rank 3, 10% rank 4, 16% rank 5
- You, personally: 21% rank 1, 8% rank 2, 12% rank 3, 14% rank 4, 45% rank 5
- Corporations: 17% rank 1, 21% rank 2, 35% rank 3, 16% rank 4, 11% rank 5
- Local and state governments: 11% rank 1, 35% rank 2, 30% rank 3, 17% rank 4, 7% rank 5
- Small businesses: 6% rank 1, 16% rank 2, 14% rank 3, 43% rank 4, 22% rank 5
The vast majority (81%) of adults think there should be a bipartisan national solution to climate change.

Is it important that any national climate solution be bipartisan?

- Very important: 42%
- Somewhat important: 39%
- Not too important: 10%
- Not at all important: 9%

80% important, 20% not important
88% important, 12% not important
Respondents largely distrust the federal government, Congress, President Trump, and corporations when it comes to doing the right things to address climate change.

Generally, do you trust or distrust the following groups or people to do the right things to address climate change?

- **Donald Trump**
  - Strongly trust: 13%
  - Somewhat trust: 17%
  - Don't know/No opinion: 9%
  - Somewhat distrust: 12%
  - Strongly distrust: 49%

- **Everyday Americans**
  - Strongly trust: 12%
  - Somewhat trust: 47%
  - Don't know/No opinion: 11%
  - Somewhat distrust: 22%
  - Strongly distrust: 8%

- **Small businesses**
  - Strongly trust: 12%
  - Somewhat trust: 53%
  - Don't know/No opinion: 12%
  - Somewhat distrust: 17%
  - Strongly distrust: 6%

- **The Federal Government**
  - Strongly trust: 4%
  - Somewhat trust: 22%
  - Don't know/No opinion: 11%
  - Somewhat distrust: 32%
  - Strongly distrust: 32%

- **Congress**
  - Strongly trust: 4%
  - Somewhat trust: 20%
  - Don't know/No opinion: 12%
  - Somewhat distrust: 33%
  - Strongly distrust: 31%

- **Corporations**
  - Strongly trust: 18%
  - Somewhat trust: 12%
  - Don't know/No opinion: 33%
  - Somewhat distrust: 35%
1. Top Issues and the Environment
2. The Green New Deal
3. Willingness to Shift to Renewables
Adults are generally split on whether they think the Green New Deal will help, hurt, or have no effect on the economy, while nearly half (47%) do not know/have no opinion.

Generally speaking, do you believe that the Green New Deal will help, hurt, or have no effect on the economy?
Initial support for the Green New Deal is split (27% support – 23% oppose), while 51% of respondents do not know/don’t have an opinion.

Based on what you’ve seen, read, or heard, do you support or oppose the Green New Deal?
The Green New Deal seeks to get electricity consumption to zero carbon as soon as possible. In calling for 100% renewable electricity within 10 years the Green New Deal would push us towards more renewable energy sources, electric modes of transportation, and would continue to push people toward a more sustainable lifestyle.

The global economy is creating half a million new jobs annually in renewable energy and employs more than 10 million people. The United States has created a hundred thousand new solar and wind jobs each year, which is 12x faster than the rest of the economy's growth. Green energy is putting people to work.

The Green New Deal includes large-scale investments alongside a federal jobs guarantee. A job paying at least $15 an hour, with good benefits, would be available to anyone who wanted one. This plan would not only put people to work but would also help to combat the crises of our lifetime: the climate crisis.

The positive message about “jobs” and “putting people to work” was the strongest in making respondents more likely to support the Green New Deal.

Do the following statements make you more or less willing to support the Green New Deal?

- The Green New Deal includes large-scale investments alongside a federal jobs guarantee. A job paying at least $15 an hour, with good benefits, would be available to anyone who wanted one. This plan would not only put people to work but would also help to combat the crises of our lifetime: the climate crisis.

- The global economy is creating half a million new jobs annually in renewable energy and employs more than 10 million people. The United States has created a hundred thousand new solar and wind jobs each year, which is 12x faster than the rest of the economy’s growth. Green energy is putting people to work.

- The Green New Deal seeks to get electricity consumption to zero carbon as soon as possible. In calling for 100% renewable electricity within 10 years the Green New Deal would push us towards more renewable energy sources, electric modes of transportation, and would continue to push people toward a more sustainable lifestyle.
After positive messaging, adults are more likely to support the Green New Deal (49% support – 24% oppose).

Sometimes, people change their minds after hearing more about the Green New Deal. Do you support or oppose the Green New Deal?
The Green New Deal simply can’t happen. The current electric grid cannot handle intermittent renewable sources that do not provide stable electricity. If you want your lights on when the sun is not out or the wind is not blowing, the Green New Deal is not a feasible solution.

Achieving 100% renewable energy within 10 years is impossible. 80% of America’s energy currently comes from coal, oil, and natural gas, and moving to 100% renewable energy would cost taxpayers trillions of dollars.

Gasoline gives drivers the ability to go anywhere at any time. Not only does a shift to electric vehicles limit your ability to travel as far as you’d like, but replacing gasoline and diesel cars, trucks, and tractors will hurt automaker, also forces consumers to purchase vehicles they might not want, and simply would not be feasible under the current amount of energy we generate from renewable sources.

All negative messages perform similarly, moving between 41-42% of respondents to be less likely to support the Green New Deal.

*Do the following statements make you more or less willing to support the Green New Deal?*
After negative messaging, adults are nearly split on whether they support (36%) or oppose (32%) the Green New Deal.

Sometimes, people change their minds after hearing more about the Green New Deal. Do you support or oppose the Green New Deal?
More adults feel the Green New Deal is unrealistic (44%).

Regardless of whether you support or oppose the Green New Deal, how realistic or unrealistic do you believe it is that we will be able to implement it successfully?
Contents

1. Top Issues and the Environment
2. The Green New Deal
3. Willingness to Shift to Renewables
37% of adults are not willing to spend any additional money in taxes a month to combat climate change, while 22% are willing to pay $5 more.

How much in additional money would you be willing to pay in taxes to help combat climate change?
Affordability is the most important factor when thinking about the energy adults utilize everyday.

Which is the most important to you when thinking about the energy you utilize everyday – from home heating, to electricity, to transportation?
After learning more about natural gas, a majority (70%) of adults support the continued use of natural gas as a source of electricity.

The U.S. has moved to natural gas as a source of power – burning cleaner than coal while also keeping consistent power flowing into our homes. Natural gas currently powers over a third of our electricity generation. Additionally, the transition from coal to natural gas for electricity has cut carbon emissions by 28% since 2005.

Do you support or oppose the continued use of natural gas as a source of electricity?
Support for the continued use of natural gas spans key demographics, including those who are worried about the environment.

The U.S. has moved to natural gas as a source of power – burning cleaner than coal while also keeping consistent power flowing into our homes. Natural gas currently powers over a third of our electricity generation. Additionally, the transition from coal to natural gas for electricity has cut carbon emissions by 28% since 2005.

Do you support or oppose the continued use of natural gas as a source of electricity?
Respondents are willing to change to LED lightbulbs and water their lawns less, but they are not willing to pay more in taxes, transportation costs, food costs, or electric bills.

Are you personally willing to make any of the following changes in order to see a complete shift to renewable energy?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Definitely</th>
<th>Probably</th>
<th>Probably not</th>
<th>Definitely not</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change to LED lightbulbs</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water lawn less</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel less far for vacations</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive an electric car</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take public transit</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pay more in taxes</td>
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<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pay more in transportation costs</td>
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<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pay more in food costs</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay more in electric bills</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most adults are not willing to make personal changes to see a complete shift in renewable energy.

Are you personally willing to make any of the following changes in order to see a complete shift to renewable energy?

- 70% are not willing to pay more in electric bills
- 67% are not willing to pay more in transportation costs
- 66% are not willing to pay more in taxes
- 67% are not willing to pay more in food costs
## Understanding the Sample

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>% of Sample</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gender: Male</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PID: Independent</td>
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<td>PID: Democrat</td>
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<td>&lt;College</td>
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<td>Post-grad</td>
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<td>Ideo: Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ideo: Conservative</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>% of Sample</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voted Trump 2016</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted Clinton 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voted Romney 2012</td>
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<td>Voted Obama 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>Midwest</td>
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<td>South</td>
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<td>West</td>
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<td>Ethnicity: African American</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnicity: Other</td>
<td>9%</td>
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