

Climate survey - US pilot

OECD

Results of the third US pilot: sample of 582 respondents. Representative along the gender, age, income, region and rural/urban dimensions but not representative along the education, ethnicity/race, vote and occupation dimensions.

Results are weighted along the gender, income, region, living in a metropolitan area, age, and race dimensions

March 2021

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Education and ethnicity/race

- **Education level:** Master degree should be 13% to be representative.
- **Ethnicity/Race:** Should be 60% White, 19% Hispanic, 13% Black to be representative.

Figure 1: What is the highest level of education you have completed?

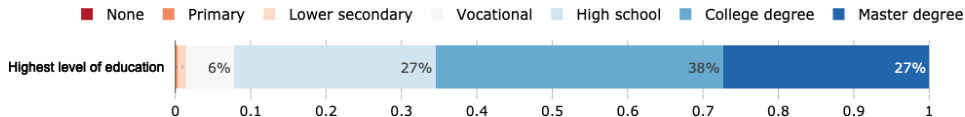
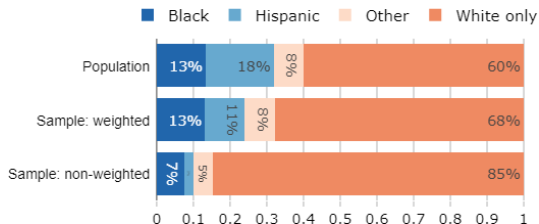


Figure 2: What race or ethnicity do you identify with? (Multiple answers are possible)



Political affiliation

- **2020 election:** Should be 34% Biden and 33% Non-voter to be representative.

Figure 3: Which candidate did you vote for in the last presidential election?

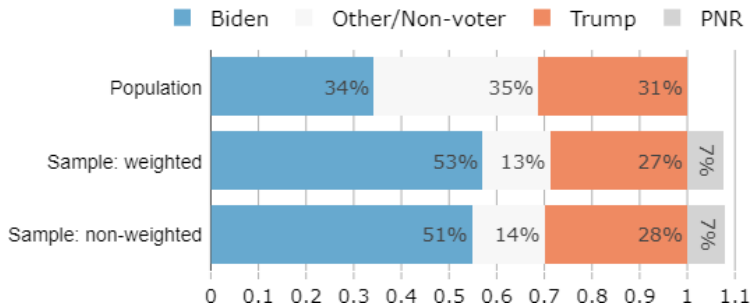


Figure 4: On economic policy matters, where do you see yourself on the liberal/conservative spectrum?

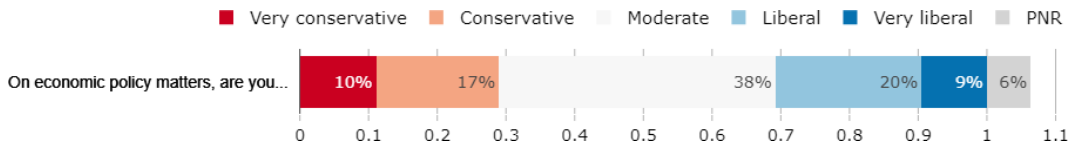


Figure 5: Live in metropolitan area, based on indicated size of town

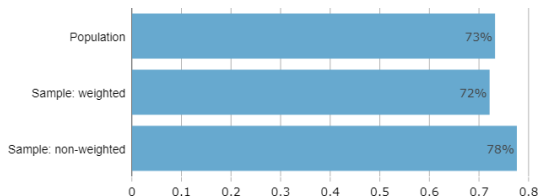
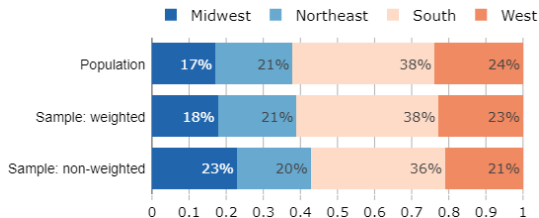


Figure 6: Region, based on ZIP code



Gender and age

Figure 7: What is your gender?

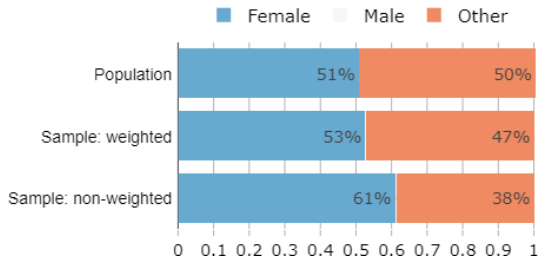


Figure 8: How old are you?

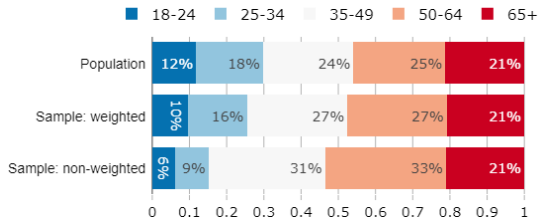


Figure 9: What was the annual income of your household in 2019 (before withholding tax, for you and those who live with you)?

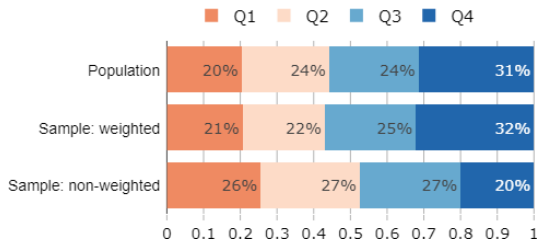
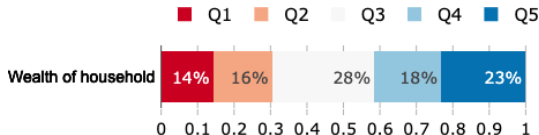


Figure 10: What is the estimated value of your assets, or the assets of your household if you are married (in U.S. dollars)? Include here all your possessions (home, car, savings, etc.) net of debt. For example, if you own a house worth \$300,000 and you have \$100,000 left to repay on your mortgage, your assets are \$200,000.



Employment and occupation

Figure 11: What is your employment status?

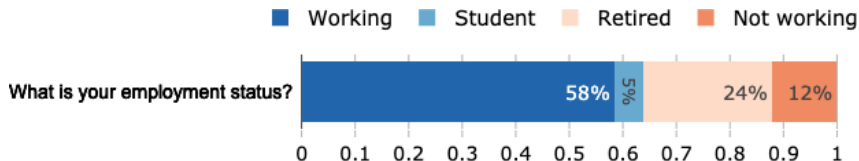


Figure 12: Which category best describes your main occupation (or last one if not currently employed)?

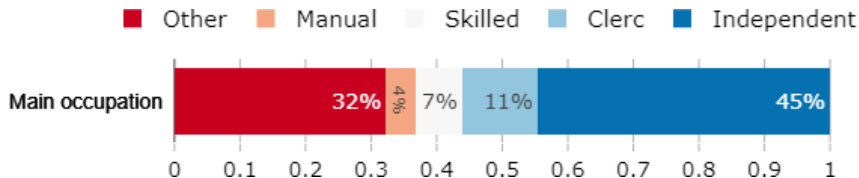


Figure 13: Have you or a member of your household been laid off or had to take a cut in your salary or wages due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

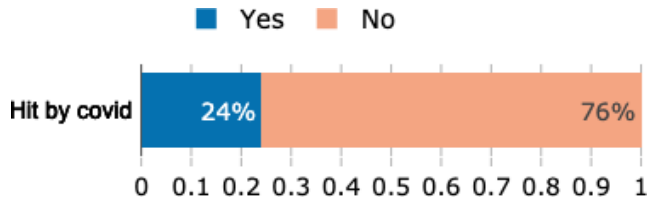


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Figure 14: What is the main way you heat your home

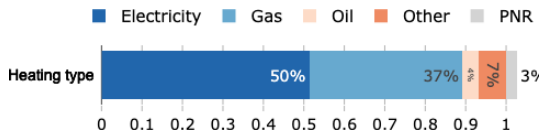


Figure 15: In a typical month, how much do you spend on heating for your accommodation?

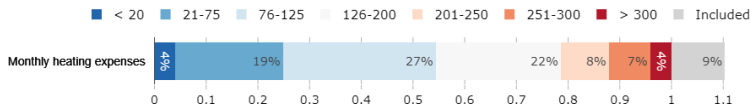


Figure 16: How do you rate the insulation of your accommodation?

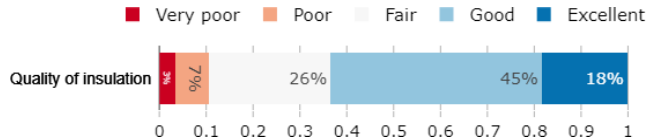


Figure 17: In a typical month, how much do you spend on gas for driving?

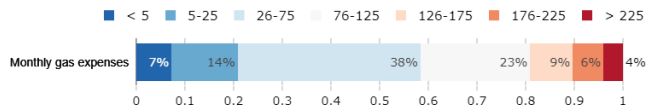


Figure 18: How many round-trip flights did you take in 2019?

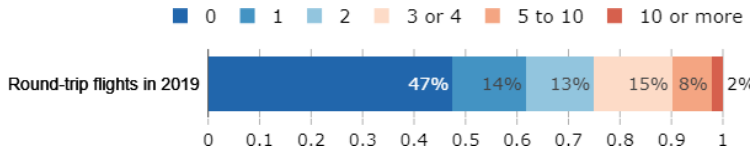


Figure 19: How often do you eat beef?

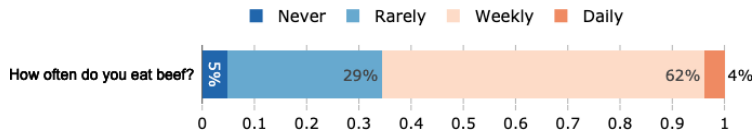


Figure 20: Which mode of transport did you mainly use for each of the following trips in 2019?

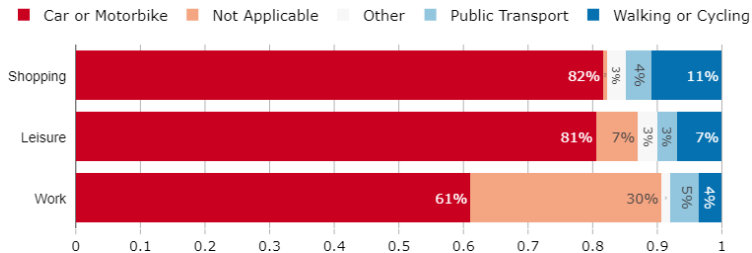


Figure 21: How do you rate the availability (ease of access and frequency) of public transportation where you live?

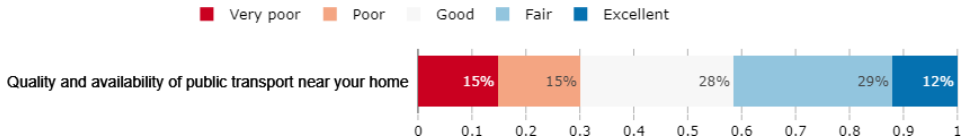


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Watched climate and/or policy videos attentively

Figure 23: Number of wrong answers when answering knowledge questions about the content of the videos

- What will be the rise in global average temperature in 2100 if greenhouse gas emissions continue on their current trend?
- In the absence of ambitious action against climate change, how frequent will extreme temperatures occur across the U.S. by the end of the century?
- With a green infrastructure program, how many people could find a job in green sectors in the U.S.?
- What is the emission limit described in the video?

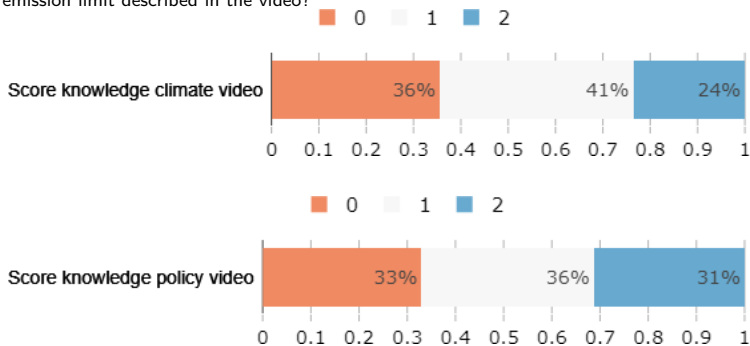


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- People worry; knowledge is mixed.
- In line with previous research, we find that about 65% of Americans acknowledge that climate change exists and is anthropogenic.
- A majority under-estimate the stringency of needed emission reductions.
- Most people understand what activities are most polluting, except for transport where knowledge is mixed. Most struggle identifying the correct ranking of regional per capita footprint.
- Most people correctly understand that climate change will entail more natural disasters, but wrongly think that volcanic eruptions will be more frequent.
- A majority thinks that CC puts humanity at risk of extinction, which is extremely pessimistic.
- A relative majority thinks they will be personally affected by CC.

Climate change knowledge: general

Figure 24: How often do you think or talk with people about climate change?

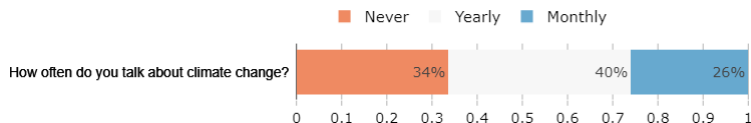


Figure 25: In your opinion, is climate change real?

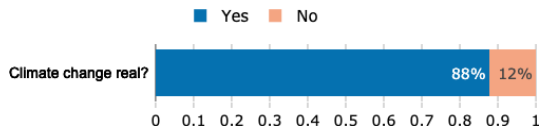


Figure 26: *If answered yes to previous question:* What part of climate change do you think is due to human activity?

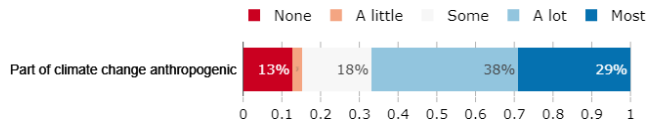


Figure 27: How knowledgeable do you consider yourself about climate change?

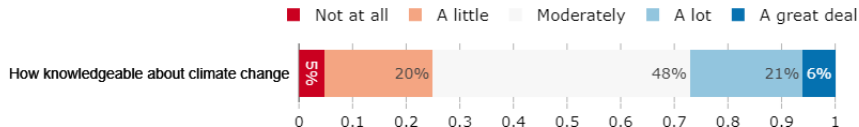
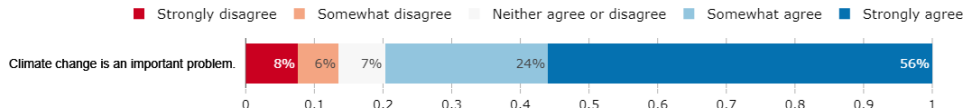


Figure 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Climate change is an important problem."



Climate change knowledge: general

Figure 29: Do you think that cutting global greenhouse gas emissions by half would be sufficient to eventually stop temperatures from rising? (Right answer: No)

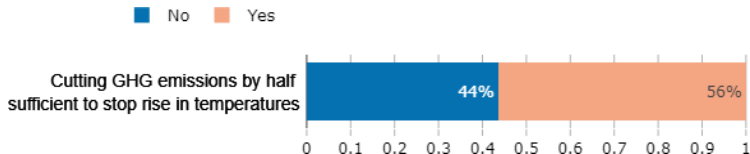
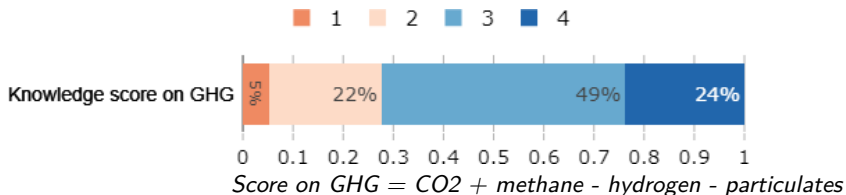


Figure 30: Which of the following elements contribute to climate change? (Multiple answers are possible)



Climate change knowledge: GHG footprints

Figure 31: Number of errors when ranking 3 items in terms of GHG emissions for three sectors

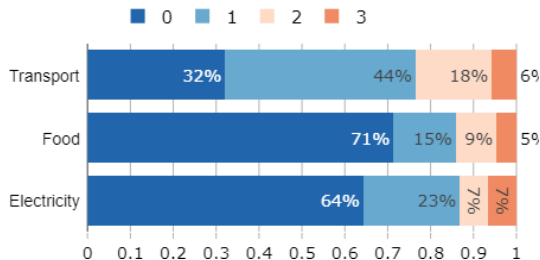
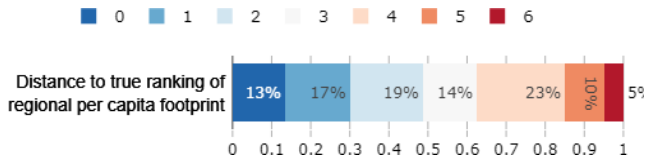


Figure 32: Rank the U.S./China/Western Europe/India in terms of GHG emissions per capita



Correct ranking: plane>car>coach, beef>chicken>pasta, coal>gas>wind/ US>Western Europe>China>India

Climate change knowledge: GHG footprints detailed

Figure 33: If a family of 4 travels 500 miles from New York to Toronto, which mode of transportation emits the most greenhouse gases? Please rank the items from 1 (most) to 3 (least).

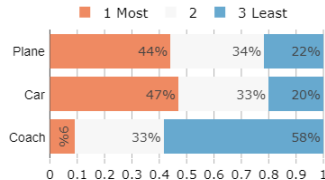
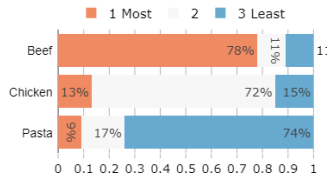


Figure 34: Which dish emits the most greenhouse gases? We consider that each dish weighs half a pound. Please rank the items from 1 (most) to 3 (least).



Climate change knowledge: GHG footprints detailed

Figure 35: Which source of electric energy emits the most greenhouse gases to provide power for a house? Please rank the items from 1 (most) to 3 (least).

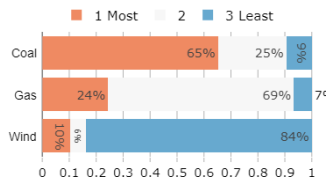
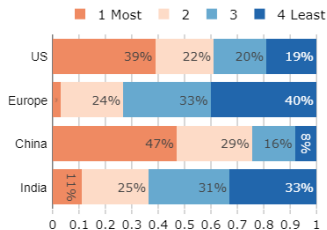


Figure 36: In which region does the consumption of a typical person contribute most to climate change? Please rank the items from 1 (most) to 4 (least).



Impacts of climate change

Figure 37: If nothing is done to limit climate change, how likely do you think it is that climate change will lead to the following events?

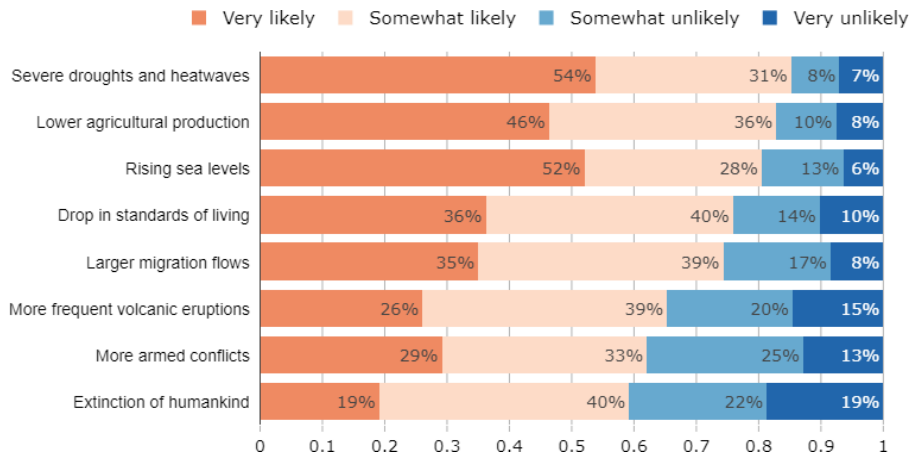
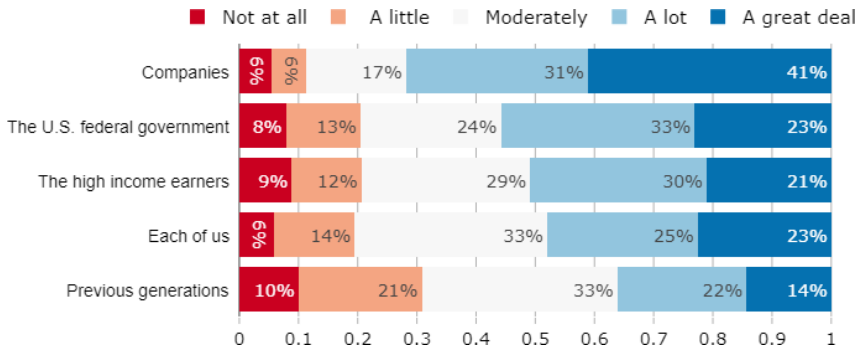


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- Most people agree CC is a problem and ambitious policies are needed.
- People are divided between optimistic and pessimistic (regarding future standards of living, technical feasibility to stop CC, and likelihood it will happen).
- People are divided between those who foresee positive effects of climate policies and a third who foresees negative effects.
- A third of people is willing to forego some comfort, two-thirds are willing to change behavior as long as it doesn't affect their comfort and they have enough financial means.

Figure 38: To what extent are the following groups responsible for climate change in the U.S.?



Beliefs about the future

Figure 39: To what extent do you think that it is technically feasible to stop greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining satisfactory standards of living in the U.S.?

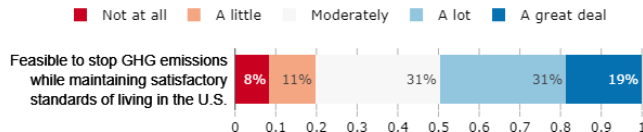


Figure 40: To what extent do you think climate change already affects or will negatively affect your personal life?

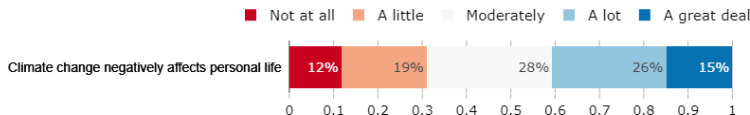
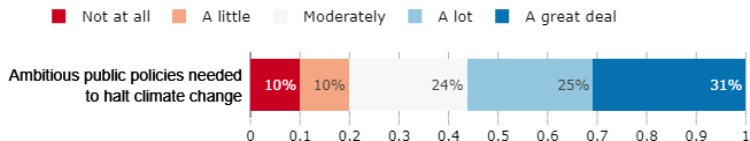


Figure 41: How ambitious do you think public policies should be to halt climate change?



Beliefs about ambitious climate policies

Figure 42: How likely is it that human kind halt climate change by the end of the century?

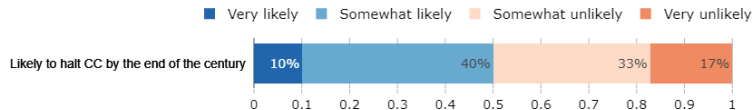


Figure 43: If we decide to halt climate change through ambitious policies, to what extent do you think it would negatively affect your lifestyle?

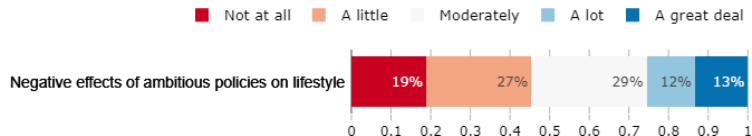
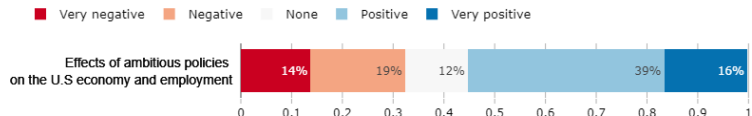
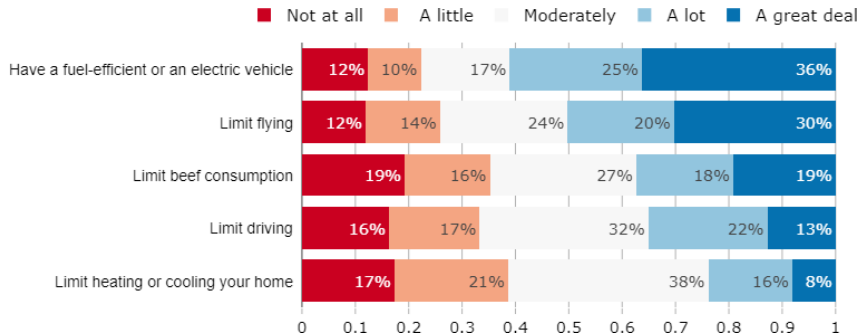


Figure 44: If we decide to halt climate change through ambitious policies, what would be the effects on the U.S economy and employment?



Willingness to change behaviors

Figure 45: Here are possible habits that experts say would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To what extent would you be willing to adopt the following behaviors?



Factors needed to change lifestyle

Figure 46: How important are the factors below in order for you to adopt a sustainable lifestyle (i.e. limit driving, flying, and consumption, cycle more, etc.)?

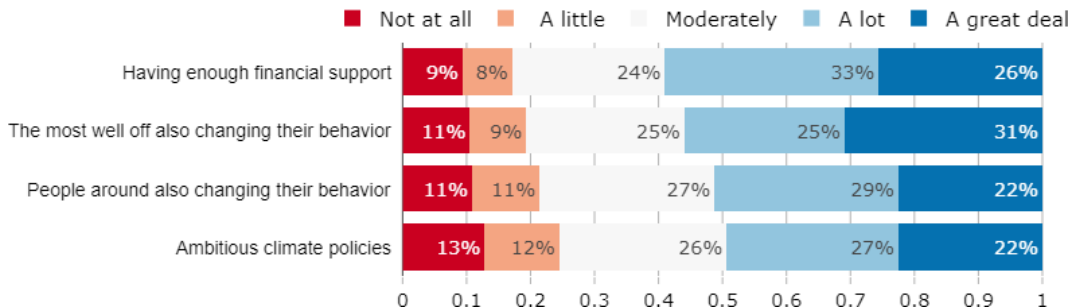


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To fight climate change, car producers can be required by law to limit the average CO₂ emissions per mile of the cars they sell. This limit is lowered every year, with the possible aim that only electric or hydrogen vehicles will be sold after 2040 (at which date electricity generation is expected to be non-polluting). This policy is called an emissions limit for cars.

Figure 47: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? An emission limit for cars would...

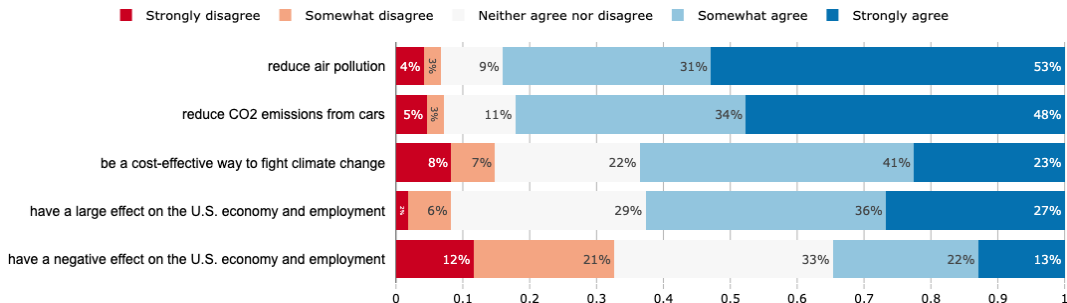
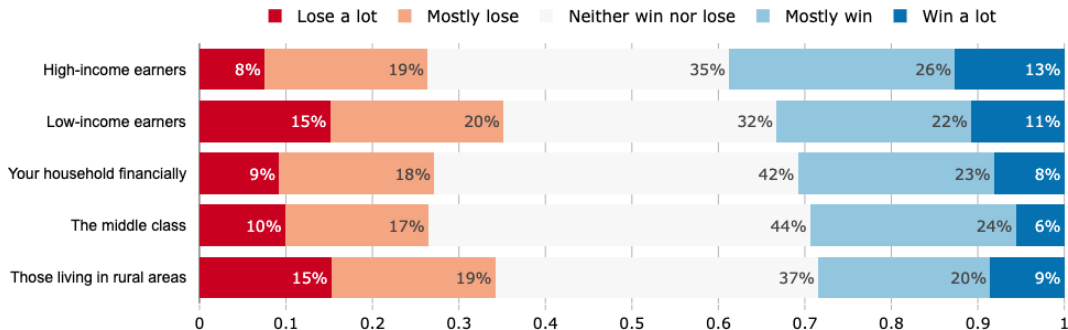


Figure 48: In your view, would the following groups win or lose if an emission limit for cars was implemented in the U.S.?



Fairness and support

Figure 49: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "An emission limit for cars is fair"?

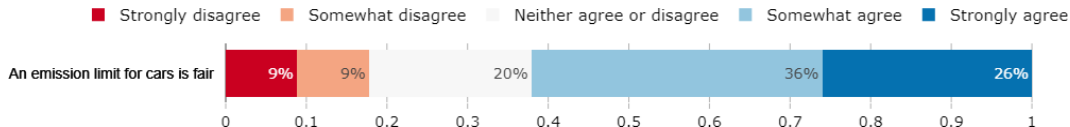


Figure 50: Do you support or oppose an emission limit for cars?

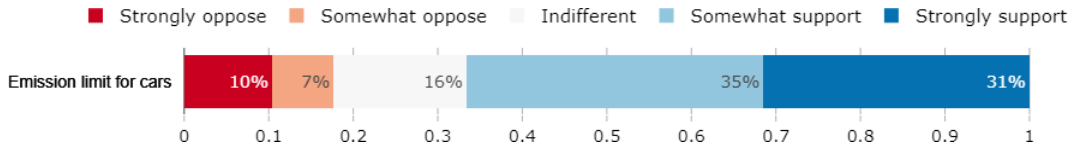


Figure 51: Do you support or oppose an emission limit for cars where alternatives such as public transports are made available to people?

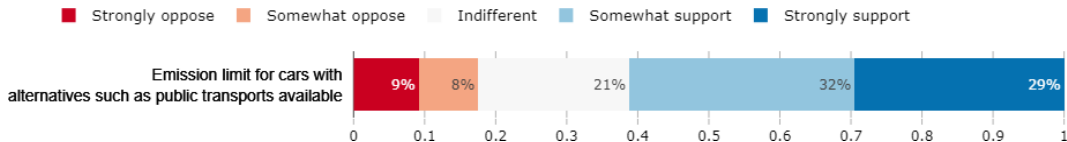


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A green infrastructure program is a large public investment program, which would be financed by additional public debt, to accomplish the transition needed to cut greenhouse gases emissions. Investments would concern renewable power plants, public transportation, thermal renovation of building, and sustainable agriculture.

Figure 52: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? A green infrastructure program would...

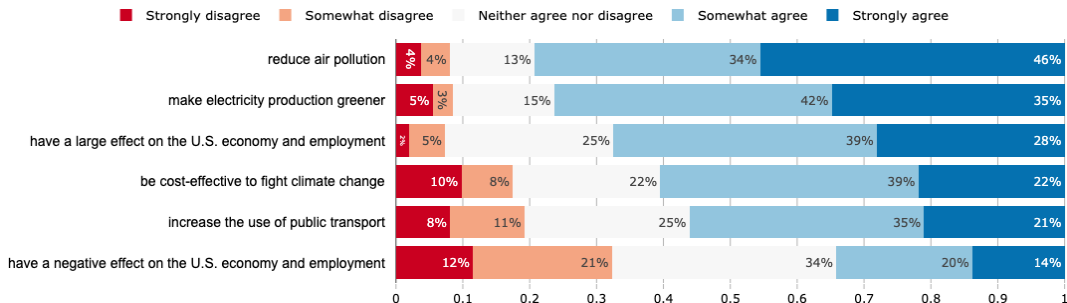
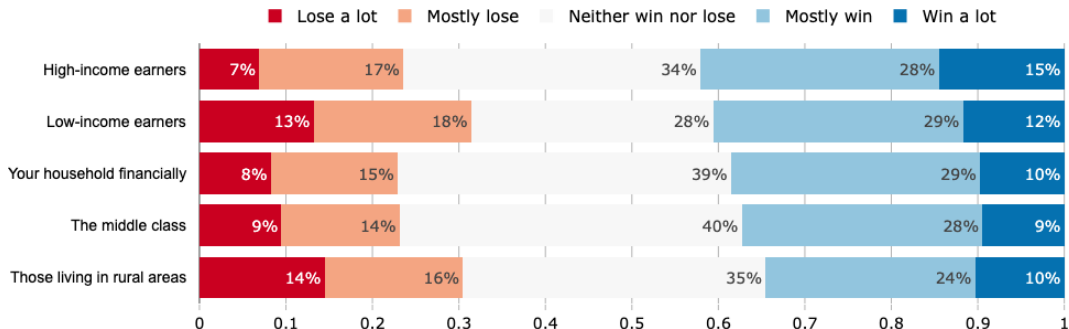


Figure 53: In your view, would the following groups win or lose with a green infrastructure program?



Fairness and support

Figure 54: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "A green infrastructure program mainly financed by public debt is fair."

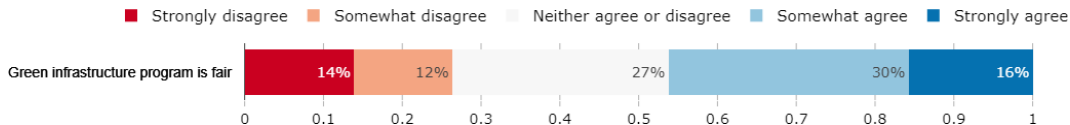


Figure 55: Do you support or oppose a green infrastructure program?

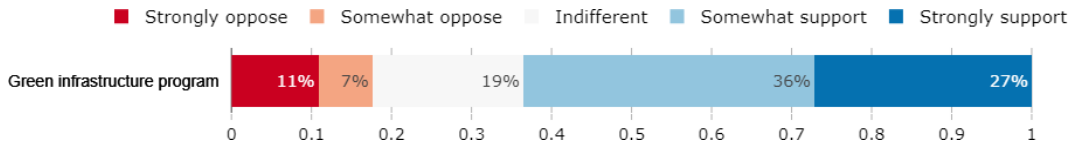


Figure 56: Until now, we have considered that a green infrastructure program would be financed by public debt, but other sources of funding are possible. What sources of funding do you find appropriate for a green infrastructure program? (Multiple answers are possible)

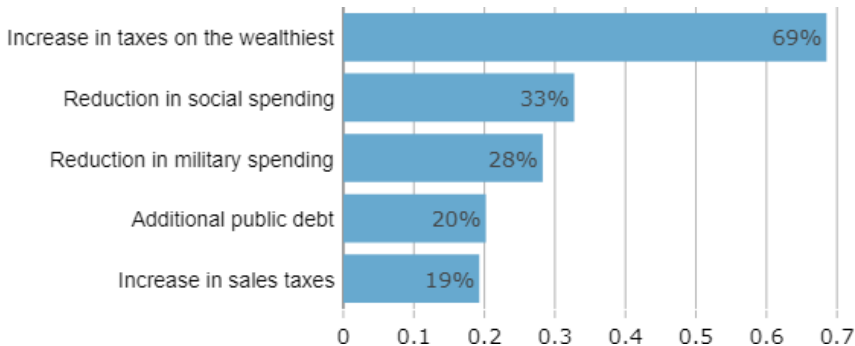


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To fight climate change, the U.S. federal government can make greenhouse gas emissions costly, to make people and firms change their equipment and reduce their emissions. The government could do this through a policy called a carbon tax with cash transfers. Under such a policy, the government would tax all products that emit greenhouse gas. For example, the price of gasoline would increase by 40 cents per gallon. To compensate households for the price increases, the revenues from the carbon tax would be redistributed to all households, regardless of their income. Each adult would thus receive \$600 per year.

Figure 57: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? A carbon tax with cash transfers would...

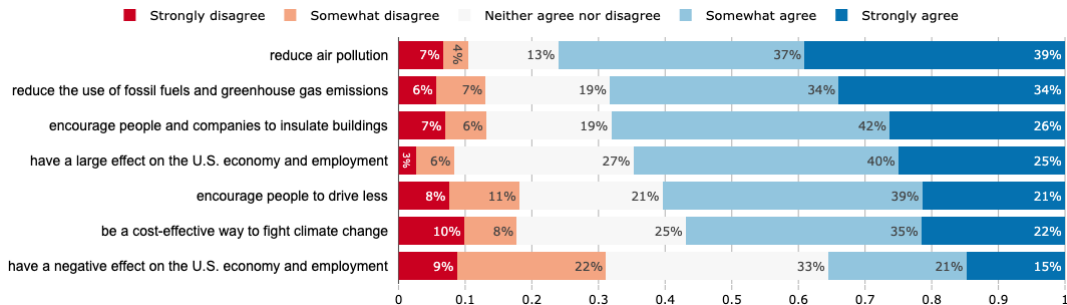
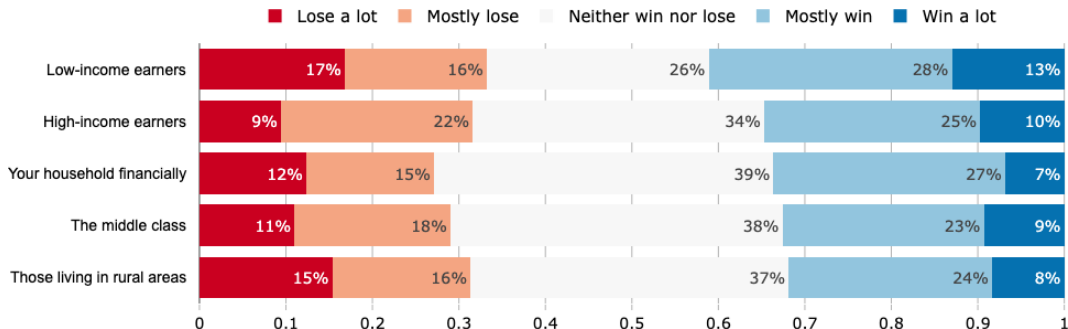


Figure 58: In your view, would the following groups win or lose under a carbon tax with cash transfers?



Fairness and support

Figure 59: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "A carbon tax with cash transfers is fair."

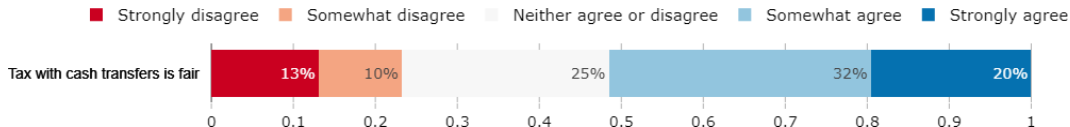


Figure 60: Do you support or oppose a carbon tax with cash transfers?

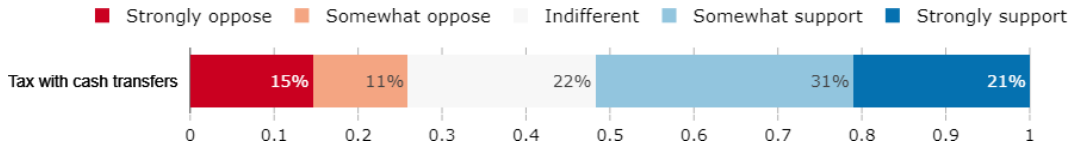


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Policy Incidence

Figure 61: Comparison of responses to each policy question: Do you think that financially your household would win or lose from the policy?

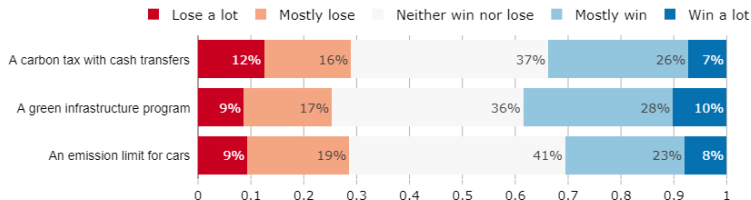
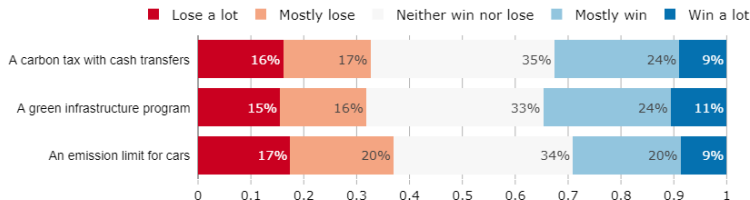


Figure 62: Comparison of responses to each policy question: In your view, would those living in rural areas win or lose from the following policy?



Policy Incidence

Figure 63: Comparison of responses to each policy question: In your view, would high-income earners win or lose from the following policy?

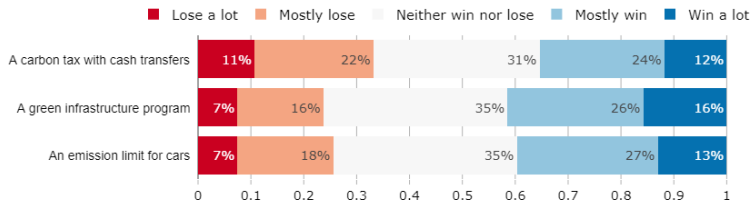


Figure 64: Comparison of responses to each policy question: In your view, would low-income earners win or lose from the following policy?

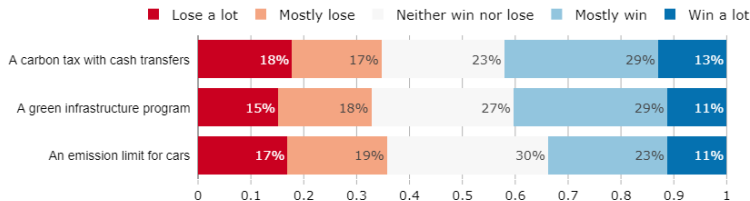


Figure 65: *Comparison of responses to each policy question: In your view, would the middle-class win or lose from the following policy?*

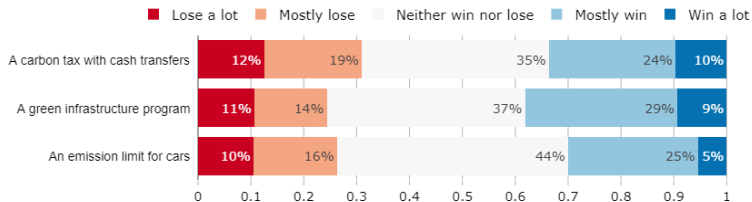


Figure 66: Comparison of responses to each policy question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *The policy would have a large effect on the U.S. economy and employment.*

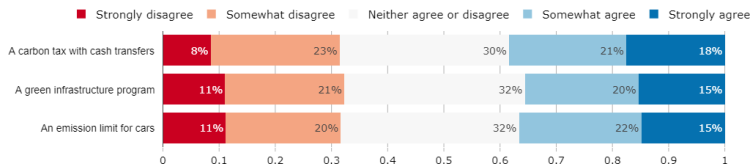


Figure 67: Comparison of responses to each policy question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *The policy would have a negative effect on the U.S. economy and employment.*

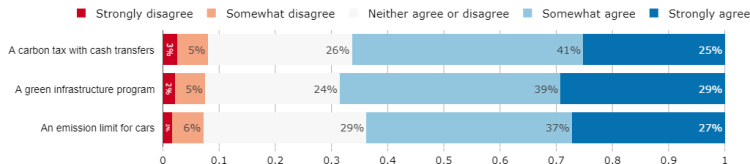


Figure 68: *Comparison of responses to each policy question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The policy would be cost-effective to fight climate change*

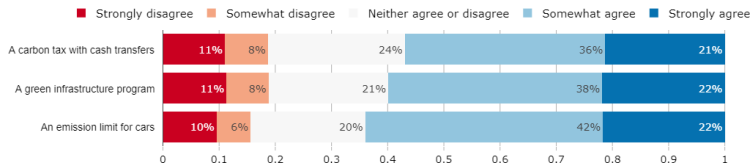


Figure 69: *Comparison of responses to each policy question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The policy is fair."*

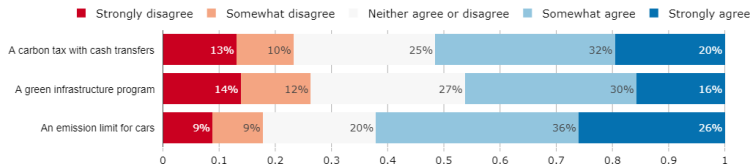


Figure 70: *Comparison of responses to each policy question: do you support or oppose the following policy?*

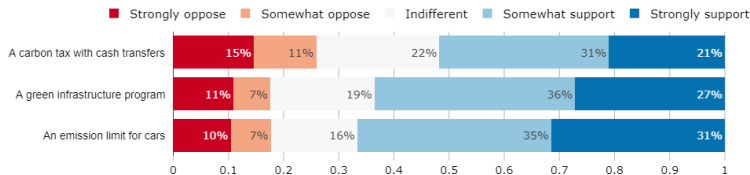


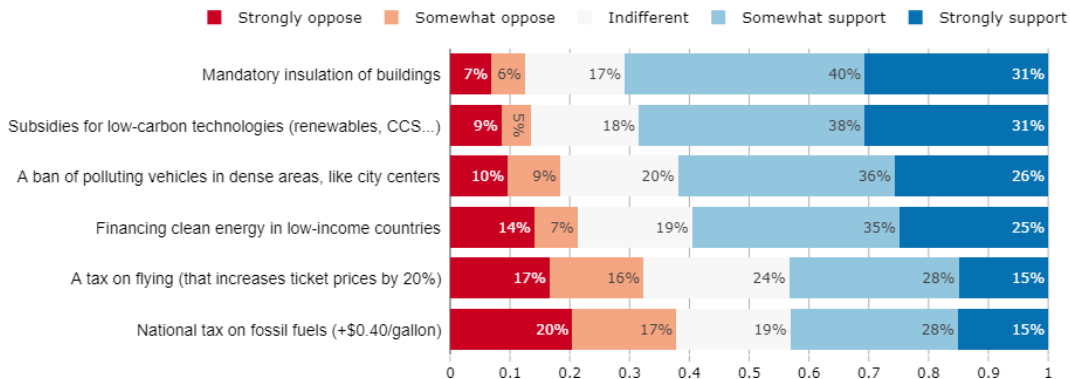
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Preferences for climate policies: summary

- Each specific policy proposed gathers a majority, the most favored being an emission limit for cars.
- People are divided regarding the properties of these policies, although most think that a green infrastructure program and an emission limit for cars would be cost-effective to fight CC.
- A majority supports each climate policy proposed (including coercive measures such as mandatory insulation of buildings) except tax policies.
- The results regarding taxes go in the other direction than the first two pilots (maybe because of the more accurate level of taxes mentioned).
- Earmarking carbon tax revenues to green investments is the preferred option while uses of revenue for firms are the least favored.
- WTP to halt climate change is higher in this pilot (median at \$50/year) than in previous waves \$18/year, but is still low.
- However, the median amount people are willing to donate to a charity is \$21 (over a potential gain of \$100).
- Most people are willing to insulate or replace heating of their accommodation, the cost of doing so is the bigger obstacle.

Figure 71: Do you support or oppose the following climate policies?



Revenue recycling of carbon tax

Figure 72: Governments can use the revenues from carbon taxes in different ways. Would you support or oppose introducing a carbon tax that would raise gasoline prices by 40 cents per gallon, if the government used this revenue to finance...

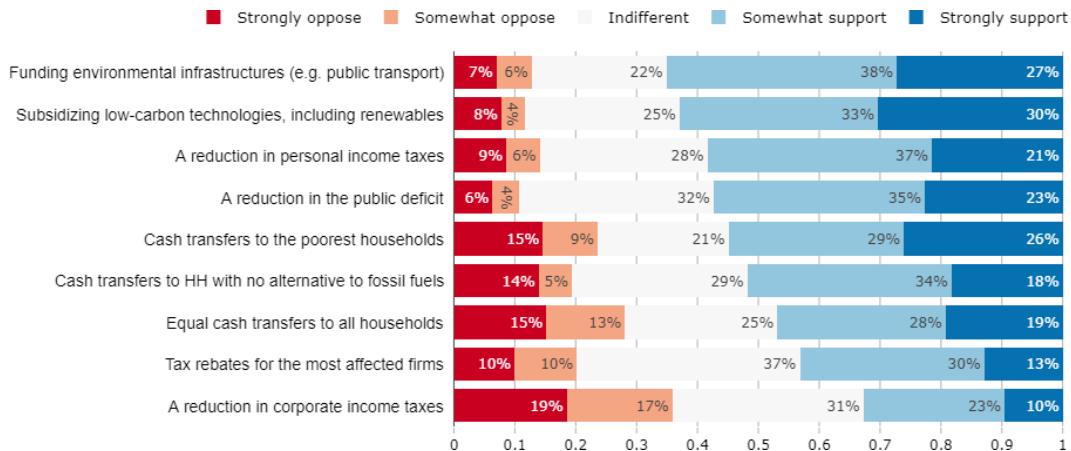


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WTP and donation

Figure 73: How much would you at most be willing to pay annually through an additional individual contribution to limit global warming to safe levels (less than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit)?

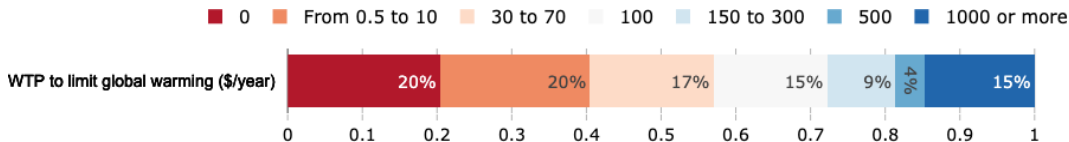


Figure 74: By taking this survey, you are entered into a lottery to win \$100. You can also donate a part of this additional compensation (should you be selected in the lottery) to a reforestation project through the charity The Gold Standard. If you win the \$100 lottery, how much will you donate to the Gold Standard charity?

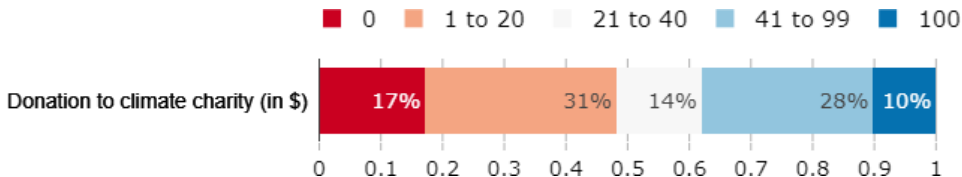


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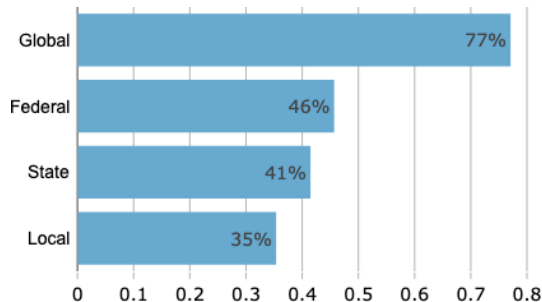
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International burden-sharing: summary

- The majority thinks that the U.S. should do more whether other countries do more or less.
- The favored burden sharing is the polluter-pays principle, although principles attributing a higher burden on high-income countries receive a relative majority support.
- A solid majority supports global policies, in particular a global democratic assembly on CC, and a global tax on millionaires to finance low-income countries that comply with international standards regarding climate action.

Governance of climate policies

Figure 75: At which level(s) do you think public policies to tackle climate change need to be put in place?
(Multiple answers are possible)



US climate policy

Figure 76: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The U.S. should take measures to fight climate change."

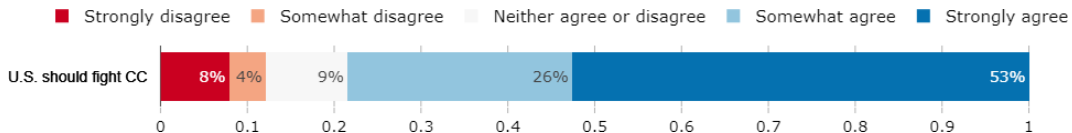


Figure 77: How should U.S. climate policies depend on what other countries do?

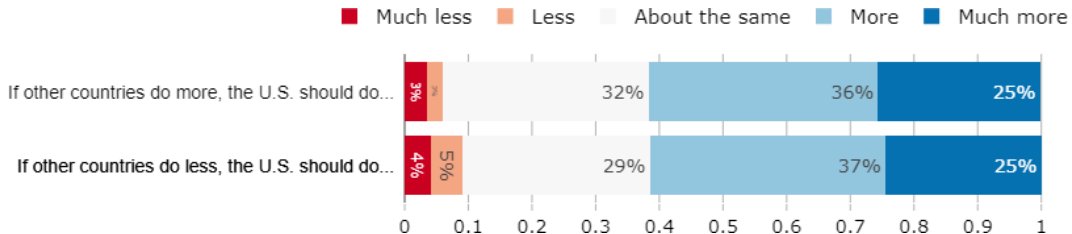


Figure 78: To achieve a given reduction of greenhouse gas emissions globally, costly investments are needed. Ideally, how should countries bear the costs of fighting climate change?

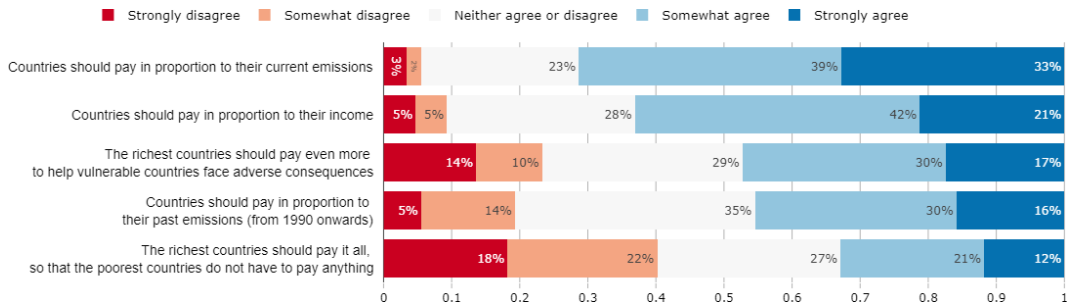


Figure 79: Do you support or oppose the following policies?

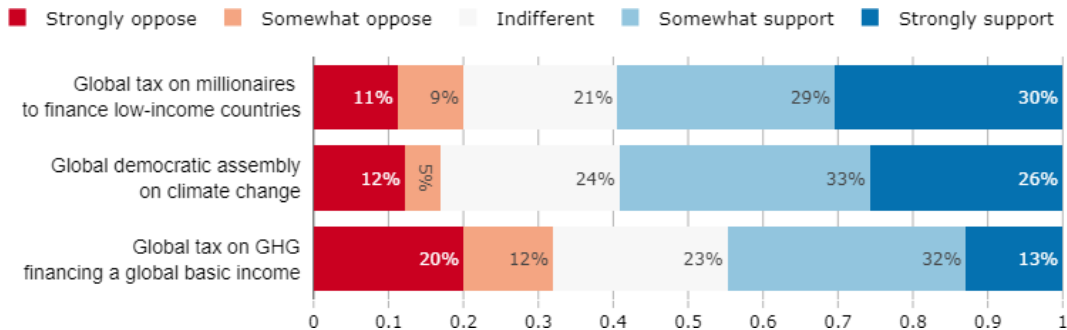


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Insulation

Figure 80: How likely is it that you will improve the insulation or replace the heating system of your accommodation over the next 5 years?

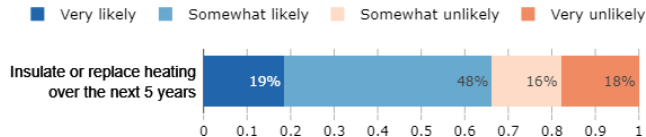


Figure 81: What are the main hurdles preventing you from improving the insulation or replace the heating system of your accommodation? (Multiple answers are possible)

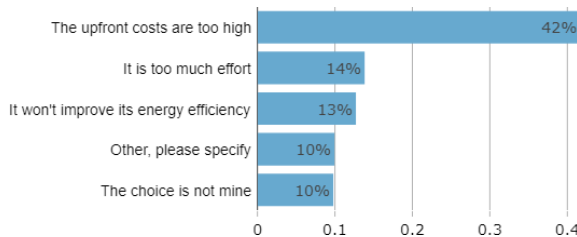
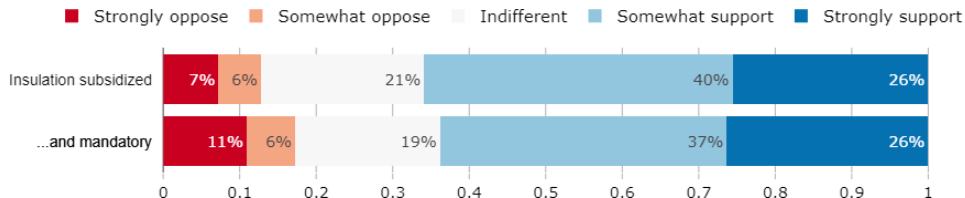


Figure 82: *i)* To reduce fuel consumption for heating and cooling, the U.S. federal government could subsidize half of the costs to renovate the insulation of residential buildings to meet a certain energy efficiency standard. *ii)* Imagine that the U.S. federal government makes it mandatory for all residential buildings to have insulation that meets a certain energy efficiency standard before 2040. The government would subsidize half of the insulation costs to help households with the transition.

Do you support or oppose such a policy?



Cattle products

Figure 83: Imagine that, in order to fight climate change, the U.S. federal government decides to limit the consumption of cattle products like beef and dairy. Do you support or oppose the following options?

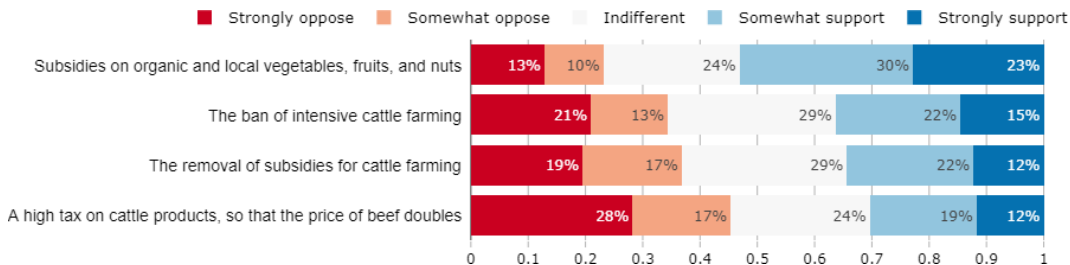


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Figure 84: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Most people can be trusted."

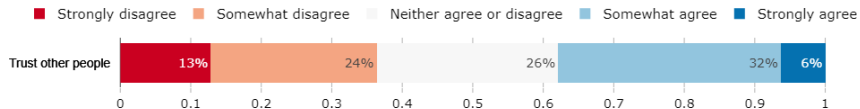
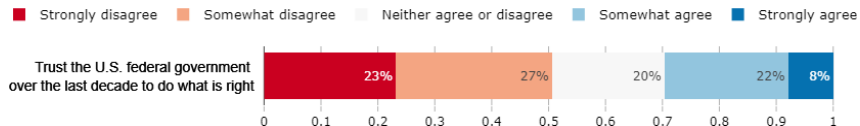


Figure 85: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Over the last decade the U.S. federal government could generally be trusted to do what is right."



Perception of institutions, inequality, and the future

Figure 86: Some people think the government is trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses. Others think that government should do more to solve our country's problems. Which come closer to your own view?

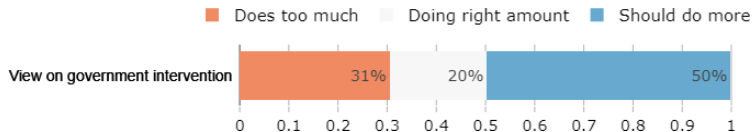


Figure 87: How big of an issue do you think income inequality is in the U.S.?

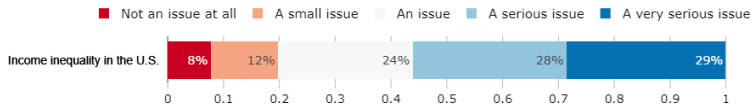


Figure 88: Do you think that overall people in the world will be richer or poorer in 100 years from now?

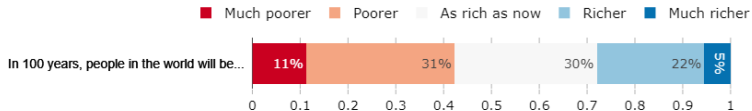


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Interest in politics and environmental organizations

Figure 89: To what extent are you interested in politics?

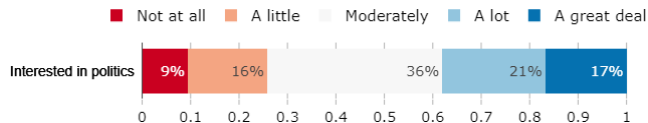


Figure 90: Are you member of an environmental organization?

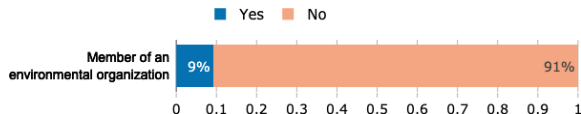
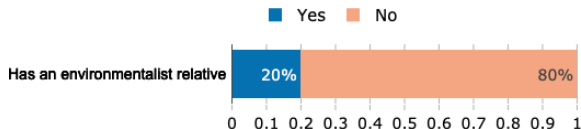


Figure 91: Do you have any relatives who are environmentalists?



Presidential election vote

Figure 92: Did you vote in the 2020 U.S. presidential election?



Figure 93: Did you vote in the 2016 U.S. presidential election?

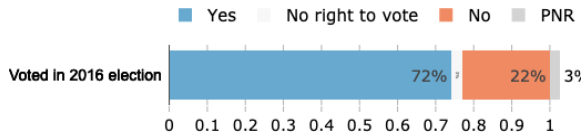


Figure 94: On economic policy matters, where do you see yourself on the liberal/conservative spectrum?

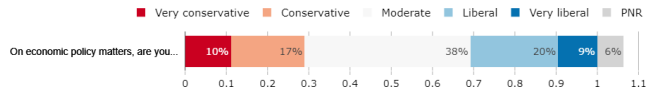


Figure 95: What do you consider to be your political affiliation, as of today?

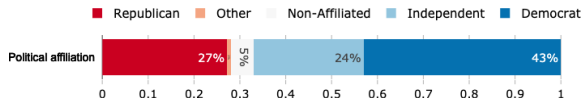


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Feedback on the survey

Figure 96: Do you feel that this survey was politically biased?

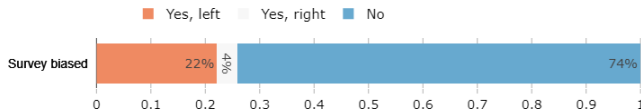


Figure 97: The survey is nearing completion. You can now enter any comments, thoughts or suggestions in the field below.



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Willingness to change behavior

Figure 98: To what extent would you be willing to adopt the following behaviors? -- Limit Flying, by Political Affiliation

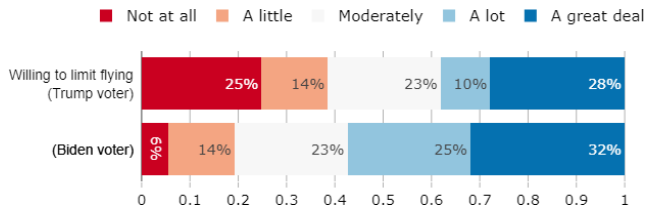


Figure 99: To what extent would you be willing to adopt the following behaviors? – Limit Beef Consumption, by Political Affiliation

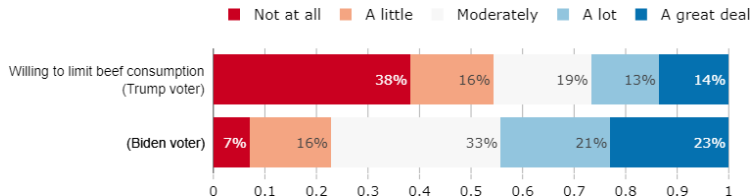


Figure 100: Do you think that overall people in the world will be richer or poorer in 100 years from now? -- by Political Affiliation

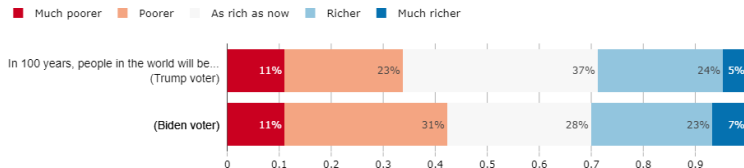
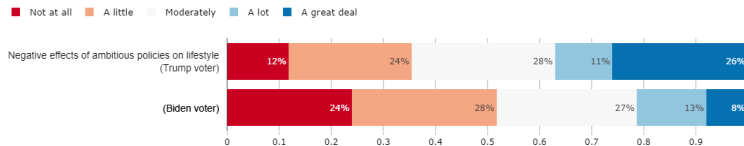


Figure 101: If we decide to halt climate change through ambitious policies, to what extent do you think it would negatively affect your lifestyle? – by Political Affiliation



Effects on own household

Figure 102: Do you think that financially your household would win or lose from the following policy? – by Political Affiliation

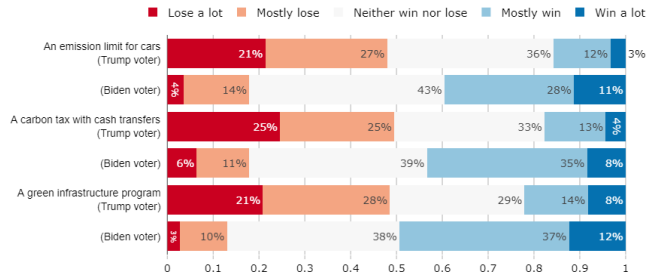
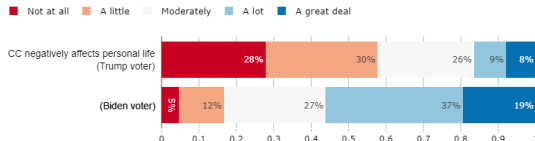


Figure 103: To what extent do you think climate change already affects or will negatively affect your personal life? – by Political Affiliation



Policies – support

Figure 104: Do you support or oppose the following policy? – by Political Affiliation

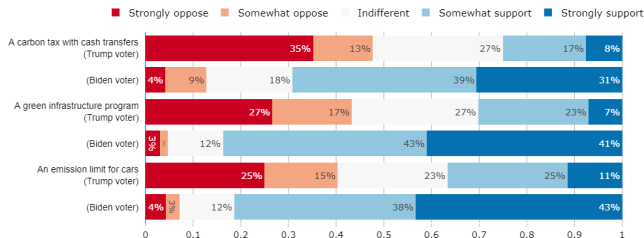
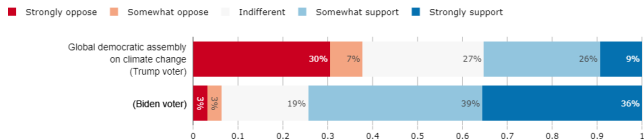


Figure 105: Do you support or oppose establishing a global democratic assembly whose role would be to draft international treaties against climate change? Each adult across the world would have one vote to elect members of the assembly. – by Political Affiliation



Policies – negative effects

Figure 106: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? This policy would have a negative effect on the U.S. economy and employment – by Political affiliation

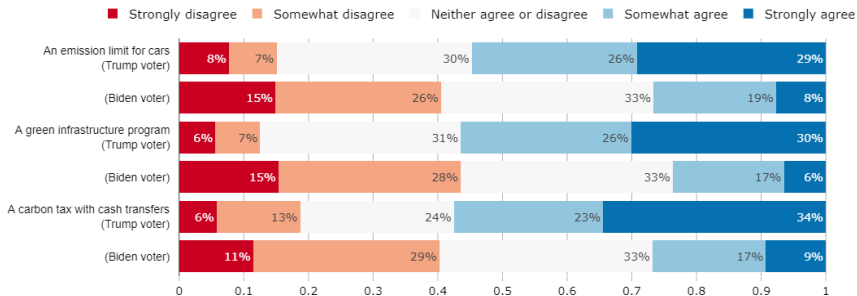


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Willingness to change behavior

Figure 107: To what extent would you be willing to adopt the following behaviors? -- Limit Flying, by Income

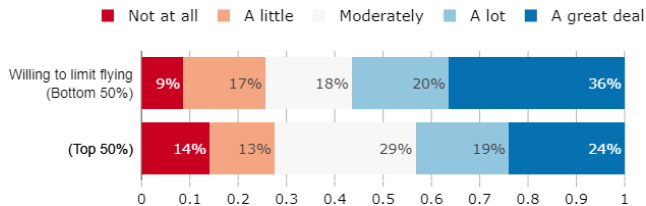


Figure 108: To what extent would you be willing to adopt the following behaviors? – Limit Beef Consumption, by Income

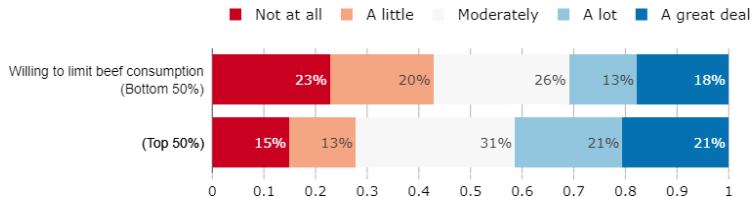


Figure 109: Do you think that overall people in the world will be richer or poorer in 100 years from now? -- by Income

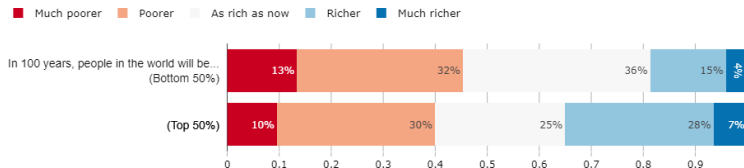
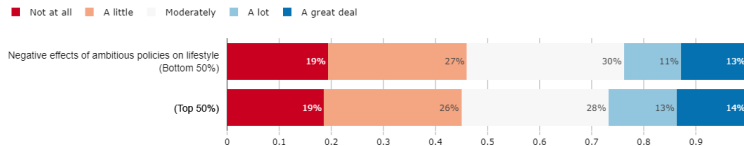


Figure 110: If we decide to halt climate change through ambitious policies, to what extent do you think it would negatively affect your lifestyle? -- by Income



Effects on own household

Figure 111: Do you think that financially your household would win or lose from the following policy? – by Income

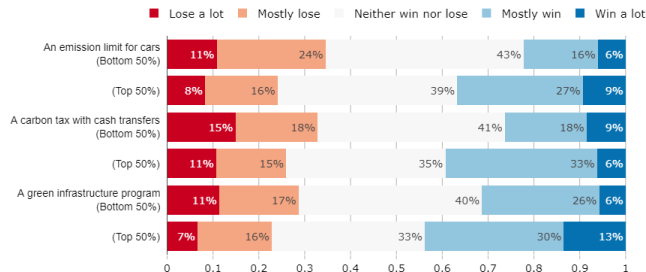
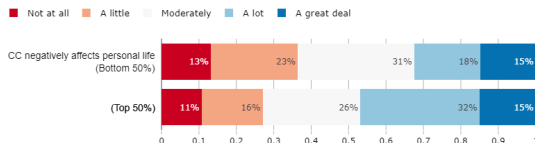


Figure 112: To what extent do you think climate change already affects or will negatively affect your personal life? – by Income



Policies – support

Figure 113: Do you support or oppose the following policy? – by Income

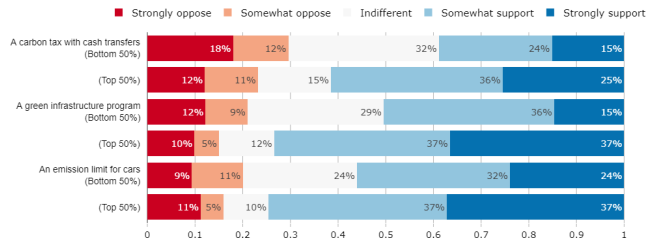
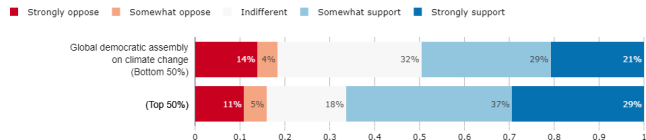


Figure 114: Do you support or oppose establishing a global democratic assembly whose role would be to draft international treaties against climate change? Each adult across the world would have one vote to elect members of the assembly. – by Income



Policies – negative effects

Figure 115: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? This policy would have a negative effect on the U.S. economy and employment – by Income

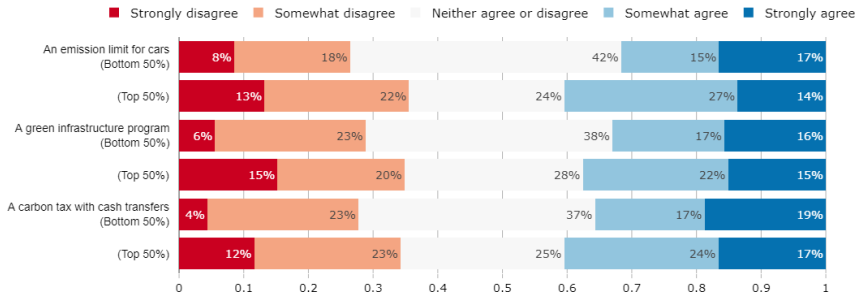


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Treatment effects: summary

- When the treatments have some positive effects on general attitudes towards CC.
- In particular, all treatments are associated with the belief that CC can cause the extinction of human kind.
- The Climate treatment has a positive effect on belief that CC is anthropogenic.
- The Policy treatment has a positive effect on support for a carbon tax with transfers, which can be linked to its effect on fairness and incidence on poor for this policy.
- Null treatment effects may also be the result of respondents not updating the information on the policies (emission limit for cars and green infrastructure program), or due to lack of attentiveness to the videos (knowledge score on the videos seem low).

Table 1: Attitudes towards Climate Change

	CC caused by humans	CC likely to cause extinction	Donation (in \$)	Ambitious policies needed	Willing to limit driving
Control group mean	0.634	0.494	40.335	0.554	0.296
Treatment: Climate	0.117** (0.047)	0.123** (0.053)	-1.704 (3.432)	0.050 (0.052)	0.067 (0.052)
Treatment: Policy	0.055 (0.046)	0.128** (0.051)	-3.017 (3.331)	0.062 (0.051)	0.079 (0.051)
Treatment: Both	0.122** (0.053)	0.203*** (0.059)	0.506 (3.846)	-0.008 (0.059)	0.164*** (0.059)
Observations	576	577	577	577	577

Note: The *CC caused by humans* indicator variable equals one if the respondent thinks a lot or most of climate change is due to human actions. The *CC likely to cause extinction* indicator variable equals one if the respondent thinks climate change is somewhat likely or very likely to cause the extinction of humankind if nothing is done to limit it. The *Donation* variable is a continuous variable equal to the amount the respondent is willing to give to a charity. The *Ambitious policies needed* indicator variable equals one if the respondent thinks policy must be a lot or a great deal ambitious in order to halt climate change. The *Willing to limit driving* indicator variable equals one if the respondent is willing a lot or a great deal to limit driving. The three *treatment* indicator variables indicate difference in mean compared to the control group (people who did not see any video). Controls include socio-demographic, economic affiliation, last vote and whether the respondent's household was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Standard errors are in parentheses.

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Table 2: Support for policies

	Support			
	Carbon tax with transfers	Green Infrastructure Program	Emission standard for cars	Average over 3 policies
Control group mean	0.501	0.666	0.708	0.709
Treatment: Climate	-0.021 (0.049)	0.038 (0.046)	-0.005 (0.047)	0.010 (0.044)
Treatment: Policy	0.144*** (0.048)	0.052 (0.044)	0.032 (0.046)	0.048 (0.042)
Treatment: Both	0.131** (0.055)	0.013 (0.051)	0.016 (0.053)	0.060 (0.049)
Observations	577	577	577	577

Note: The dependent variables are indicator variables equal to one if the respondent 'Strongly supports' or "Somewhat supports" the policy. The *Average over 3 policies* takes the average of the respondent's answers for the three policies. It equals one if the respondent support all three policies, 2/3 if she supports two, 1/3 if she support only one, and 0 if she supports none.

See notes under previous Table for a description of the covariates.

Controls include socio-demographic, economic affiliation, last vote and whether the respondent's household was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Standard errors are in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Table 3: Attitudes towards policies

	Fair	HH would win	Poor would win	Large economic effect	Negative economic effect
Control group mean	0.608	0.429	0.368	0.764	0.426
Treatment: Climate	0.065 (0.048)	0.055 (0.052)	0.030 (0.053)	-0.041 (0.048)	-0.017 (0.054)
Treatment: Policy	0.079* (0.046)	0.023 (0.051)	0.163*** (0.052)	0.062 (0.047)	-0.063 (0.052)
Treatment: Both	0.104* (0.053)	0.103* (0.058)	0.271*** (0.060)	0.090* (0.054)	-0.067 (0.061)
Observations	577	556	575	577	577

Note: The dependent variables are discrete variables equal either to 0, 1/3, 2/3, or 1. They are equal to the average over the three policies mentioned in Table "Support policies". The *Fair* variable equals one if the respondent strongly agrees or somewhat agrees that each of the three policies are fair. The *HH/Poor would win* variables equal one if the respondent thinks her household/the poorest would win a lot or mostly win from the three policies. The *Large/Negative economic effect* variables equal one if the respondent strongly agrees or somewhat agrees that the three policies would have a large/negative impact on the U.S. economy and employment.

Controls include socio-demographic, economic affiliation, last vote and whether the respondent's household was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Standard errors are in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$