

APRIL 2, 2013

Continuing Partisan Divide in Views of Global Warming

Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Broad Support

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Continuing Partisan Divide in Views of Global Warming Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Broad Support

As the Obama administration approaches a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, a national survey finds broad public support for the project. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) favor building the pipeline, which would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas. Just 23% oppose construction of the pipeline.

Support for the pipeline spans most demographic and partisan groups. Substantial majorities of Republicans (82%) and independents (70%) favor building the Keystone XL pipeline, as do 54% of Democrats. But there is a division among Democrats: 60% of the party's conservatives and moderates support building the pipeline, compared with just 42% of liberal Democrats.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 13-17 among 1,501 adults, finds that the public has mixed opinions about increased use of fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations. About half (48%) of Americans favor the increased use of this process, while 38% are opposed.

The survey also finds that 69% say there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades. That is little changed from last October (67%), but up 12 points since October 2009.

Keystone XL Attracts Majority Support, Except among Liberals

<i>Favor/oppose building Keystone XL pipeline?</i>	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	66	23	11=100
Men	71	22	6=100
Women	61	23	16=100
18-29	60	27	12=100
30-49	63	25	12=100
50-64	70	20	10=100
65+	74	16	9=100
Post-grad	56	32	12=100
College grad	67	24	9=100
Some college	68	21	11=100
HS or less	66	21	12=100
Republican	82	10	8=100
Conservative	83	9	8=100
Moderate/Liberal	81	12	6=100
Independent	70	21	9=100
Democrat	54	34	12=100
Conserv/Mod	60	28	12=100
Liberal	42	48	10=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

At the same time, however, the percentage of Americans who say that global warming is a very serious problem has slipped six points, from 39% to 33%, since last October. Current opinions about whether global warming is a very serious problem are similar to those in 2009 and 2010.

Regional, Gender, Partisan Differences in Views of Fracking

There are regional differences in opinions about the increased use of fracking. More than half of those who live in the Midwest (55%) and South (52%) favor the increased use of fracking; there is less support in the West (43%) and Northeast (37%).

While men favor the increased use of fracking by a 55% to 34% margin, women are divided (41% favor, 42% oppose).

Twice as many Republicans (66%) as Democrats (33%) favor the increased use of fracking. Independents, by a 51% to 36% margin, support the increased use of fracking.

Less Support for Fracking in Northeast, West

<i>Increased use of fracking ...</i>	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	48	38	14=100
Men	55	34	11=100
Women	41	42	17=100
18-29	49	41	10=100
30-49	48	41	12=100
50-64	49	36	15=100
65+	44	34	22=100
Post grad	46	39	15=100
College grad	44	42	14=100
Some college	52	35	12=100
HS or less	47	38	15=100
Republican	66	24	11=100
Democrat	33	52	15=100
Independent	51	36	13=100
Northeast	37	46	17=100
Midwest	55	32	13=100
South	52	34	14=100
West	43	44	13=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
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Opinions about Global Warming

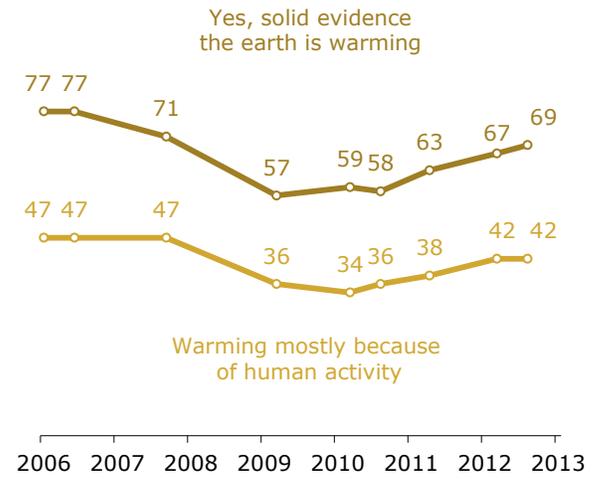
Currently, 69% say there is solid evidence that the earth’s average temperature has been getting warmer over the past few decades. Among those who see evidence of global warming, more say it is caused mostly by human activity (42% of the public) than by natural patterns in the earth’s environment (23%). Nearly three-in-ten Americans (27%) say there is no solid evidence of warming.

These opinions are little changed from last fall. But four years ago, just 57% saw solid evidence of global warming and 36% said it was mostly caused by human activity.

There has been a sizable partisan gap in views about whether there is solid evidence of global warming since the Pew Research Center began asking this question in 2006. In the current survey, almost twice as many Democrats (87%) as Republicans (44%) say there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been rising. Further, Democrats are three times as likely as Republicans to say that human activity is mostly causing global warming (57% vs. 19%).

Beyond the wide gap between parties in opinions about global warming, there also are differences among Republicans and Democrats.

Is There Solid Evidence the Earth is Warming?



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Continuing Partisan Divide in Views about Global Warming

Solid evidence the earth is warming?	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Yes	69	44	87	69
<i>Mostly because of ...</i>				
Human activity	42	19	57	43
Natural patterns	23	22	23	22
Don't know	4	3	7	4
No	27	50	10	28
Mixed evidence (Vol.)/ Don't know	5	7	3	4
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Moderate and liberal Republicans are far more likely than conservative Republicans to say there is solid evidence of global warming (57% vs. 37%) and are more likely to say it is mostly happening because of human activity (27% vs. 16%).

Most liberal Democrats (92%) and conservative and moderate Democrats (85%) say there is solid evidence of global warming. But far more

liberal Democrats (72%) than conservative and moderate Democrats (51%) say the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity.

Republicans Divided Over Global Warming; Democrats Divided Over Its Cause

	Among Reps		Among Dems	
	Conserv	Mod/ Lib	Cons/ Mod	Liberal
<i>Is there solid evidence the earth is warming?</i>	%	%	%	%
Yes	37	57	85	92
<i>Mostly because of ...</i>				
Human activity	16	27	51	72
Because of natural patterns	19	29	27	16
Don't know	3	1	7	5
No	54	40	10	7
Mixed evidence (Vol.)/DK	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	289	127	290	178

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Is Global Warming a Serious Problem?

Most Americans continue to say that global warming is either a very serious problem (33%) or a somewhat serious problem (32%). However, the percentage saying it is a very serious problem has declined six points (from 39%) since October 2012.

Current views about whether global warming is a serious problem are similar to those in 2009 (35% very serious problem) and 2010 (32%). From 2006 through 2008, more than four-in-ten viewed global warming as a very serious problem.

Fewer View Global Warming as Very Serious Problem

How serious a problem is global warming?	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very serious	43	45	44	35	32	38	39	33
Somewhat serious	36	32	29	30	31	27	25	32
Not too serious	11	12	13	15	16	16	14	13
Not a problem	9	8	11	17	18	17	19	20
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About half of Democrats (48%) say global warming is a very serious problem, an eight-point decline from 56% last October. The percentage of independents saying global warming is a very serious problem also has slipped, from 39% to 31%. Just 14% of Republicans say global warming is a very serious problem; in October, 19% of Republicans expressed this view.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 13-17, 2013, among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (750 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 751 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 385 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. 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, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is 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 2012 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 among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Republican	420	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	487	5.2 percentage points
Independent	498	5.1 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
March 13-17, 2013
N=1,501

QUESTIONS 1, 5d, 6-7, 15a-c, 18, 20-24, 26-29, 35-38, 45 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 2-4, 8-14, 15d, 16-17, 19, 25, 30-34, 39-44

QUESTIONS 5a-c, 15e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Next...

Q.46 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?

ASK IF EARTH IS GETTING WARMER (Q.46=1):

Q.47 Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>		Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>	Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Feb 22- Mar 1 <u>2011</u>	Oct 13-18 <u>2010</u>	Sep 30- Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Apr <u>2008</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>	Jul <u>2006</u>	Jun <u>2006</u>
69	Yes	67	63	58	59	57	71	77	77	79	70
	Mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, [OR]										
42		42	38	36	34	36	47	47	47	50	41
	Mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment										
23		19	18	18	18	16	18	20	20	23	21
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	6	5	6	6	6	10	10	6	8
27	No	26	28	34	32	33	21	16	17	17	20
1	Mixed/some evidence (VOL.)	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	1
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	8	5	8	8	5	6	5	3	9

ASK ALL:

Q.48 In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>		Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>	Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Oct 13-18 <u>2010</u>	Sep 30- Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Apr 28- May 12 <u>2009</u>	Apr <u>2008</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Jul <u>2006</u>	Jun <u>2006</u>
33	Very serious	39	38	32	35	47	44	45	43	41
32	Somewhat serious	25	27	31	30	26	29	32	36	33
13	Not too serious	14	16	16	15	11	13	12	11	13
20	Not a problem	19	17	18	17	13	11	8	9	11
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	1	2

NO QUESTIONS 49-55, 58-60, 64, 66-69, 72, 74-76, 78-84, 93-97

QUESTIONS 56-57, 61-63, 65, 70-71, 73, 98-102 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTIONS 85-92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Next...

Q.77 Do you favor or oppose **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Increased use of fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations Mar 13-17, 2013	48	38	14
b. Building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas Mar 13-17, 2013	66	23	11

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL.) No preference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb. 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Yearly Totals								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=623]:

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

Mar 13-17		Feb 13-18	Jan 9-13
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>
43	Agree	36	35
7	Disagree	9	10
47	No opinion either way	52	51
1	Haven't heard of (VOL.)	1	2
1	Refused (VOL.)	3	2