

Shifting U.S. Public Opinion on Climate Change

Select Data Highlights for Carpe Diem West

Despite a highly polarized political environment, Americans are increasingly concerned about climate disruption and extreme weather. These shifts in public opinion provide new opportunities for water and forest health advocates. Americans of all ages and ethnicities now see and feel climate change close-up (including its water impacts); they are more ready than ever to move from awareness to action. Overall, Latinx and African-American audiences are the most concerned, and the most clear about the impacts of climate change in their communities.

BROAD SWEEP HIGHLIGHTS

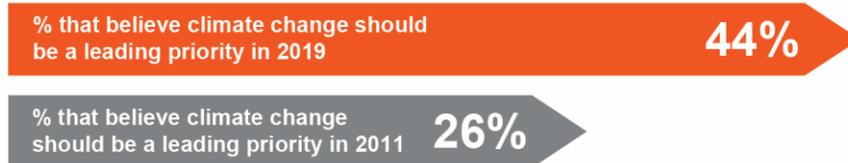
- For the first time since polling began in 2001, [Gallup research](#) now classifies a majority of Americans, 51 percent, as “Concerned Believers” in climate change.
- Gallup also found that a super-majority, 66 percent, of Americans now believe global warming is human-caused rather than the result of inevitable natural transformation.
- In 2012, 38 percent of Americans who felt winter was warmer than normal believed humans had caused the change in temperatures. This measure rose into the 50s between 2013 and 2017 and ultimately peaked at 70 percent in 2019, according to Gallup.
- Between 2011 and 2019, Gallup notes that support for climate change as a policy priority grew dramatically. In 2011 only 26 percent believed climate change should be a leading priority; today it’s 44 percent. Worth noting: those surveyed indicated these results by asking people to prioritize climate change alongside other hot-button concerns like cutting healthcare costs and defending the nation against terror threats.

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Between 2011 and 2019, support for climate change as a policy priority grew dramatically.



- Increasingly, Americans feel climate change is a serious problem with 70 percent feeling this way in December 2015, and 78 percent in December 2018 according to recent [Monmouth University data](#).

Americans that feel climate change is a serious problem



- Notably, the Monmouth University study found a majority of Republicans – 64 percent – identified as climate change believers for the first time since the survey had been conducted. This represented a 15-point leap (49 percent) from just three years prior.

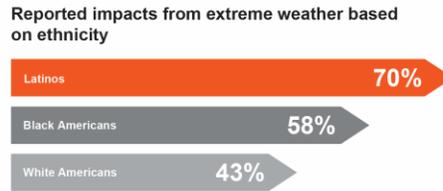
% of Republicans identifying as climate change believers



POC COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

- Eighty-four percent of Latinos believed climate change is underway (88 percent when polled in Spanish); 78 percent of Latinos were worried about it; 50 percent believed climate change is already negatively impacting Americans right now; and 53 percent have endured climate impacts themselves. "[Climate Change in the Latino Mind](#),"
- Parallel research indicated that when compared to white non-Latino respondents, Latinos are more also likely to have [recently engaged elected officials](#) about their climate change concerns.

- Fifty-eight percent of Black Americans and 70 percent of Latinos reported impacts from extreme weather (versus 43 percent of white Americans) according to the [2017 American Climate Perspectives Survey](#)



WESTERNERS ON WATER AND FIRE

In partnership with New Bridge Strategy and FM3, the 2019 [State of the Rockies Project 2019](#) found rising worry about fire and water scarcity:

- 2/3 of Western voters say fires are more of a problem than 10 years ago
- 2/3 of Western voters say water supplies are becoming more unpredictable every year

2/3 of Western voters say that wildfires in the west are more of a problem than ten years ago.



2/3 of Western voters say that water supplies in the west are becoming more unpredictable.

