

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
W189: Climate and Environment
March 16-22, 2026**

**TOPLINE
N=3,524**

Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.

"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "Not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the methodology.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	3,524	+/- 1.8

ENVBEHAV**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]**Do you regularly do each of the following?

		Yes, I regularly <u>do this</u>	No, I don't <u>regularly do this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DRIVE	Carpool or limit your driving Mar 16-22, 2026	38	62	<1
SECONDH	Buy secondhand clothes or other secondhand goods Mar 16-22, 2026	48	42	<1
LIGHTS	Turn off the lights at home when no one is using them Mar 16-22, 2026	95	4	<1
WATER	Limit your water use at home Mar 16-22, 2026	55	45	<1

[PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE_WHY, SECONDH_WHY, LIGHTS_WHY AND WATER_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV]**DRIVE_WHY****ASK IF FORM 1 AND REGULARLY LIMITS DRIVING (X_FORM=1 & ENVBEHAV_DRIVE=1)****[N=643]:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS LIGHTS_WHY]**

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly carpool or limit your driving?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
MONEY	To save money Mar 16-22, 2026	69	21	9	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment Mar 16-22, 2026	37	40	23	1

[PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE_WHY, SECONDH_WHY, LIGHTS_WHY AND WATER_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV]

SECONDH_WHY

ASK IF FORM 2 AND REGULARLY BUYS SECONDHAND (X_FORM=2 & ENVBEHAV_SECONDH=1)

[N=788]:

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS WATER_WHY]

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly buy secondhand clothes or other secondhand goods?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
MONEY	To save money March 16-22, 2026	76	19	4	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment March 16-22, 2026	28	40	32	<1

[PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE_WHY, SECONDH_WHY, LIGHTS_WHY AND WATER_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV]

LIGHTS_WHY

ASK IF FORM 1 AND REGULARLY TURNS OFF LIGHTS (X_FORM=1 & ENVBEHAV_LIGHTS=1)

[N=1,696]:

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS DRIVE_WHY]

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly turn off the lights at home when no one is using them?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
MONEY	To save money March 16-22, 2026	78	18	4	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment March 16-22, 2026	33	40	26	<1

[PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE_WHY, SECONDH_WHY, LIGHTS_WHY AND WATER_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV]

WATER_WHY

ASK IF FORM 2 AND REGULARLY LIMITS WATER USE (X_FORM=2 & ENVBEHAV_WATER=1)

[N=990]:

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS SECONDH_WHY]

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly limit your water use at home?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
MONEY	To save money March 16-22, 2026	66	24	9	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment March 16-22, 2026	51	35	14	<1

RECYCLE

ASK ALL:

Do you regularly recycle?

Mar 16-22,

2026

67	Yes, I regularly recycle
33	No, I don't regularly recycle
<1	No answer

RECYCLE_WHY

ASK IF REGULARLY RECYCLES (RECYCLE=1) [N=2,465]:

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly recycle?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
REQUIRED	It's required where I live Mar 16-22, 2026	22	19	59	<1
EASY	It's easy Mar 16-22, 2026	54	29	17	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment Mar 16-22, 2026	76	18	5	<1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ENVIR8****ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

How much do you think the federal government is doing to...

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>About the right amount</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Protect air quality				
Mar 16-22, 2026	6	63	30	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	11	58	31	1
May 2-8, 2022	8	58	33	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	9	59	31	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	4	65	30	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	4	67	28	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	8	64	27	1
b. Protect water quality of lakes, rivers and streams				
Mar 16-22, 2026	4	66	29	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	7	63	29	1
May 2-8, 2022	5	63	31	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	6	63	30	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	3	67	29	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	4	68	27	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	6	69	24	1
c. Protect animals and their habitats				
Mar 16-22, 2026	6	61	31	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	9	55	35	1
May 2-8, 2022	8	56	35	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	9	57	33	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	6	62	32	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	7	62	31	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	9	63	27	1
d. Protect open lands in national parks and nature preserves				
Mar 16-22, 2026	5	58	36	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	8	48	44	1
May 2-8, 2022	8	47	44	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	7	51	41	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	5	54	40	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	5	55	39	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	8	57	34	1
e. Reduce the effects of global climate change				
Mar 16-22, 2026	15	60	24	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	20	56	23	1
May 2-8, 2022	18	58	22	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	18	59	22	1

ENVIRS CONTINUED ...

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>About the right amount</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	9	65	25	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	10	67	23	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	13	67	19	1

LOCENV**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]

[PN: IF WEB:] How much of a problem, if at all, do you think each of the following is in your local community?

	<u>A big problem</u>	<u>A moderate problem</u>	<u>A small problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Air pollution					
Mar 16-22, 2026	23	28	26	22	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	21	29	27	22	<1
May 2-8, 2022	20	29	28	22	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	22	30	27	20	1
b. Pollution of lakes, rivers and streams					
Mar 16-22, 2026	23	29	29	18	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	22	32	29	16	1
May 2-8, 2022	24	31	29	14	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	26	33	26	13	<1
c. Safety of drinking water					
Mar 16-22, 2026	19	24	23	33	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	20	24	25	31	<1
May 2-8, 2022	16	25	24	34	<1
Apr 20-29, 2021	17	24	24	35	1
d. Too much garbage, waste and landfills					
Mar 16-22, 2026	25	31	22	20	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	28	31	23	18	1
May 2-8, 2022	27	32	23	17	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	29	34	22	15	1
e. Lack of greenspace and parks					
Mar 16-22, 2026	16	24	24	35	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	14	24	25	36	<1
May 2-8, 2022	13	25	27	35	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	15	25	26	34	1

EWTFREQ**ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,771]:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

Thinking about the last few years, do you think extreme weather events across the country have been occurring...

	More often than <u>in the past</u>	Less often than <u>in the past</u>	About as often <u>as in the past</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	68	5	27	<1
Sep 13-19, 2021	67	4	28	<1

EWTSEV**ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,753]:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

Thinking about the last few years, do you think extreme weather events across the country have been...

Mar 16-22

2026

62	More severe than in the past
6	Less severe than in the past
31	About as severe as in the past
1	No answer

QUE: CLIM1A**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

Which of these three statements about the Earth's temperature comes closest to your view?

	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning <u>fossil fuels</u>	The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's <u>environment</u>	There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting <u>warmer</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	48	22	12	17	<1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	46	26	14	14	<1
Apr 11-17, 2022	53	24	9	13	<1
Sep 3-15, 2019	52	17	21	9	<1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	47	24	13	14	1
Dec 4-18, 2017	49	18	12	21	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	45	26	14	14	1

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

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: Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer

	-----Yes, solid evidence-----						
		Mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels	Mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment	(VOL.) DK/Ref	No	(VOL.) Mixed/ Some evidence	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>						
Jun 8-18, 2017	74	53	18	2	23	1	2
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	61	40	18	3	35	1	3
Oct 9-13, 2013	67	44	18	4	26	2	5
Mar 13-17, 2013	69	42	23	4	27	1	4
Oct 4-7, 2012	67	42	19	6	26	1	6
Nov 9-14, 2011	63	38	18	6	28	1	8
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	58	36	18	5	34	2	5
Oct 13-18, 2010	59	34	18	6	32	1	8
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	57	36	16	6	33	2	8
April, 2008	71	47	18	6	21	3	5
January, 2007	77	47	20	10	16	1	6
August, 2006	77	47	20	10	17	1	5
July, 2006	79	50	23	6	17	1	3
June, 2006	70	41	21	8	20	1	9

CCINFLU**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about public policy debates about addressing global climate change, do you think climate scientists have...

	Too much <u>influence</u>	Too little <u>influence</u>	About the right amount of <u>influence</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	25	49	24	2
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	26	50	22	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	22	54	22	2

CCINTL
ASK ALL:

Do you support or oppose the U.S. participating in international efforts to help reduce the effects of global climate change?

	<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Somewhat support</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	43	30	15	10	2
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	42	33	13	11	2
Jan 24-30, 2022	43	32	14	10	1

CCEFFC
ASK ALL:

How likely is it that countries around the world, including the U.S., will collectively do enough to avoid the worst impacts from climate change?

	<u>Will definitely happen</u>	<u>Will probably happen</u>	<u>Will probably not happen</u>	<u>Will definitely not happen</u>	<u>Climate change impacts are not a problem</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	4	21	50	12	13	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	4	29	45	9	11	2
Jan 24-30, 2022	6	30	45	8	10	1

CCHARMUS
ASK ALL:

How much harm is climate change causing people in this country today?

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Quite a bit</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	19	28	28	12	14	1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	15	28	28	15	14	1

CLIMDIFF**ASK IF CLIMATE CHANGE IS CAUSING AT LEAST SOME HARM (CCHARMUS=1-3):****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Don't make much difference</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,314]				
a.	Ordinary Americans March 16-22, 2026	42	45	12	<1
	ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,314]				
b.	The federal government March 16-22, 2026	68	23	9	<1
	ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,310]				
c.	Large businesses and corporations March 16-22, 2026	67	22	10	1
	[NO ITEM D]				
	ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,310]				
e.	The energy industry March 16-22, 2026	72	20	7	1
	ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,310]				
f.	Your state government March 16-22, 2026	50	35	14	<1
	ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,314]				
g.	Large technology companies March 16-22, 2026	69	22	9	1

CCFUTRMOD2

**ASK IF CLIMATE CHANGE IS CAUSING AT LEAST SOME HARM (CCHARMUS=1-3) [N=2,624]:
[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS
ROTATION_GEN]**

Looking ahead to 30 years from now, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen in the U.S.?

		Extremely <u>likely</u>	Very <u>likely</u>	Somewhat <u>likely</u>	Not too <u>likely</u>	Not at all <u>likely</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	New technology will address most of the problems caused by climate change						
	Mar 16-22, 2026	5	15	44	28	6	1
b.	Major changes to everyday life will be needed to address most of the problems caused by climate change						
	Mar 16-22, 2026	19	32	35	11	3	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:
ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...¹

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	Something <u>else</u>	No <u>answer</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
28	27	29	15	1	18	22

¹ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.