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For The People & The Press

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Modest Support for “Cap and Trade” Policy
FEWER AMERICANS SEE SOLID EVIDENCE OF GLOBAL WARMING

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Modest Support for “Cap and Trade” Policy **FEWER AMERICANS SEE SOLID EVIDENCE OF GLOBAL WARMING**

There has been a sharp decline over the past year in the percentage of Americans who say there is solid evidence that global temperatures are rising. And fewer also see global warming as a very serious problem – 35% say that today, down from 44% in April 2008.

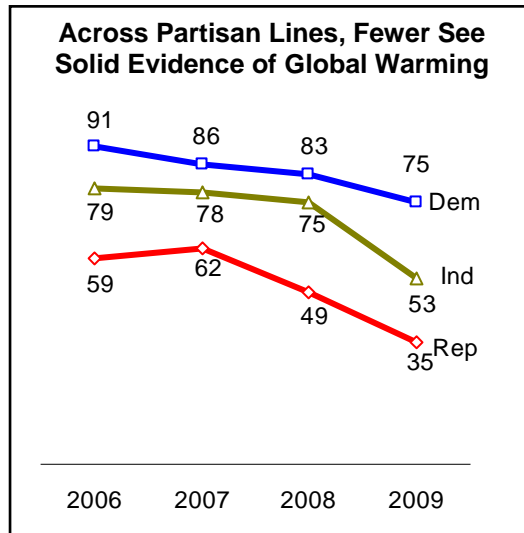
The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 4 among 1,500 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that 57% think there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades. In April 2008, 71% said there was solid evidence of rising global temperatures.

Over the same period, there has been a comparable decline in the proportion of Americans who say global temperatures are rising as a result of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels. Just 36% say that currently, down from 47% last year.

The decline in the belief in solid evidence of global warming has come across the political spectrum, but has been particularly pronounced among independents. Just 53% of independents now see solid evidence of global warming, compared with 75% who did so in April 2008. Republicans, who already were highly skeptical of the evidence of global warming, have become even more so: just 35% of Republicans now see solid evidence of rising global temperatures, down from 49% in 2008 and 62% in 2007. Fewer Democrats also express this view – 75% today compared with 83% last year.

	April 2008	Oct 2009	Change
Is there solid evidence the earth is warming?			
Yes	71	57	-14
Because of human activity	47	36	-11
Because of natural patterns	18	16	-2
Don't know (Vol.)	6	6	0
No	21	33	+12
Mixed/Don't know (Vol.)	8	10	+2
	100	100	
How serious a problem?			
Very serious	44	35	-9
Somewhat serious	29	30	+1
Not too serious	13	15	+2
Not a problem	11	17	+6
Don't know (Vol.)	3	3	0
	100	100	

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.



Despite the growing public skepticism about global warming, the survey finds more support than opposition for a policy to set limits on carbon emissions. Half of Americans favor setting limits on carbon emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if this may lead to higher energy prices; 39% oppose imposing limits on carbon emissions under these circumstances.

This issue has not registered widely with the public. Just 14% say they have heard a lot about the so-called “cap and trade” policy that would set carbon dioxide emissions limits; another 30% say they have heard a little about the policy, while a majority (55%) has heard nothing at all.

Cap and Trade: Little Awareness, Modest Support				
		<i>Heard...</i>		
<i>Setting limits on carbon emissions</i>	<u>Total</u>	A	A	No-
	%	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>thing</u>
		%	%	%
Favor	50	32	58	50
Oppose	39	64	32	36
Don't know (Vol.)	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>% of public</i>		14	30	55

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The small minority that has heard a lot about the issue opposes carbon emissions limits by two-to-one (64% to 32%). More Republicans (20%) and independents (17%) than Democrats (8%) have heard a lot about cap and trade. Among the much larger group that has heard little or nothing about the issue, most support it (58% little, 50% nothing).

With less than two months before the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, a majority (56%) of Americans think the United States should join other countries in setting standards to address global climate change while 32% say that the United States should set its own standards.

Shifts on Global Warming

Opinions about global warming changed little between 2006 and 2008. In August 2006 and January 2007, 77% said there was solid evidence that the earth's temperatures were increasing; that figure fell modestly to 71% in April of last year.

Among those who saw solid evidence of global warming, most said it was largely caused by human activity, such as burning fossil fuels; in all three of those surveys, 47% of the public expressed this view. Far smaller percentages – including just 18% in 2008 – said it was mostly caused because of natural environmental patterns.

Currently, 57% say there is solid evidence of rising global temperatures, while 33% say there is no solid evidence. Fewer than four-in-ten (36%) now say global warming is mostly caused by human activity such as burning fossil fuels, while 16% say it is occurring mostly because of natural environmental patterns.

A majority (53%) of independents say there is solid evidence of warming, including 33% who say it is mostly caused by human activity. But this is far lower than in April 2008 when 75% said global warming was happening and 50% said it was due to human activity.

The proportion of Republicans saying there is solid evidence of global warming declined from 62% in 2007 to 49% in 2008. The balance of opinion among Republicans has shifted, with a majority (57%) now saying there is no hard evidence of global warming. The drop among moderate and liberal

	Aug 2006	Jan 2007	April 2008	Oct 2009
Is there solid evidence the earth is warming?	%	%	%	%
Yes	77	77	71	57
Because of human activity	47	47	47	36
Because of natural patterns	20	20	18	16
Don't know (Vol.)	10	10	6	6
No	17	16	21	33
Mixed/Don't know (Vol.)	6	7	8	10
	100	100	100	100

Q41 & Q42. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

	Aug 2006	Jan 2007	April 2008	Oct 2009
Republicans	%	%	%	%
Yes, solid evidence of warming	59	62	49	35
Because of human activity	31	29	27	18
Because of natural patterns	19	27	16	13
Don't know (Vol.)	8	6	6	3
No solid evidence of warming	33	31	42	57
Mixed/Don't know (Vol.)	9	7	9	8
	100	100	100	100
Democrats				
Yes, solid evidence of warming	91	86	83	75
Because of human activity	57	59	58	50
Because of natural patterns	23	19	20	18
Don't know (Vol.)	11	9	5	7
No solid evidence of warming	5	8	10	17
Mixed/Don't know (Vol.)	4	6	6	8
	100	100	100	100
Independents				
Yes, solid evidence of warming	79	78	75	53
Because of human activity	54	47	50	33
Because of natural patterns	17	18	18	15
Don't know (Vol.)	8	13	7	5
No solid evidence of warming	14	14	18	35
Mixed/Don't know (Vol.)	6	8	7	12
	100	100	100	100

Q41 & Q42. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Republicans has been particularly steep; 41% now say there is solid evidence of global warming, compared with 69% last year. The decline among conservative Republicans has been more modest (from 43% to 32%).

There has been less change in opinions among Democrats. Three-quarters of Democrats (75%) say there is solid evidence the earth is warming, including 50% who say that it is mostly because of human activity. In April 2008, 83% of Democrats said the earth is warming and 58% attributed it to human actions. More liberal Democrats than conservative and moderate Democrats say the earth is warming (83% vs. 72%), and far more liberal Democrats say that global warming is caused by human activity (69% vs. 43%).

There also are strong regional differences in opinions about global warming; fewer people living in the Mountain West (44%) and the Midwest (48%) say there is solid evidence of warming than in other regions. Similarly, there have been sharp declines since April 2008 in the proportion who say the earth is warming in the Mountain West (75% to 44%) and the Great Lakes region (69% to 49%). Both

regions have also seen large drops in the percentage who say that warming is caused by human activity. (For a breakdown of states and regions, see *About the Survey*, pg. 10.)

Regional Differences over Global Warming				
<i>% who say there is solid evidence earth is warming</i>	<u>April</u> 2008 %	<u>Oct</u> 2009 %	<u>Change</u>	<u>Oct</u> N
Total	71	57	-14	1500
18-29	74	64	-10	197
30-49	74	55	-19	406
50-64	70	59	-11	485
65+	64	50	-14	369
College grad+	70	58	-12	560
Some college	71	57	-14	410
HS or less	72	56	-16	508
Conserv Rep	43	32	-11	252
Mod/Lib Rep	69	41	-28	107
Independent	75	53	-22	543
Cons/Mod Dem	80	72	-8	297
Liberal Dem	91	83	-8	160
Northeast	73	60	-13	287
Midwest	64	48	-16	350
Great Lakes	69	49	-20	225
Plains	53	45	-8	125
South	71	61	-10	555
Atlantic	74	66	-8	293
Central	68	54	-14	262
West	77	58	-19	308
Mountain	75	44	-31	111
Pacific	78	65	-13	197
Q41.				

Fewer See Warming as Very Serious Problem

A majority (65%) of the public continues to view global warming as a very (35%) or somewhat (30%) serious problem. But in April 2008, 73% expressed this view, including 44% who thought it was a very serious problem. About a third (32%) says global warming is not too serious (15%) or not a problem at all (17%). Last year, 24% said it was little or no problem. From 2006 to 2008, these numbers had been quite stable.

Partisan differences also are evident on evaluations of the seriousness of global warming. About half (49%) of Democrats say global warming is a very serious problem, down from 57% in April 2008. Far fewer conservative and moderate Democrats say global warming is a serious problem than did so last year, widening the gap between them and liberal Democrats. Currently, 39% of conservative and moderate Democrats say it is a very serious problem compared with 70% of liberal Democrats. A third of independents now say global warming is a very serious problem, a decline of 13 points from last year.

Only 14% of Republicans say that global warming is a very serious problem, down from 22% in April 2008. Just 20% of moderate and liberal Republicans now say that global warming is a very serious problem, down from 35% last year. Only 10% of conservative Republicans now say global warming is a very serious problem.

People living in the Midwest (30%) and the Mountain West (26%) are the least likely to view global warming as a very serious problem. There have been modest declines across regions, but they are particularly steep in the West (52% April 2008 to 36% now).

Young people are now far more likely than older Americans to view global warming as a very serious problem. Across all age groups, except those younger than 30, the

How Serious a Problem Is Global Warming?

	July 2006	Jan 2007	April 2008	Oct 2009
	%	%	%	%
Very serious	43	45	44	35
Somewhat serious	36	32	29	30
Not too serious	11	12	13	15
Not a problem	9	8	11	17
Don't know (Vol.)	1	3	3	3
	100	100	100	100

Q43. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Democrats Divided Over Seriousness of Global Warming

<i>% who say global warming is a very serious problem</i>	April 2008	Oct 2009	<i>Change</i>	Oct <i>N</i>
	%	%		
Total	44	35	-9	1500
18-29	41	46	+5	197
30-49	48	34	-14	406
50-64	44	33	-11	485
65+	41	25	-16	369
College grad+	44	33	-11	560
Some college	45	40	-5	410
HS or less	44	34	-10	508
Republican	22	14	-8	365
Conserv Rep	18	10	-8	252
Mod/Lib Rep	35	20	-15	107
Democrat	57	49	-8	473
Cons/Mod Dem	52	39	-13	297
Liberal Dem	67	70	+3	160
Independent	46	33	-13	543
Northeast	45	39	-6	287
Midwest	39	30	-9	350
South	43	36	-7	555
West	52	36	-16	308
Mountain	44	26	-18	111
Pacific	55	41	-14	197

Q43.

percent who think warming is a very serious problem has declined since April 2008.

As expected, views about the seriousness of global warming are also related to whether people think there is solid evidence the earth is warming and whether it is human caused. A third of those who do not think there is solid evidence of global warming say it is a very or somewhat serious problem while 65% say it is not too serious or not a problem at all.

By comparison 65% of those who say that the warming is mostly caused by natural patterns in the earth's environment say global warming is at least a somewhat serious problem. Nearly all (97%) who think the earth is warming mostly because of human activity say it is a problem. These numbers are largely unchanged from April 2008.

	<i>Solid evidence of warming ...</i>		
	<u>Yes, human activity</u> %	<u>Yes, natural patterns</u> %	<u>No solid evidence</u> %
Very serious	67	27	10
Somewhat serious	30	38	23
Not too serious	2	23	24
Not a problem	1	8	41
Don't know	*	5	2
	100	100	100
N	519	233	529

Q43. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

In January 2009, global warming ranked at the bottom of the public's list of policy priorities for the president and Congress this year. Only 30% of the public said it should be a top priority, down from 35% a year ago. More than twice as many Democrats (45%) as Republicans (16%) rank global warming as a top priority, along with 25% independents. Global warming is the lowest-rated priority for both independents and Republicans and ranks sixteenth for Democrats among 20 issues. ([Economy, Jobs Trump All Other Policy Priorities in 2009](#) Jan. 22).

Cap and Trade Barely Registers

As the health care debate has dominated the public's attention, awareness about cap and trade legislation is quite low. A majority (55%) of the public has heard nothing at all about the cap and trade policy being considered by the president and Congress that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions. Only 14% have heard a lot and 30% a little about this policy.

More Republicans (20%) and independents (17%) than Democrats (8%) have heard a lot about cap and trade although more Democrats have heard a little. Conservative Republicans are hearing the most; more than a quarter have heard a lot (28%) about the policy.

More people who say there is no solid evidence of global warming have heard a lot about cap and trade than those who think temperatures are rising (24% vs. 10%). But more of those who say that warming is caused mostly by human activity have heard a little about the proposed policy than those who say there is no evidence of warming (36% vs. 27%).

The most recent survey of the public's knowledge by the Pew Research Center, released Oct. 14, found that just 23% of the public could correctly identify that the cap and trade legislation being discussed in Congress deals with energy and the environment; 48% were unsure and 29% said incorrectly that it deals with health care, banking reform or unemployment. More Republicans (27%) and independents (29%) correctly identify cap and trade as dealing with energy and the environment than Democrats (15%). (See [Well Known: Public Option, Sonia Sotomayor; Little Known: Cap and Trade, Max Baucus](#)).

	----- Heard -----			
	A lot	A little	Nothing	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	14	30	55	1=100
Republican	20	28	52	1=100
Conserv Rep	28	29	41	1=100
Mod/Lib Rep	4	25	70	1=100
Democrat	8	36	56	1=100
Cons/Mod Dem	7	38	55	*=100
Liberal Dem	11	34	54	1=100
Independent	17	28	54	1=100
<i>Is there solid evidence of global warming?</i>				
Yes	10	33	57	1=100
Because of human activity	10	36	54	*=100
Because of natural patterns	10	26	63	1=100
No	24	27	49	1=100

Q55. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Carbon Emissions Limits Favored

Half of the public favors setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices. About four-in-ten (39%) oppose this and 11% are unsure or do not offer an opinion.

Conservative Republicans are the only political group in which a majority (60%) opposes setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions. Most moderate and liberal Republicans (51%) favor this policy, as do an identical percentage of independents and a majority of Democrats (58%).

There also are wide regional differences in opinions about cap and trade. More people living near the Pacific coast (62%) and the Northeast (56%) favor limiting carbon emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices than those living in the South (46%), Midwest (44%) and Mountain West (42%). More college graduates favor this policy than those with a high school education or less (59% vs. 43%), but there are very few differences by age.

Opinion about cap and trade is related to views about global warming. About three-fourths (74%) of those who think the earth is warming and it is mostly caused by human activity favor cap and trade legislation. By comparison, 41% of those who say warming is due to natural patterns in the earth's environment favor limiting carbon emissions. But even 31% of those who say there is no solid evidence of rising temperatures favor cap and trade.

Views of Carbon Emissions Limits			
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Total	50	39	11=100
18-29	49	42	9=100
30-49	51	39	9=100
50-64	51	39	10=100
65+	44	37	18=100
Col grad+	59	32	9=100
Some college	53	37	10=100
HS or less	43	44	13=100
Republican	36	50	13=100
Conserv Rep	29	60	11=100
Mod/Lib Rep	51	32	17=100
Democrat	58	31	11=100
Cons/Mod Dem	53	36	11=100
Liberal Dem	70	22	9=100
Independent	51	40	9=100
Northeast	56	33	11=100
Midwest	44	43	13=100
South	46	42	11=100
West	56	35	10=100
Mountain	42	45	13=100
Pacific	62	30	8=100
<i>Is there solid evidence of global warming?</i>			
Yes	62	28	10=100
Because of human activity	74	18	8=100
Because of natural patterns	41	48	11=100
No	31	60	9=100
Q56. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			

Public Supports Global Initiatives

A majority (56%) of Americans thinks the United States should join other countries in setting standards to address global climate change while 32% say the U.S. should set its own standards; 5% say neither and 6% are unsure. These numbers are similar to those in 2001 and 1997 when the public was asked about setting standards to improve the global environment.

More Democrats (66%) than independents (53%) or Republicans (47%) say the U.S. should join other countries in setting standards to address global climate change. Three-quarters of those who say the earth is warming mostly because of human activity think the U.S. should join with other countries in setting standards to address global climate change. By comparison, 51% of those who say warming is due to natural patterns in the earth's environment and 42% who say the earth is not warming think the U.S. should join other countries in setting standards to address climate change.

	Join other <u>countries</u> %	Set own <u>standards</u> %	Neither/ <u>other</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	56	32	5	6=100
Republican	47	39	9	4=100
Conserv Rep	41	45	11	2=100
Mod/Lib Rep	61	27	6	5=100
Democrat	66	26	2	6=100
Cons/Mod Dem	62	29	2	6=100
Liberal Dem	77	21	0	2=100
Independent	53	34	6	7=100

Q44. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

DETAILED TABLES

Q.41 From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

(If yes) Q.42 Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

	APRIL 2008						OCTOBER 2009						(Oct N)
	Earth is warming	Mostly because of ...			Not warming	(VOL.) Mixed/ DK/Ref	Earth is warming	Mostly because of ...			Not warming	(VOL.) Mixed/ DK/Ref	
		Human activity	Natural patterns	(VOL.) DK/Ref				Human activity	Natural patterns	(VOL.) DK/Ref			
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
TOTAL	71	47	18	6	21	8	57	36	16	6	33	10	1500
SEX													
Men	68	45	17	6	25	7	54	32	16	5	36	10	760
Women	74	48	19	6	17	9	61	39	15	6	30	9	740
AGE													
18-49	74	51	18	4	20	6	59	39	15	5	32	9	603
50+	68	41	19	8	23	9	55	31	17	7	35	10	854
DETAILED AGE													
18-29	74	54	17	3	19	8	64	47	14	3	28	9	197
30-49	74	50	19	5	20	6	55	34	15	6	35	9	406
50-64	70	44	20	6	24	6	59	35	18	5	35	7	485
65+	64	37	16	11	21	15	50	25	16	8	35	15	369
SEX BY AGE													
Men 18-49	69	48	17	4	25	6	54	34	16	5	35	10	305
Men 50+	66	42	17	7	26	8	52	31	17	5	38	9	434
Women 18-49	79	54	19	5	14	7	63	44	14	5	29	8	298
Women 50+	69	41	20	8	21	10	58	32	18	8	32	10	420
RACE													
White NH	68	44	17	6	24	8	53	33	14	5	39	9	1127
Total Non-White	79	53	21	5	14	7	68	41	21	6	20	12	337
Black NH	77	43	30	5	17	6	66	39	24	3	19	15	149
EDUCATION													
College grad	70	51	14	5	23	7	58	40	12	7	35	7	560
Some college	71	49	17	5	23	7	57	38	15	3	34	9	410
HS or less	72	43	22	7	20	9	56	31	19	6	32	11	508
INCOME													
\$75,000+	70	51	14	5	25	5	56	38	13	5	38	6	445
\$30,000-\$74,999	70	47	19	4	22	8	51	33	13	6	39	10	477
<\$30,000	73	44	22	7	19	8	66	37	22	6	23	12	375
DETAILED INCOME													
\$100,000+	68	52	11	4	26	6	54	38	11	5	40	6	275
\$75,000-\$99,999	73	50	19	5	24	3	59	37	15	6	35	7	170
\$50,000-\$74,999	66	45	18	3	27	7	50	30	11	8	41	9	221
\$30,000-\$49,999	74	48	20	5	18	9	52	35	14	3	37	11	256
<\$30,000	73	44	22	7	19	8	66	37	22	6	23	12	375

DETAILED TABLES

Q.41 From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?
 (If yes) Q.42 Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

	APRIL 2008						OCTOBER 2009						(Oct N)
	Earth is warming	Mostly because of ...			Not warming	(VOL.) Mixed/ DK/Ref	Earth is warming	Mostly because of ...			Not warming	(VOL.) Mixed/ DK/Ref	
		Human activity	Natural patterns	(VOL.) DK/Ref				Human activity	Natural patterns	(VOL.) DK/Ref			
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
REGISTERED VOTER	71	46	19	6	22	7	55	35	15	6	35	10	1250
PARTY ID													
Republican	49	27	16	6	42	9	35	18	13	3	57	8	365
Democrat	83	58	20	5	10	6	75	50	18	7	17	8	473
Independent	75	50	18	7	18	7	53	33	15	5	35	12	543
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY													
Conservative Republican	43	22	15	6	48	9	32	16	13	3	62	5	252
Mod/Lib Republican	69	42	19	8	22	10	41	23	14	4	48	10	107
Mod/Cons Democrat	80	50	24	6	11	8	72	43	23	6	19	9	297
Liberal Democrat	91	75	13	2	8	1	83	69	10	4	13	4	160
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE													
Total White NH Prot.	64	41	18	6	26	9	48	27	16	4	44	8	616
White NH evang. Prot.	56	33	16	6	33	11	44	23	17	3	50	7	327
White NH mainline Prot.	74	49	19	6	19	7	53	32	15	6	36	11	289
Total Catholic	74	51	17	5	20	6	55	34	14	7	37	7	317
White NH Cath.	70	44	20	6	22	8	53	32	13	8	39	8	251
Unaffiliated	75	58	11	6	18	8	63	45	12	6	26	11	219
CHURCH ATTENDANCE													
More than once a week	63	32	26	5	25	11	50	31	12	7	41	9	215
Once a week	66	46	16	5	26	8	53	30	18	5	35	12	412
Once or twice a month	72	47	21	5	20	8	59	37	19	3	33	8	190
A few times a year	76	57	17	3	17	6	58	38	13	7	35	7	249
Seldom/Never	75	48	17	10	17	7	63	40	17	5	28	10	390
REGION													
Northeast	73	51	17	5	19	8	60	39	13	9	30	10	287
Midwest	64	44	15	5	25	11	48	28	13	7	42	11	350
South	71	43	21	7	22	7	61	37	20	4	32	7	555
West	77	53	19	6	18	5	58	39	14	5	30	12	308
DETAILED REGION													
Northeast	73	51	17	5	19	8	60	39	13	9	30	10	287
Great Lakes	69	48	15	6	22	9	49	30	13	6	40	11	225
Plains	53	36	15	3	32	15	45	25	12	8	45	10	125
South Atlantic	74	44	23	7	22	5	66	42	20	4	28	6	293
South Central	68	42	19	6	22	10	54	30	21	3	38	8	262
Mountain	75	41	24	9	21	5	44	25	14	5	42	15	111
Pacific	78	57	16	5	17	5	65	46	14	5	24	11	197

DETAILED TABLES

Q.41 From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

(If yes) Q.42 Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

	APRIL 2008						OCTOBER 2009						(Oct N)
	Earth is <u>warming</u>	Mostly because of ...			Not <u>warming</u>	(VOL.) Mixed/ DK/Ref	Earth is <u>warming</u>	Mostly because of ...			Not <u>warming</u>	(VOL.) Mixed/ DK/Ref	
		Human <u>activity</u>	Natural <u>patterns</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref				Human <u>activity</u>	Natural <u>patterns</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref			
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
MARITAL STATUS													
Married	67	45	16	5	25	8	53	32	14	7	39	8	857
Not married	76	49	21	6	17	8	62	40	18	4	27	11	618
MARITAL STATUS BY SEX													
Married men	63	42	17	5	28	8	49	31	14	5	43	8	469
Married women	71	49	16	6	22	8	57	34	15	8	34	9	388
Unmarried men	73	50	17	6	22	5	59	35	20	5	27	13	276
Unmarried women	78	47	24	7	12	10	64	44	16	4	27	9	342
EMPLOYMENT													
Employed	70	48	17	4	23	7	55	34	16	6	37	8	859
Not employed	73	43	21	8	18	9	60	38	16	6	28	12	634
AMONG REPUBLICANS													
Men	44	26	13	5	49	8	33	14	15	4	61	6	189
Women	54	28	18	8	35	11	37	23	12	3	53	10	176
18-49	52	32	13	7	39	9	38	21	13	3	55	7	143
50+	47	22	19	5	45	9	32	14	13	4	59	9	214
College grad	46	20	21	6	43	11	31	16	11	4	63	6	141
Not college grad	51	31	13	7	41	8	36	18	14	3	56	8	223
AMONG DEMOCRATS													
Men	80	56	20	4	13	6	72	45	20	7	19	9	206
Women	86	59	21	6	8	6	78	54	17	6	15	8	267
18-49	85	62	19	4	12	3	73	53	16	4	20	7	192
50+	82	53	22	8	8	9	77	47	20	10	14	9	274
College grad	88	75	10	3	9	3	81	63	12	6	14	5	180
Not college grad	82	52	24	6	11	7	73	45	21	7	18	10	292
AMONG INDEPENDENTS													
Men	73	49	17	7	21	6	51	34	15	3	35	14	298
Women	77	52	19	7	15	8	56	32	16	8	34	10	245
18-49	79	55	21	4	16	5	56	36	14	5	31	13	226
50+	69	45	14	11	21	9	50	28	16	6	39	11	312
College grad	75	57	11	6	18	8	56	36	11	9	36	8	202
Not college grad	75	48	20	7	19	6	52	32	17	4	34	14	340

DETAILED TABLES

Q.43 In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	APRIL 2008					OCTOBER 2009					(Oct N)
	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not a problem	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not a problem	(VOL.) DK/Ref	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
TOTAL	44	29	13	11	3	35	30	15	17	3	1500
SEX											
Men	43	26	16	12	3	34	27	15	22	2	760
Women	46	31	11	10	3	37	33	15	12	3	740
AGE											
18-49	46	28	15	9	3	39	32	13	14	2	603
50+	43	30	11	14	3	30	28	17	21	3	854
DETAILED AGE											
18-29	41	31	20	6	2	46	32	11	8	3	197
30-49	48	26	12	10	3	34	32	14	18	2	406
50-64	44	30	10	14	2	33	27	16	21	3	485
65+	41	29	12	13	4	25	30	20	20	4	369
SEX BY AGE											
Men 18-49	43	26	16	11	3	35	31	12	20	3	305
Men 50+	43	26	15	14	2	31	22	19	26	2	434
Women 18-49	48	30	13	6	3	43	33	13	9	2	298
Women 50+	42	33	8	13	3	29	34	16	16	5	420
RACE											
White NH	41	30	15	13	2	32	30	16	20	2	1127
Total Non-White	54	26	9	6	5	43	31	12	9	5	337
Black NH	57	27	4	4	7	41	25	18	9	7	149
EDUCATION											
College grad	44	31	13	11	1	33	32	15	18	1	560
Some college	45	30	13	10	2	40	25	14	17	4	410
HS or less	44	27	13	12	4	34	32	15	17	3	508
INCOME											
\$75,000+	40	31	16	12	1	27	36	17	18	3	445
\$30,000-\$74,999	44	30	15	10	1	34	31	15	19	2	477
<\$30,000	49	25	9	11	5	44	29	13	11	3	375
DETAILED INCOME											
\$100,000+	43	28	14	13	1	25	35	20	18	2	275
\$75,000-\$99,999	35	34	20	11	0	29	36	13	18	4	170
\$50,000-\$74,999	37	34	15	12	2	31	33	13	20	4	221
\$30,000-\$49,999	49	27	14	8	1	36	29	16	18	0	256
<\$30,000	49	25	9	11	5	44	29	13	11	3	375

DETAILED TABLES

Q.43 In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	APRIL 2008					OCTOBER 2009					(Oct N)
	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not a problem	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not a problem	(VOL.) DK/Ref	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
REGISTERED VOTER	43	29	14	12	3	33	31	15	19	3	1250
PARTY ID											
Republican	22	29	24	23	2	14	30	20	35	2	365
Democrat	57	28	7	5	3	49	32	11	6	3	473
Independent	46	29	12	9	3	33	32	16	16	4	543
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY											
Conservative Republican	18	26	27	27	2	10	22	23	44	2	252
Mod/Lib Republican	35	40	14	11	0	20	45	13	19	2	107
Mod/Cons Democrat	52	31	9	7	1	39	37	14	7	2	297
Liberal Democrat	67	24	4	1	5	70	23	4	4	0	160
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE											
Total White NH Prot.	39	28	15	15	3	25	30	17	25	2	616
White NH evang. Prot.	33	25	19	19	3	22	28	20	29	2	327
White NH mainline Prot.	45	33	9	11	2	30	34	14	20	3	289
Total Catholic	43	32	15	8	2	32	31	17	18	3	317
White NH Cath.	40	33	16	9	2	33	29	18	19	2	251
Unaffiliated	49	31	9	10	0	46	33	8	12	1	219
CHURCH ATTENDANCE											
More than once a week	35	28	18	14	5	33	21	18	25	2	215
Once a week	41	30	14	12	2	28	32	16	19	4	412
Once or twice a month	44	28	11	11	5	34	36	14	16	1	190
A few times a year	50	27	15	6	2	34	34	19	11	3	249
Seldom/Never	48	30	9	11	2	44	28	10	16	3	390
REGION											
Northeast	45	33	11	10	2	39	38	9	12	2	287
Midwest	39	30	15	13	3	30	27	18	21	4	350
South	43	29	13	11	3	36	29	15	18	2	555
West	52	23	13	9	3	36	31	15	15	3	308
DETAILED REGION											
Northeast	45	33	11	10	2	39	38	9	12	2	287
Great Lakes	43	29	14	11	3	28	28	20	18	6	225
Plains	29	31	19	18	3	33	23	15	29	0	125
South Atlantic	48	27	12	10	3	37	28	13	18	4	293
South Central	38	31	14	13	4	34	29	18	18	1	262
Mountain	44	22	21	12	1	26	28	19	27	0	111
Pacific	55	24	10	8	3	41	32	13	9	5	197

DETAILED TABLES

Q.43 In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	APRIL 2008					OCTOBER 2009					(Oct N)
	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not a problem	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not a problem	(VOL.) DK/Ref	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
MARITAL STATUS											
Married	44	27	15	12	2	30	31	17	21	3	857
Not married	45	30	12	10	4	42	30	13	13	3	618
MARITAL STATUS BY SEX											
Married men	41	26	16	15	1	30	25	15	27	3	469
Married women	46	29	13	9	3	29	37	18	14	2	388
Unmarried men	45	25	16	9	4	39	30	14	16	2	276
Unmarried women	45	34	8	10	3	45	30	11	10	4	342
EMPLOYMENT											
Employed	44	30	13	12	2	34	31	15	17	3	859
Not employed	45	28	13	10	4	37	29	14	17	2	634
AMONG REPUBLICANS											
Men	23	21	29	25	1	9	27	20	42	1	189
Women	21	37	18	22	2	19	33	19	27	2	176
18-49	25	26	28	20	0	16	38	18	28	1	143
50+	20	32	20	26	3	11	21	22	43	3	214
College grad	18	36	25	21	1	12	21	26	40	0	141
Not college grad	25	25	23	24	2	15	33	17	33	2	223
AMONG DEMOCRATS											
Men	59	27	5	6	3	49	28	13	8	2	206
Women	55	29	8	4	3	49	35	9	5	3	267
18-49	56	30	7	4	4	54	32	7	6	1	192
50+	59	27	6	6	2	44	32	14	6	4	274
College grad	68	25	6	1	0	52	33	10	4	1	180
Not college grad	53	30	7	6	4	47	32	11	7	3	292
AMONG INDEPENDENTS											
Men	44	26	16	10	4	34	28	13	22	3	298
Women	50	31	8	8	3	31	37	20	9	4	245
18-49	47	29	13	7	4	35	33	14	13	5	226
50+	45	29	12	11	3	29	31	18	19	3	312
College grad	44	32	11	10	3	30	38	13	18	1	202
Not college grad	47	27	13	9	4	34	30	17	15	5	340

DETAILED TABLES

Q.55 How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called "cap and trade" that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all? / Q.56 Do you favor or oppose setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

	HEARD ABOUT				POLICY VIEW			(Oct N)
	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
TOTAL	14	30	55	1	50	39	11	1500
SEX								
Men	20	32	47	1	47	44	9	760
Women	9	27	63	1	52	35	13	740
AGE								
18-49	10	26	64	0	51	40	9	603
50+	20	35	44	2	49	38	13	854
DETAILED AGE								
18-29	7	23	70	0	49	42	9	197
30-49	12	28	60	0	51	39	9	406
50-64	21	36	43	0	51	39	10	485
65+	18	33	45	4	44	37	18	369
SEX BY AGE								
Men 18-49	15	29	56	0	47	44	9	305
Men 50+	27	37	34	1	48	44	8	434
Women 18-49	5	23	72	0	54	36	9	298
Women 50+	13	32	53	2	49	33	17	420
RACE								
White NH	17	31	52	1	50	39	11	1127
Total Non-White	7	28	64	1	50	40	10	337
Black NH	5	21	71	3	38	52	10	149
EDUCATION								
College grad	21	39	40	0	59	32	9	560
Some college	15	27	58	0	53	37	10	410
HS or less	11	26	62	1	43	44	13	508
INCOME								
\$75,000+	23	31	45	1	55	35	10	445
\$30,000-\$74,999	15	32	53	0	50	41	9	477
<\$30,000	5	26	67	1	48	39	13	375
DETAILED INCOME								
\$100,000+	26	38	36	0	59	34	7	275
\$75,000-\$99,999	19	23	57	1	49	37	14	170
\$50,000-\$74,999	15	34	50	0	50	40	11	221
\$30,000-\$49,999	16	29	55	0	51	42	8	256
<\$30,000	5	26	67	1	48	39	13	375

DETAILED TABLES

Q.55 How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called "cap and trade" that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all? / Q.56 Do you favor or oppose setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

	HEARD ABOUT				POLICY VIEW			
	A lot	A little	Nothing	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Favor	Oppose	(VOL.) DK/Ref	(Oct N)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
REGISTERED VOTER	17	31	51	1	50	38	12	1250
PARTY ID								
Republican	20	28	52	1	36	50	13	365
Democrat	8	36	56	1	58	31	11	473
Independent	17	28	54	1	51	40	9	543
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY								
Conservative Republican	28	29	41	1	29	60	11	252
Mod/Lib Republican	4	25	70	1	51	32	17	107
Mod/Cons Democrat	7	38	55	0	53	36	11	297
Liberal Democrat	11	34	54	1	70	22	9	160
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE								
Total White NH Prot.	16	31	53	1	43	45	12	616
White NH evang. Prot.	16	29	54	1	37	50	13	327
White NH mainline Prot.	17	32	50	1	51	38	12	289
Total Catholic	19	31	49	1	54	36	10	317
White NH Cath.	22	27	50	1	52	37	11	251
Unaffiliated	12	32	55	1	62	33	5	219
CHURCH ATTENDANCE								
More than once a week	15	30	53	2	37	48	16	215
Once a week	15	29	56	0	51	37	11	412
Once or twice a month	14	31	55	1	45	42	13	190
A few times a year	14	33	51	1	52	37	11	249
Seldom/Never	14	27	59	0	56	37	7	390
REGION								
Northeast	13	27	58	2	56	33	11	287
Midwest	16	29	54	1	44	43	13	350
South	16	30	54	1	46	42	11	555
West	12	33	54	1	56	35	10	308
DETAILED REGION								
Northeast	13	27	58	2	56	33	11	287
Great Lakes	16	27	56	1	41	44	15	225
Plains	15	34	51	1	48	42	10	125
South Atlantic	15	30	54	2	50	39	11	293
South Central	17	29	53	0	42	46	11	262
Mountain	17	26	57	0	42	45	13	111
Pacific	10	36	53	1	62	30	8	197

DETAILED TABLES

Q.55 How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called "cap and trade" that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all? / Q.56 Do you favor or oppose setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

	HEARD ABOUT				POLICY VIEW			
	A lot	A little	Nothing	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Favor	Oppose	(VOL.) DK/Ref	(Oct N)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
MARITAL STATUS								
Married	19	32	49	1	47	42	11	857
Not married	9	27	63	1	53	36	11	618
MARITAL STATUS BY SEX								
Married men	25	35	40	1	43	47	10	469
Married women	12	30	58	0	52	36	12	388
Unmarried men	14	29	57	1	53	40	7	276
Unmarried women	5	24	69	2	52	34	14	342
EMPLOYMENT								
Employed	14	31	54	1	51	39	10	859
Not employed	14	28	56	2	47	39	14	634
AMONG REPUBLICANS								
Men	25	28	46	0	31	60	9	189
Women	14	27	58	2	41	41	17	176
18-49	16	22	62	0	38	48	14	143
50+	24	34	40	2	35	54	12	214
College grad	25	34	41	0	33	56	11	141
Not college grad	18	25	56	1	37	49	14	223
AMONG DEMOCRATS								
Men	12	39	49	0	56	35	9	206
Women	5	33	61	1	60	28	12	267
18-49	7	34	59	0	60	33	6	192
50+	9	38	52	1	56	28	15	274
College grad	13	44	42	0	74	17	9	180
Not college grad	6	33	60	1	53	36	11	292
AMONG INDEPENDENTS								
Men	23	32	44	1	50	42	8	298
Women	10	24	65	1	51	38	11	245
18-49	10	25	65	0	49	42	8	226
50+	28	32	38	2	52	37	11	312
College grad	25	39	36	0	60	32	8	202
Not college grad	14	24	61	1	47	43	10	340

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Abt/SRBI Inc. among a nationwide sample of 1,500 adults, 18 years of age or older, from September 30-October 4, 2009 (1125 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 375 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 141 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1500	3 percentage points
Republicans	365	6 percentage points
Democrats	473	5 percentage points
Independents	543	5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

For the regional analysis used in this report, states were grouped into smaller subregions or divisions as follows:

States in Each Region	
Northeast	CT MA ME NH NJ NY PA RI VT
Midwest	
Great Lakes	IL IN MI OH WI
Plains	IA KS MN MO ND NE SD
South	
Atlantic	DC DE FL GA MD NC SC VA WV
Central	AL AR KY LA MS OK TN TX
West	
Mountain West	AZ CO ID NM MT UT NV WY
Pacific West	CA OR WA
See http://www.census.gov/geo/www/us_regdiv.pdf for more information.	

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Research Associates
Alec Tyson, Research Analyst

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 September 30-October 4, 2009
 N=1500

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 38 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 39 AND 40

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.41 From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

IF "YES" (1 IN Q.41) ASK [N=834]:

Q.42 Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		April <u>2008</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>	July <u>2006</u>	June <u>2006</u>
57	Yes	71	77	77	79	70
	Mostly because of human activity					
36	such as burning fossil fuels, OR	47	47	47	50	41
	Mostly because of natural patterns in the					
16	earth's environment	18	20	20	23	21
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	10	10	6	8
33	No	21	16	17	17	20
2	Mixed/some evidence (VOL.)	3	1	1	1	1
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	6	5	3	9

ASK ALL:

Q.43 In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Apr 28-May 12 <u>2009</u>	April <u>2008</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	July <u>2006</u>	June <u>2006</u>
35	Very serious	47	44	45	43	41
30	Somewhat serious	26	29	32	36	33
15	Not too serious	11	13	12	11	13
17	Not a problem	13	11	8	9	11
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	3	1	2

ASK ALL:

Q.44 Do you think [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		<i>Trend for comparison</i>	
		April ¹ <u>2001</u>	Nov <u>1997</u>
56	The United States should join other countries in setting standards to address global climate change [OR]	58	55
32	The United States should set its own standards to address global climate change	38	41
3	Neither (VOL.)	--	--
2	No need to address/No climate change (VOL.)	--	--
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4

QUESTIONS 45 THROUGH 52 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 53 AND 54

On another topic...

ASK ALL:

Q.55 How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called "cap and trade" that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard...[READ]

14 A lot
30 A little [OR]
55 Nothing at all
1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (1,2 IN Q.55) [N=777]: From what you've read and heard

IF HEARD NOTHING/DK (3,9 IN Q.55) [N=723]: Just in general,

ASK ALL:

Q.56 Do you favor or oppose setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

50 Favor
39 Oppose
11 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 57 AND 58

QUESTIONS 59 THROUGH 64 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

1 In April 2006 and November 1997, question was worded "Do you think the United States should join other countries in setting standards to improve the global environment, or should the United States set its own environmental standards independently?"