

THE PIPA/KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS POLL

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

PIPA-Knowledge Networks Poll: Americans on Climate Change

Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: June 8–14, 2004
Sample Size: 753

Margin of Error: +/- 3.6% [full sample]

Q1a. As you may know there is some discussion these days about the problem of global warming or climate change due to the buildup of greenhouse gasses. How much have you heard about global warming or climate change?

A great deal	15%
Some	48
Not very much	28
Nothing at all	10
(No answer).....	0

Q1b. There is a controversy over what the countries of the world, including the US, should do about the problem of global warming. I'm going to read you three statements. Please tell me which statement comes closest to your own point of view. [ARO]

a. Until we are sure that global warming, is really a problem we should not take any steps that would have economic costs	6/04 23%	10/98 15%
b. The problem of global warming should be addressed, but its effects will be gradual, so we can deal with the problem gradually by taking steps that are low in cost	45	42
c. Global warming is a serious and pressing problem. We should begin taking steps now even if this involves significant costs	31	41
(No answer).....	1	2

Q1. Should President Bush develop a plan to reduce the emission of gases that may contribute to global warming or shouldn't he do so?

	Time/CNN/Harris	
	6/04	3/01
Should	79%	67
Should not	19	26
(No answer).....	2	7

Q2. Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion?

	Cambridge Reports	
	6/04	9/94
a. There is a consensus among the great majority of scientists that global warming exists and could do significant damage	43%	28
b. There is a consensus among the great majority of scientists that global warming does not exist and therefore poses no significant threat	4	8
c. Scientists are divided on the existence of global warming and its impact.....	50	58
(No answer).....	4	6

Q3. Based on what you know, would you want your Congressional representative to vote for or against the US participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

	06/04	11/02
Vote for US participation.....	64%	64
Vote against US participation	20	21
(No answer).....	16	15

STATEMENT: Next are a series of questions that ask for your impression of some things that you may or may not know. Please just indicate your impression, whether or not you are very confident that it is correct.

Q4. Just based on your impressions, do you think your Congressional representative WOULD vote for or against the US participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

	06/04	11/02
Vote for US participation.....	58%	56%
Vote against US participation.....	32	29
(No answer).....	11	14

Q5: Just based on your impressions, do you think a majority in Congress would vote for or against the U.S. participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

Vote for US participation.....	46%	52%
Vote against US participation.....	46	36
(No answer).....	8	12

Q6. Just based on your impressions, do you think President Bush favors or opposes the U.S. participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

Favors US participating	42%	48%
Opposes US participating	48	42
(No answer).....	11	11

Q7. Which comes closer to your opinion?

	6/04	CBS/NYT 11/97
a. Efforts in the United States to reduce the release of greenhouse gases will cost too much money and hurt the US economy	29%	20
b. The US economy will become more competitive because these efforts will result in more efficient energy use, saving money in the long run.....	67	67
(No answer).....	5	11

Q8. Another controversy is whether the less-developed countries should also be expected to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Please tell me which of the following positions comes closest to yours. [RANDOMLY REVERSE ORDER OF THE STATEMENTS A AND B, BUT NOT C].

	6/04	10/98
a. The more-developed countries produce far more greenhouse gas emissions and have not begun to make meaningful reductions. So the less-developed countries should NOT be required to limit their emissions UNTIL the more-developed countries reduce theirs.....	22%	19
b. The less-developed countries produce a substantial and growing amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore they should be required to CUT their emissions.....	30	31
c. Because the less-developed countries are poorer and produce far lower emissions, they should not be required to cut back. But they should be required to MINIMIZE the increase of their emissions through greater energy efficiency.....	42	45
None of these (volunteered).....	*	2
(No answer).....	7	3

Q9. Here is a list of possible approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that may contribute to climate change. For each one please say whether you favor or oppose it:

[ARO Q5A-Q5C ON SAME SCREEN]

9a. Provide tax incentives to utility companies to encourage them to sell environmentally clean energy, such as solar and wind power, to consumers.

	6/04	WWF 8/97
Favor	75%	81
Oppose	21	15
(No answer).....	3	5

9b. Give cash incentives like tax credits and rebates to individual households that upgrade to more energy efficient appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners.

	6/04	WWF 8/97
Favor	80%	85

Oppose	17	12
(No answer).....	4	3

Q10. Would you approve or disapprove of the government requiring car manufacturers to meet higher fuel efficiency standards than they do now?

	6/04	CBS/NYT 9/03
Approve.....	82%	76
Disapprove	17	18
(No answer).....	2	6

Q11. What if that meant it would cost more to own or lease a car, then would you approve or disapprove of the government requiring car manufacturers to meet higher fuel efficiency standards than they do now?

	6/04	CBS/NYT* 9/03
Approve.....	63%	59
Disapprove	36	32
(No answer).....	2	10

Q12. Would you favor or oppose requiring that by 2010, half of all new cars produced are hybrid-electric or some other type that is very fuel efficient?

Favor	71%
Oppose	28
(No answer).....	1

Q13: Do you favor or oppose continuing the tax credit for purchasing a hybrid-electric car?

Favor	78%
Oppose	20
(No answer).....	2

* In the CBS/NYT poll, only those respondents that said “approve” in question 10, received question 11 as a follow-up question.

Q14: Do you favor or oppose continuing to give large SUVs and Hummers a bigger tax credit than for ordinary cars used for business purposes?

Favor 15%
 Oppose83
 (No answer).....2

STATEMENT: As you may know, a bill to address the problem of climate change has been introduced in Congress by a Democratic and a Republican Senator. This bill would set specific limits on the amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that large companies can emit. This bill has gone through several drafts. The following questions talk about a draft that would require that by the year 2010, the US would reduce its emissions to what they were in the year 2000, and by 2020 to what they were in 1990.

Q15. Just based on what you know, do you favor or oppose having such limits on how much greenhouse gases large companies can emit?

Favor 81%
 Oppose16
 (No answer).....3

Q16. According to an estimate done by MIT, cutting greenhouse gas emissions as much as this draft of the new bill would require will increase various costs to the average American household by about \$15 a month. Do you tend to feel that this estimate is

On the high side 29%
 On the low side31
 Approximately correct34
 (No answer).....6

Q17a. If in fact it appears that it would likely cost \$15 a month for an average household, would you favor or oppose enacting such a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Favor 67%
 Oppose30
 (No answer).....4

[If “OPPOSE OR NO ANSWER” IN Q17A]

Q17b. If further research concluded that it would likely cost \$10 a month for an average household, would you favor or oppose enacting such a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Favor	8%*
Oppose	23
(No answer).....	2

[If “FAVOR” IN Q17A]

Q17c. If further research concluded that it would likely cost \$25 a month for an average household, would you favor or oppose enacting such a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Favor	40%*
Oppose	27
(No answer).....	1

STATEMENT: If this bill were to pass, each large company would be allowed to emit a limited amount of greenhouse gasses. A controversial aspect of the bill is that it allows companies to buy and sell their allowances to each other. The idea is that it will cost some companies much more than other companies to change business practices to lower their emissions. If companies with low costs could reduce their emissions further, they could sell their emission allowances to other companies who would save money by buying those allowances. Here are some arguments on these issues. Please select whether you find them convincing or not.

[Q18-Q19 ARE PRO ARGUMENTS AND Q20-Q21 ARE CON ARGUMENTS. ARO WHETHER THEY GET A PRO OR CON FIRST, THEN RANDOMLY ALTERNATE BETWEEN PRO AND CON FOR REMAINDER OF Q15-Q18]

Q18. If we do not let companies buy and sell emission allowances, this would be unfair to companies for whom it is more expensive to lower their emissions, and overall would make it more costly to reduce emissions.

Very Convincing.....	11%
Somewhat Convincing.....	42
Somewhat Unconvincing	30
Very Unconvincing.....	14
(No answer).....	4

* Percentage of full sample

Q19. If companies are not allowed to buy and sell their emission allowances, the costs of lowering emissions will be substantially higher than presently estimated for the average American household.

Very Convincing.....	14%
Somewhat Convincing.....	41
Somewhat Unconvincing.....	30
Very Unconvincing	11
(No answer).....	4

Q20. It is just not right for companies to buy the right to emit greenhouse gases. All companies should have to reduce their emissions.

Very Convincing.....	45%
Somewhat Convincing.....	32
Somewhat Unconvincing	11
Very Unconvincing	9
(No answer).....	4

Q21. Requiring all companies to lower their emission levels the same amount will force them to adopt new technologies that may be expensive in the short run but will be economically beneficial in the long run.

Very Convincing	22%
Somewhat Convincing.....	55
Somewhat Unconvincing.....	14
Very Unconvincing.....	6
(No answer).....	4

Q22. Now, having considered these arguments, do you favor or oppose permitting companies to buy and sell their allowances to emit greenhouse gases?

Favor	34%
Oppose	62
(No answer).....	4

Q23. Overall, compared to the average American, would say you are more supportive or less supportive of taking steps to reduce global warming?

	6/04	10/98
More supportive	66%	68
Less supportive	30	22
About the same (volunteered).....*		5
(No answer).....	4	6

Q24. If a candidate for political office were to favor a law requiring large companies to gradually reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate? Please answer on a scale of +5 to -5, with +5 meaning that it will greatly increase the likelihood you will vote for the candidate, -5 meaning that it will greatly decrease the likelihood you will vote for the candidate, and 0 meaning that it will have no effect either way.

5.....	8%
4.....	8
3.....	16
2.....	12
1.....	8
0.....	32
-1	3
-2	3
-3	2
-4	1
-5	5
(No answer).....	3
Increase likelihood (1 to 5)	52
No effect either way (0)	32
Decrease likelihood (-5 to -1)	14
(No answer).....	3
Mean	1.12

Q25. If the upcoming election for president were held today for whom would you vote:

George W. Bush.....	45%
John F. Kerry	43
Ralph Nader	6
(No answer).....	7

[ONLY TO THOSE RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWER THE ABOVE QUESTION]

Q25a. How sure are you that you will vote this way?

Very sure Bush.....	36%
Somewhat sure Bush.....	10
Not very sure Bush.....	2
Very sure Kerry.....	29%
Somewhat sure Kerry.....	11
Not very sure Kerry	5
Very sure Nader	2%
Somewhat sure Nader	2
Not very sure Nader	3
(No answer).....	7

[TO NADER VOTERS ONLY]

Q25b. If Nader does not run or is not on the ballot would you:

Vote for Bush	1%
Vote for Kerry	2
Write in Nader	3
(No answer).....	0

Q26. Have you seen the movie *The Day After Tomorrow*?

Yes	10%
No.....	90
(No answer).....	0

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

D1. In politics today, do you think of yourself as:

Strongly Republican	14%
Leaning toward Republican	16
Independent.....	22
Leaning toward Democrat	19
Strongly Democrat.....	19
Other	8

D2. How would you characterize where you live? Would you characterize it as

An urban area or part of a city	33%
A suburban area or bedroom community just outside of a city	29
A small town or rural area	37

D3. Did you vote for a candidate for the House of Representatives or the Senate in the election in November 2002?

Yes	58%
No.....	39
(No Answer).....	3

D4. Education level (categorical)

Less than High School	16%
High School Graduate.....	32
Some College	28
College Graduate	24

D7. Gender

Male	48%
Female.....	52

D8. Region

Northeast.....	19%
Midwest.....	23
South	36
West	22