

Climate survey - US pilot

OECD

Results of the US pilots: sample of 502 respondents, representative along the gender, age, income, region and rural/urban dimensions.

February 2021

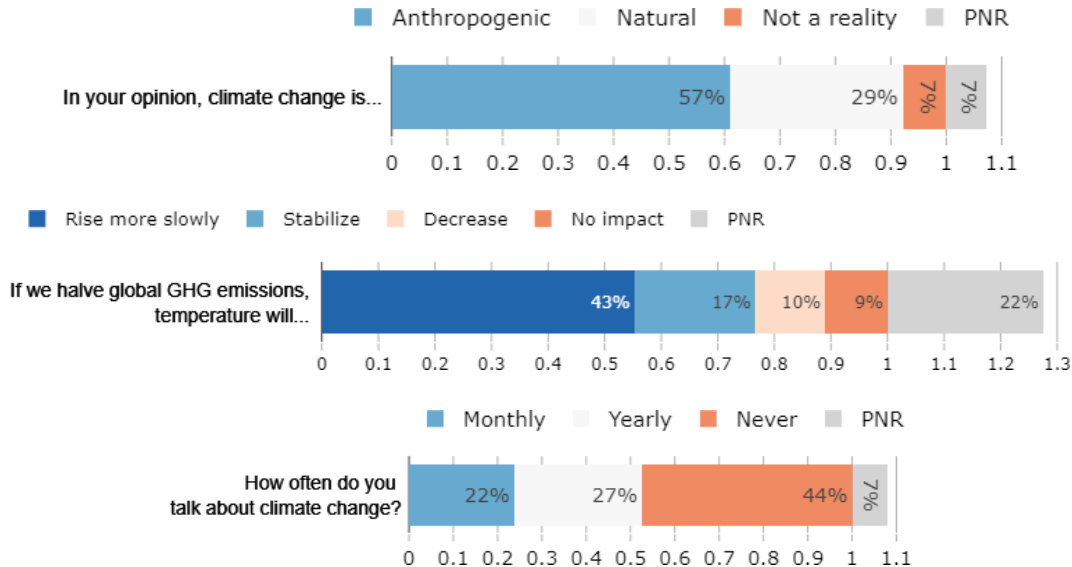
1 Climate attitudes

2 Policies

3 Burden sharing

4 Treatment effects

Knowledge



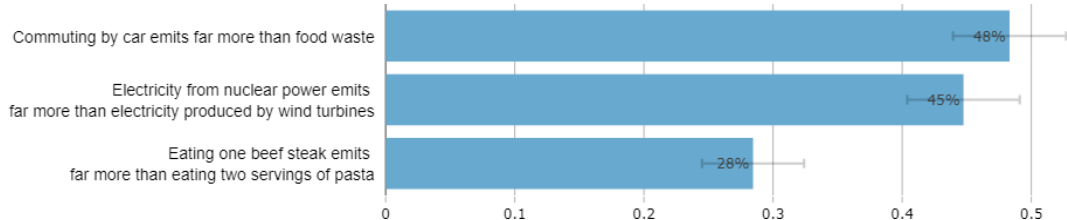
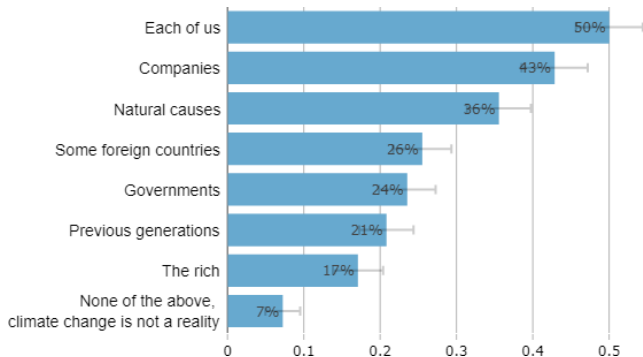


Figure: Perceived factors (↑) and responsible entities (↓)



Perceptions regarding the future

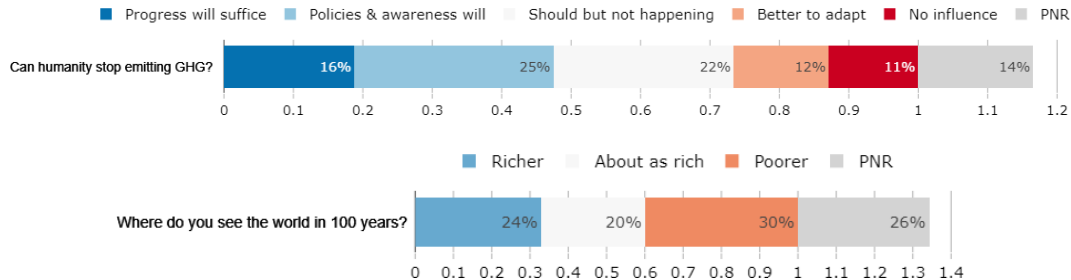
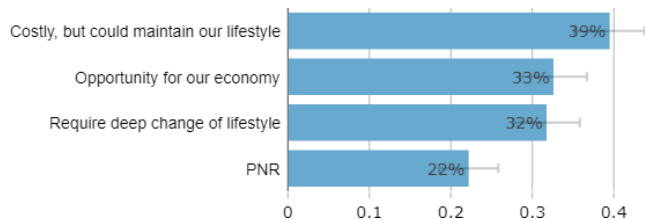
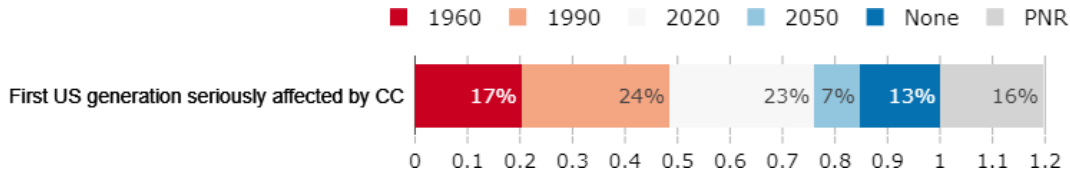
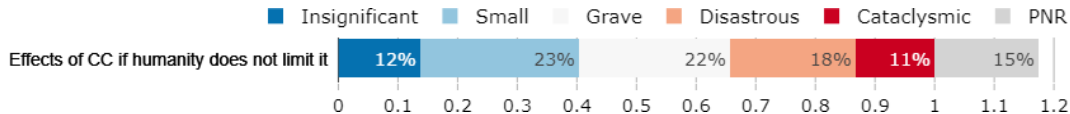
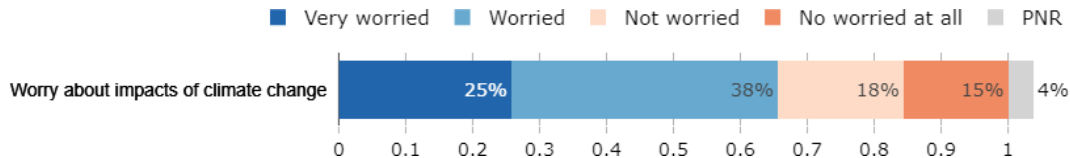
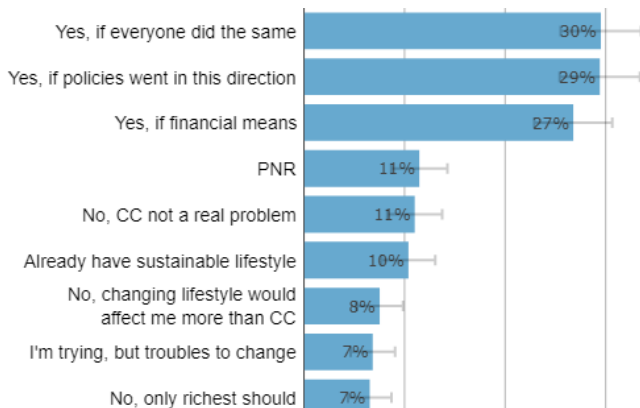
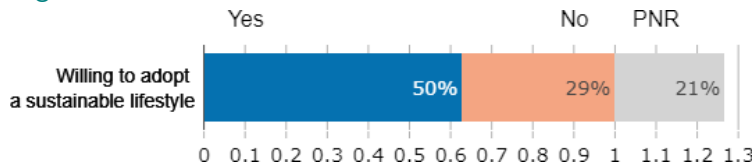


Figure: (↓) What would be the effect of policies aimed at halting CC?





Willingness to change



- In line with previous research, we find that about 60% of Americans acknowledge that CC exists and is anthropogenic.
- About half of people have correct answers regarding the dynamics and factors of CC.
- A relative majority thinks that the world will get poorer in the future, though a relative majority think humanity will succeed to halt climate change.
- About half of people are worried about climate change and think that it will affect already born Americans.
- A majority declares to be willing to radically change their lifestyle if actions are shared, universal, and fair.

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Figure: Would you support the following climate policies?

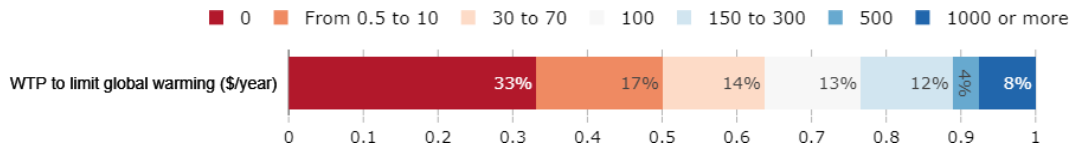
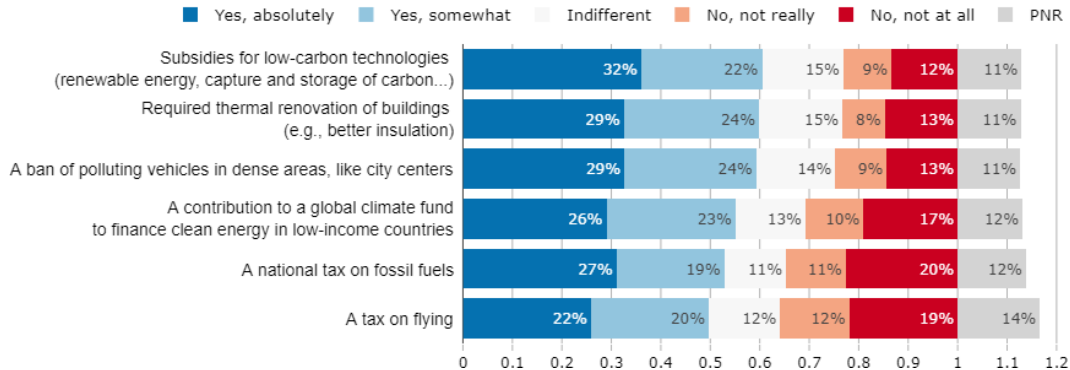


Figure: In favor of carbon tax, if revenues used to...

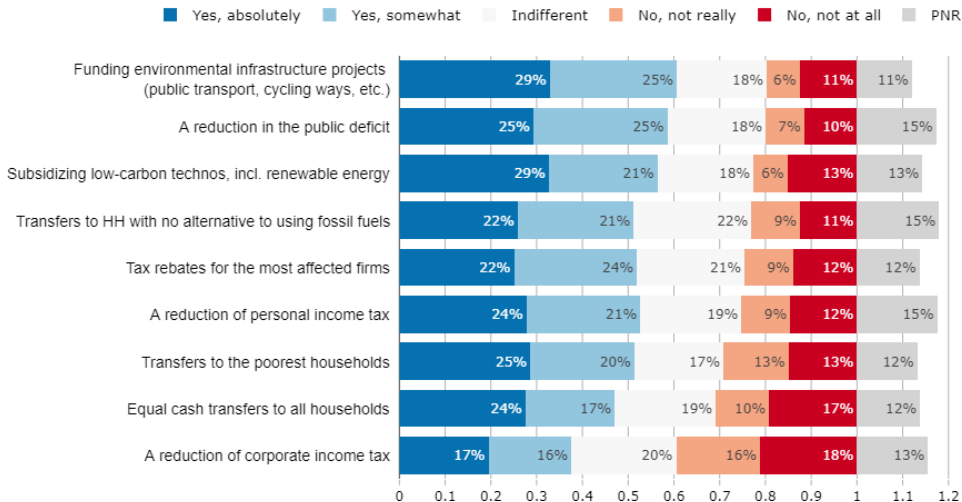


Figure: Would you support. . .

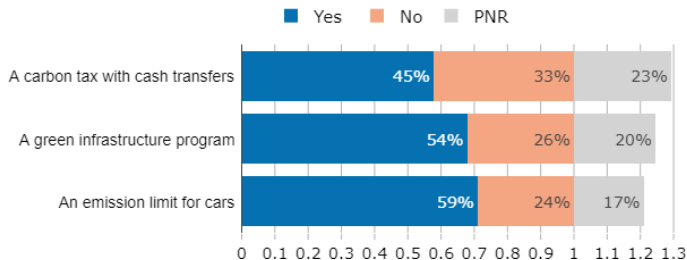


Figure: Do you think **your household** will win or lose financially from. . .

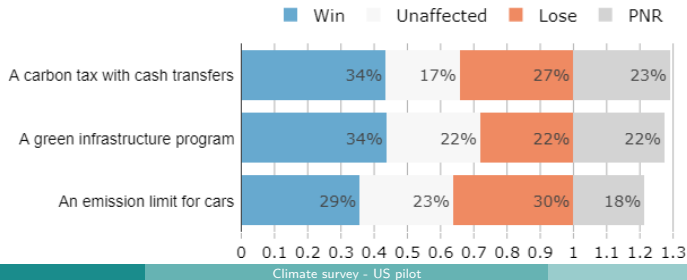


Figure: Do you think **the richest** will win or lose financially from...

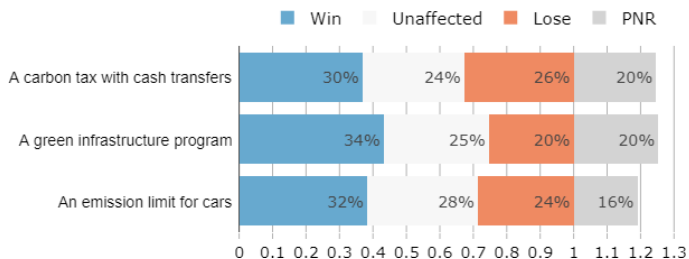


Figure: Do you think **the poorest** will win or lose financially from...

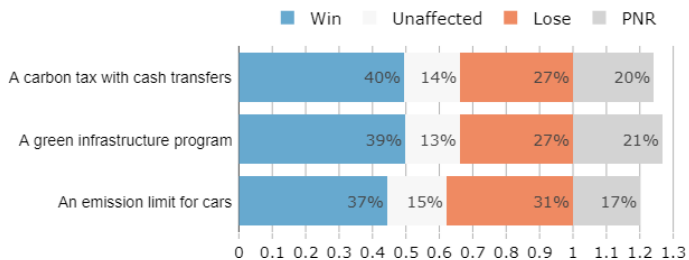


Figure: Do you think the following policies would be effective to fight climate change

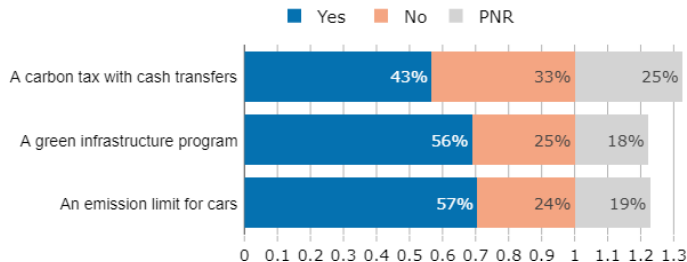
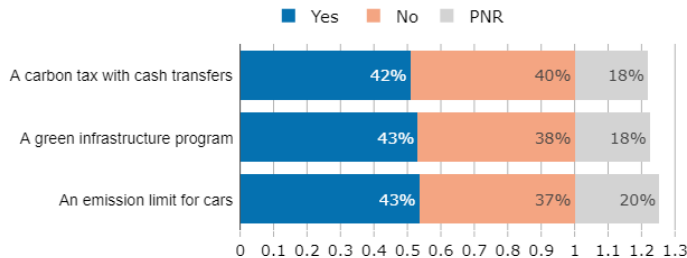
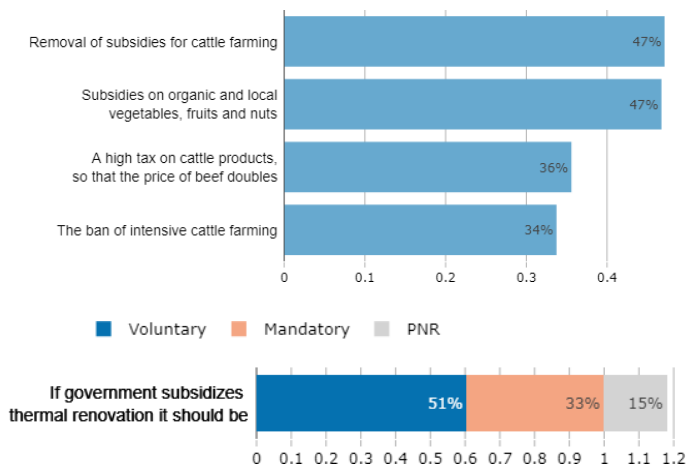


Figure: Could you trust the federal government to implement the following policies



Bans vs. incentives

Figure: Which option(s) to limit consumption of beef would you approve of? (Excluding PNR)



Policy attitudes: summary

- A majority supports each climate policy proposed, including coercive measures, including carbon or fuel taxes.
- Favored options to recycle carbon tax revenues are green spending or reduction in the deficit, equal cash transfers come almost last.
- Yet, people care about their purchasing power as median WTP to halt CC is a mere \$18/year.
- 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 effective to fight CC.
- A majority favors incentives rather than bans.
- A tax on beef singles out as a measure not supported by a majority. This can be linked to widespread ignorance of beef's GHG footprint.

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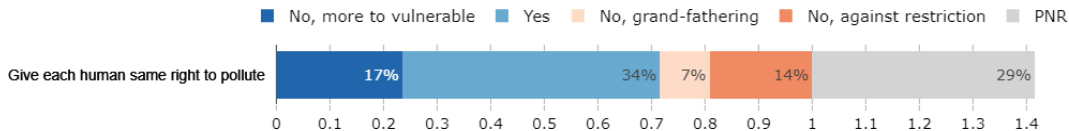
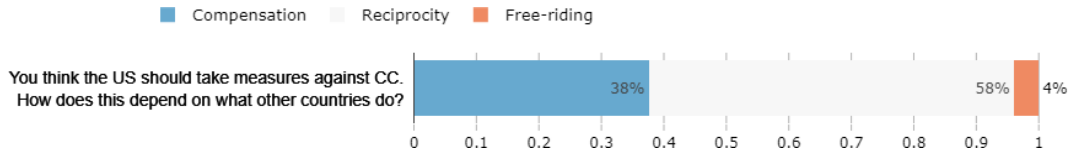
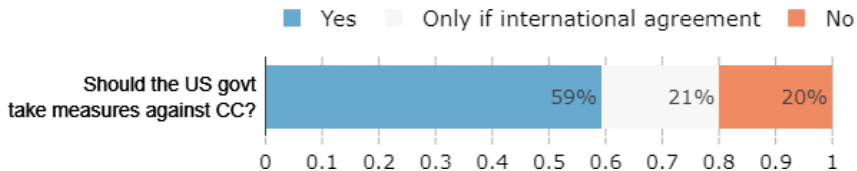


Figure: At which level do we need climate policies?

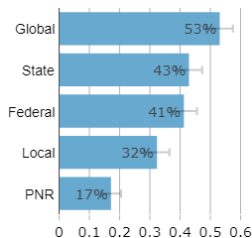


Figure: To fight climate change, would you approve a...

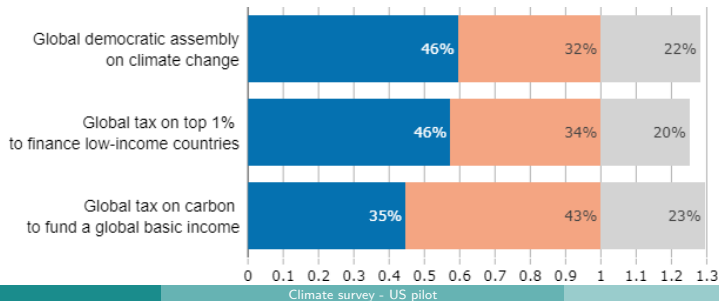
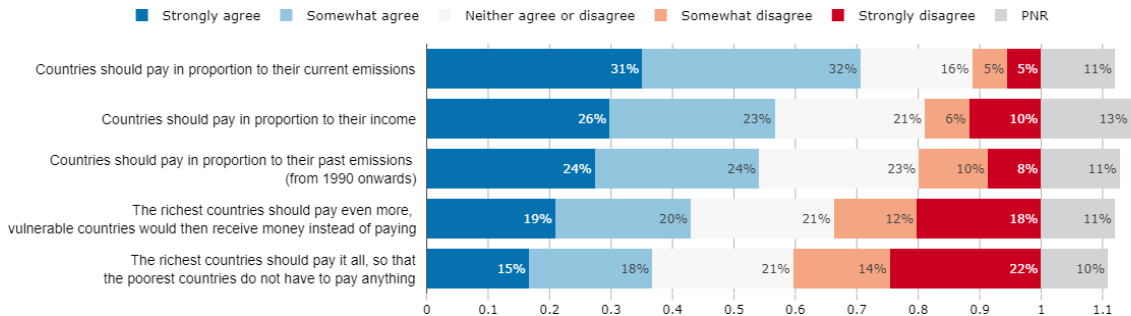


Figure: How should countries bear the costs of fighting climate change?



Burden sharing: summary

- Majorities think that climate policies should be enacted at the global level, support a global democratic assembly on CC, and global redistribution.
- A solid majority thinks the US should act against CC whatever even if it is not part an international agreement, and very few think the US should free-ride.
- A majority thinks that each human should be entitled the same right to pollute (or that the more vulnerable should get extra compensation)
- The favored burden sharing is the polluter-pays principle
- Despite these two points, a relative majority opposes a global tax and dividend

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Table: Attitudes towards Climate Change

	Placebo tests		Genuine treatment effects		
	Approve global equal quota	CC Anthropogenic	Worried about CC	US should act	Willing to change lifestyle
Treatment: Climate	-0.128** (0.061)	-0.057 (0.061)	0.017 (0.060)	-0.016 (0.103)	-0.077 (0.105)
Treatment: Policy	-0.005 (0.059)	-0.047 (0.059)	0.034 (0.058)	0.025 (0.096)	-0.115 (0.098)
Treatment: Both	-0.096 (0.060)	-0.050 (0.060)	0.020 (0.059)	0.066 (0.107)	0.111 (0.109)
Wave: Pilot 2	0.134*** (0.044)	0.160*** (0.044)	0.094** (0.043)	0.093 (0.092)	-0.025 (0.094)
Pilot 2 × Climate				0.016 (0.127)	0.125 (0.129)
Pilot 2 × Policy				-0.012 (0.123)	0.240* (0.126)
Pilot 2 × Both				0.020 (0.130)	0.070 (0.133)
Control group mean	0.534	0.661	0.678	0.585	0.508
Observations	463	463	463	463	463

Table: Support policies

	Support			
	Carbon tax with transfers	Green Infrastructure Program	Standard emission for cars	Average over 3 policies
Control group mean	0.398	0.508	0.568	0.218
Climate treatment only	0.044 (0.060)	0.083 (0.059)	0.048 (0.061)	0.082 (0.085)
Policy treatment only	0.177*** (0.058)	0.103* (0.057)	0.011 (0.058)	0.141* (0.081)
Both treatments	0.141** (0.060)	0.191*** (0.059)	0.132** (0.060)	0.301*** (0.084)
wave: Pilote 2	-0.030 (0.042)	-0.044 (0.041)	0.003 (0.042)	0.013 (0.059)
Observations	499	499	499	499

Note: The dependent variables are indicator variables equal to one if the respondent 'Strongly supports' or 'Rather 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. See notes under previous Table for a description of the covariates.

Controls include socio-demographic and last vote. Standard errors are in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Table: Attitudes towards policies

	Trust implementation	Effective	Effect on my HH	Effect on poorest	Effect on employment	Other side effects
Control group mean	-0.099	0.201	0.028	0.021	0.195	0.291
Climate treatment only	0.269*** (0.091)	0.092 (0.086)	0.241** (0.111)	0.124 (0.118)	0.062 (0.074)	0.088 (0.073)
Policy treatment only	0.268*** (0.087)	0.291*** (0.082)	0.128 (0.104)	0.404*** (0.111)	0.176** (0.071)	0.267*** (0.070)
Both treatments	0.365*** (0.091)	0.278*** (0.085)	0.253** (0.109)	0.172 (0.119)	0.235*** (0.074)	0.310*** (0.073)
wave: Pilote 2	-0.065 (0.064)	0.046 (0.060)	-0.077 (0.076)	0.009 (0.082)	-0.043 (0.052)	-0.031 (0.051)
Observations	499	499	338	349	499	499

Note: The dependent variables range from -1 to 1 depending on how the respondent agrees with the proposition. They are equal to the average over the three policies mentioned in Table "Support policies". For instance *Trust implementation* equals one if the respondent trusts the U.S. government to implement the three policies. The *Effect on my HH/poorest* variables equal 1 if the respondent thinks her household/the poorest would win from the policy and -1 if she thinks her household/the poorest would lose. The *Effect on employment/Other side effect* variables equal 1 if the respondent thinks the policies have positive impact on employment/overall and -1 if she thinks they have a negative impact.

Controls include socio-demographic and last vote. Standard errors are in parentheses. * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Treatment effects: summary

- The treatments have no notable effects on general attitudes towards CC (except perhaps the Policy treatment on the willingness to change one's lifestyle)
- The placebo test fails as the Climate treatment is negatively correlated with approval of an equal emission permit for each human (false positive).
- The Policy treatment has a positive effect on support for specific policies (+10-17 p.p.) and the interaction with the Climate treatment is also significant on the support for an emission limit for cars.
- This effect is likely mediated by the effect of the Policy treatment on beliefs regarding the policies' properties, as such effects are sizable. Here, the Climate treatment also appears to have significant effects in a few cases.
- In the end, evidence of interaction effects between the two treatments is not so pervasive (and essentially comes from the support for an emission limit).