

Variable name	Variable explanation
group	Group respondent was assigned to (soft info, hard info, or control)
Climate change beliefs	
underway	The probability that climate change is already underway, initial survey
underway_f	The probability that climate change is already underway, follow-up survey
humans	The probability that climate change is caused by humans, initial survey
humans_f	The probability that climate change is caused by humans, follow-up survey
policy	The probability that policy decisions don't need to be made, initial survey
policy_f	The probability that policy decisions don't need to be made, follow-up survey
change_2050	Expected temperature change by 2050, Fahrenheit, initial survey
change_2050_f	Expected temperature change by 2050, Fahrenheit, follow-up survey
pr_decrease_25	The probability that temperatures decrease by 2.5 or more degrees F by 2050
pr_decrease_5	The probability that temperatures decrease by 5 or more degrees F by 2050
pr_increase_25	The probability that temperatures increase by 2.5 or more degrees F by 2050
pr_increase_5	The probability that temperatures increase by 5 or more degrees F by 2050
donation	Donation amount, initial survey
donation_f	Donation amount, follow-up survey
interested_climate_change_policy	Answer to "I am very interested in what's going on with climate change policy", initial survey
interested_climate_change_policy_f	Answer to "I am very interested in what's going on with climate change policy", follow-up survey
moral_obligation	Answer to "As a society, we have a moral obligation to leave future generations at least as well off as we were", initial survey.
moral_obligation_f	Answer to "As a society, we have a moral obligation to leave future generations at least as well off as we were", follow-up survey.
too_late	Answer to "It's too late to prevent the harmful effects of global warming", initial survey.
too_late_f	Answer to "It's too late to prevent the harmful effects of global warming", follow-up survey.
climate_models_unreliable	Answer to "Climate models are not nearly as reliable as climate scientists claim", initial survey.

climate_models_unreliable_f	Answer to “Climate models are not nearly as reliable as climate scientists claim”, follow-up survey.
scientists_ideological	Answer to “Climate scientists have ideological beliefs that prevent them from carrying out objective research”, initial survey.
scientists_ideological_f	Answer to “Climate scientists have ideological beliefs that prevent them from carrying out objective research”, follow-up survey.
sufficient_scrutiny	Answer to “Climate scientists subject their findings to a sufficient amount of scrutiny”, initial survey.
sufficient_scrutiny_f	Answer to “Climate scientists subject their findings to a sufficient amount of scrutiny”, follow-up survey.
gain_financially	Answer to “Climate scientists gain financially from research that supports, rather than contradicts, the theory of global warming”, initial survey.
gain_financially_f	Answer to “Climate scientists gain financially from research that supports, rather than contradicts, the theory of global warming”, follow-up survey.
Beliefs about the beliefs of scientists	
nsci_human_caused_all	What percent of scientists knowledgeable about climate change would agree that climate change is caused by humans, initial survey.
nsci_human_caused_all_f	What percent of scientists knowledgeable about climate change would agree that climate change is caused by humans, follow-up survey.
nsci_human_caused_top_climate	What percent of scientists that publish in top climate journals would agree that climate change is caused by humans, initial survey.
nsci_underway_all	What percent of scientists knowledgeable about climate change would agree that climate change is underway, initial survey.
nsci_underway_all_f	What percent of scientists knowledgeable about climate change would agree that climate change is underway, follow-up survey.
nsci_underway_top_climate	What percent of scientists that publish in top climate journals would agree that climate change is underway, initial survey.
nsci_policy_all	What percent of scientists knowledgeable about climate change would agree that policy decisions do not need to be made, initial survey.
nsci_policy_all_f	What percent of scientists knowledgeable about climate change would agree that policy decisions do not need to be made, follow-up survey.
nsci_policy_top_climate	What percent of scientists that publish in top climate journals would agree that policy decisions do not need to be made, initial survey.

Beliefs about the information (hard information treatment only)	
survey_accurate	Whether the survey is accurate.
probability_accurate	Probability that the views of the climate scientists who took the referenced survey closely reflect the views of all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change.
reason_wrong	Why survey does not reflect the views of all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change.
Climate knowledge	
gasX, X is between 1 and 7	Gas identified by respondent as a greenhouse gas, initial survey.
gasX_f, X is between 1 and 7	Gas identified by respondent as a greenhouse gas, follow-up survey.
correct_albedo	Whether respondent correctly identified what the albedo effect is, initial survey.
correct_albedo_f	Whether respondent correctly identified what the albedo effect is, follow-up survey.
correct_co2_conc	Whether respondent correctly identified the atmospheric concentration of CO ₂ , initial survey.
correct_co2_conc_f	Whether respondent correctly identified the atmospheric concentration of CO ₂ , initial survey.
Demographic variables	
age	Respondent's age in years
state	Respondent's state of residence
gender	Respondent's gender
hispanic	= 1 if respondent self-identified as Hispanic, 0 otherwise
asian	= 1 if respondent self-identified as Asian, 0 otherwise
black	= 1 if respondent self-identified as black, 0 otherwise
white	= 1 if respondent self-identified as white, 0 otherwise
pacific_islander	= 1 if respondent self-identified as Pacific Islander, 0 otherwise
native_american	= 1 if respondent self-identified as Native American, 0 otherwise
other	= 1 if respondent self-identified as other, 0 otherwise
employment	Employment status
education	Respondent's education category
ideology	Respondent's ideology
income	Respondent's income category

Survey Protocol

INITIAL SURVEY

INTRODUCTION - ALL SUBJECTS

Q1. How much do you agree with each of the following statements? Strongly agree/agree/disagree/strongly disagree. RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. I am very interested in what's going on with climate change policy.
- b. As a society, we have a moral obligation to leave future generations at least as well off as we were.
- c. It's too late to prevent the harmful effects of global warming.
- d. Climate scientists subject their findings to a sufficient amount of scrutiny.
- e. Climate scientists gain financially from research that supports, rather than contradicts, the theory of global warming.
- f. Climate scientists have ideological beliefs that prevent them from carrying out objective research.
- g. Climate models are not nearly as reliable as climate scientists claim.

Q2. Which of the following gases is thought to contribute to global warming (select as many as apply)? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. Methane
- b. Carbon dioxide
- c. Argon
- d. Nitrogen
- e. Oxygen
- f. Nitrous oxide
- g. Ozone

Q3. Which of the following best demonstrates the albedo effect? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. Ice and other light surfaces reflecting sunlight back into the atmosphere.
- b. Prevailing winds causing storm systems to rotate clockwise in the northern hemisphere.
- c. Abnormally warm ocean temperatures causing more precipitation in some parts of the world.
- d. Atmospheric gases trapping reflected sunlight and re-radiating some of it back toward the planet's surface.

Q4. Which of the following is closest to the current carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. 390-395 parts per million

- b. 270-275 parts per million
- c. 545-550 parts per million
- d. 195-200 parts per million

SOFT INFORMATION TREATMENT ADDITION

There is strong scientific consensus about the occurrence and cause of global warming. The overwhelming majority of scientists agree that global warming is already underway and that human activities are accelerating it. Moreover, most scientists agree that there is enough certainty about the rate and extent of global warming to warrant immediate policy decisions.

HARD INFORMATION TREATMENT ADDITION

There is strong scientific consensus about the occurrence and cause of global warming. In a 2005 academic survey of US scientists who have published articles in the top climate science journals, 94 percent of scientists agreed with the statement “Scientists can say with great certainty that global warming is a process that is already underway.” 88 percent agreed with the statement “Scientists can say with great certainty that human activities are accelerating global warming.” 9 percent agreed with the statement “There is enough scientific uncertainty about the rate and extent of global warming and climate change that there is no need for immediate policy decisions.”

Source: Rosenberg S., Vedlitz A., Cowman D., and S. Zahran. 2010. “Climate change: a profile of U.S. climate scientists’ perspectives”, *Climatic Change* 101 (3–4): pp. 663-668

HARD INFORMATION TREATMENT ONLY

Q5a. What do you think is the probability that the views of the climate scientists who took the survey above closely reflect the views of all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change? (Out of 100%)

Slider – 0% Impossible, 25% Very unlikely, 50% Neither likely nor unlikely, 75% Very likely, 100% Certain

Q5b. If you believe the survey does not reflect the view of all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change, why is that (select as many as apply)?

Not applicable, believe survey is accurate.

Scientists participating in the survey misstated their true views.

The sample of scientists who participated in the survey does not adequately represent all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change.

Q6. Suppose all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change were surveyed. What percentage of them do you think would agree with each of the following statements? (Number of scientists out of 100)

- i. “Scientists can say with great certainty that global warming is a process that is already underway.”
- ii. “Scientists can say with great certainty that human activities are accelerating global warming.”
- iii. “There is enough scientific uncertainty about the rate and extent of global warming and climate change that there is no need for immediate policy decisions.”

CONTROL AND SOFT INFORMATION TREATMENTS ONLY

Q5. Suppose all US scientists who have published articles in top climate journals were surveyed. What percentage of them do you think would agree with each of the following statements? (Number of scientists out of 100)

- i. “Scientists can say with great certainty that global warming is a process that is already underway.”
- ii. “Scientists can say with great certainty that human activities are accelerating global warming.”
- iii. “There is enough scientific uncertainty about the rate and extent of global warming and climate change that there is no need for immediate policy decisions.”

Q6. Now suppose all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change were surveyed. What percentage of them do you think would agree with each of the following statements? (Number of scientists out of 100)

- i. “Scientists can say with great certainty that global warming is a process that is already underway.”
- ii. “Scientists can say with great certainty that human activities are accelerating global warming.”
- iii. “There is enough scientific uncertainty about the rate and extent of global warming and climate change that there is no need for immediate policy decisions.”

ALL RESPONDENTS

Q7. In your opinion, what is the probability that each of the following is true, out of 100%?

Global warming is a process that is already underway.

Human activities are accelerating global warming.

There is enough scientific uncertainty about the rate and extent of global warming and climate change that there is no need for immediate policy decisions.

For each question, a slider with markers – 0% Impossible, 25% Very unlikely, 50% Neither likely nor unlikely, 75% Very likely, 100% Certain

Q8. By how many degrees Fahrenheit do you expect temperatures on earth to rise or fall by the year 2050, on average? (a change of 1 degree Fahrenheit is about equal to a change of 0.56 degrees Celsius)

Slider from -15 to 15.

Q9. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will increase by at least 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050?

Slider with markers – 0% Impossible, 25% Very unlikely, 50% Neither likely nor unlikely, 75% Very likely, 100% Certain

Q10. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will increase by at least 5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050?

Slider with markers – 0% Impossible, 25% Very unlikely, 50% Neither likely nor unlikely, 75% Very likely, 100% Certain

Q10. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will decrease by at least 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050?

Slider with markers – 0% Impossible, 25% Very unlikely, 50% Neither likely nor unlikely, 75% Very likely, 100% Certain

Q11. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will decrease by at least 5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050?

Slider with markers – 0% Impossible, 25% Very unlikely, 50% Neither likely nor unlikely, 75% Very likely, 100% Certain

Q12. After completing the survey, you will be entered in a drawing for one of six \$50 prizes. You have the option to send part of your winnings to Alliance to Save Energy, a nonprofit organization that is working to prevent the onset of climate change through promoting energy efficiency. Should you win, the amount will be deducted prior to you receiving the prize money and anonymously sent to Alliance to Save Energy.

If you win one of the prizes, how much of your winnings do you want sent to Alliance to Save Energy? Enter a dollar amount between \$0 and \$50.

Q13. Are you male or female?

- a. Male
- b. Female

Q14. What is your age in years?

Q15. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- a. Less than high school
- b. High school or GED
- c. Some college
- d. 2-year college degree (Associates)
- e. 4-year college degree (BA, BS)
- f. Master's degree (MA, MS)

- g. Doctoral degree (PhD)
- h. Professional degree (MD, JD, DDS, etc)

Q16. Are you of Hispanic origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish background?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q17. Which of the following best describes your race?

- a. White
- b. African-American or Black
- c. Asian
- d. Asian-Pacific Islander
- e. Native American
- f. Other

Q18. Which of the following best describes your annual household income before taxes?

- a. Less than \$10,000
- b. \$10,000 - \$19,999
- c. \$20,000 - \$29,999
- d. \$30,000 - \$39,999
- e. \$40,000 - \$49,999
- f. \$50,000 - \$74,999
- g. \$75,000 - \$99,999
- h. \$100,000 - \$149,999
- i. \$150,000 - \$249,999
- j. \$250,000-\$499,999
- k. \$500,000 and over

Q19. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- a. Employed full-time
- b. Employed part-time
- c. Retired
- d. A homemaker
- e. A student
- f. Unemployed but looking for work
- g. Unemployed and not looking for work

- h. Disabled
- i. Other

Q20. Which of the following best describes your political ideology?

- a. Very Conservative
- b. Conservative
- c. Moderate
- d. Liberal
- e. Very Liberal
- f. Other

Q21. Which of the following do you use to get news (select as many as apply)? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. CNN
- b. Fox News
- c. ABC News
- d. CBS News
- e. NBC News
- f. PBS News
- g. MSNBC
- h. Wall Street Journal
- i. New York Times
- j. USA Today
- k. Washington Post
- l. Washington Times
- m. US News
- n. Other (please specify)

Thank you for completing the survey! We will notify you if you are one of the winners.

6-MONTHS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

(IDENTICAL FOR ALL RESPONDENTS)

Q1. How much do you agree with each of the following statements? Strongly agree/agree/disagree/strongly disagree. RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. I am very interested in what's going on with climate change policy.
- b. As a society, we have a moral obligation to leave future generations at least as well off as we were.
- c. It's too late to prevent the harmful effects of global warming.
- d. Climate scientists subject their findings to a sufficient amount of scrutiny.
- e. Climate scientists gain financially from research that supports, rather than contradicts, the theory of global warming.
- f. Climate scientists have ideological beliefs that prevent them from carrying out objective research.
- g. Climate models are not nearly as reliable as climate scientists claim.

Q2. Which of the following gases is thought to contribute to global warming (select as many as apply)? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. Methane
- b. Carbon dioxide
- c. Argon
- d. Nitrogen
- e. Oxygen
- f. Nitrous oxide
- g. Ozone

Q3. Which of the following best demonstrates the albedo effect? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. Ice and other light surfaces reflecting sunlight back into the atmosphere.
- b. Prevailing winds causing storm systems to rotate clockwise in the northern hemisphere.
- c. Abnormally warm ocean temperatures causing more precipitation in some parts of the world.
- d. Atmospheric gases trapping reflected sunlight and re-radiating some of it back toward the planet's surface.

Q4. Which of the following is closest to the current carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. 390-395 parts per million
- b. 270-275 parts per million
- c. 545-550 parts per million
- d. 195-200 parts per million

Q5. What percentage of all scientists who are knowledgeable about global warming and climate change do you think would agree with each of the following statements? (Number of scientists out of 100)

- i. "Scientists can say with great certainty that global warming is a process that is already underway."
- ii. "Scientists can say with great certainty that human activities are accelerating global warming."
- iii. "There is enough scientific uncertainty about the rate and extent of global warming and climate change that there is no need for immediate policy decisions."

Q6. In your opinion, what is the probability that each of the following is true, out of 100%?

- a. Global warming is a process that is already underway.
- b. Human activities are accelerating global warming.
- c. There is enough scientific uncertainty about the rate and extent of global warming and climate change that there is no need for immediate policy decisions.

Enter number.

Q7. By how many degrees Fahrenheit do you expect temperatures on earth to rise or fall by the year 2050, on average (a change of 1 degree Fahrenheit is about equal to a change of 0.56 degrees Celsius)? A negative number corresponds to a fall in temperatures, while a positive number corresponds to a rise in temperatures.

Enter number.

Q8. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will increase by at least 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050, out of 100%?

Enter number.

Q9. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will increase by at least 5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050, out of 100%?

Enter number.

Q10. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will decrease by at least 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050, out of 100%?

Enter number.

Q11. What do you think is the probability that the temperature will decrease by at least 5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050, out of 100%?

Enter number.

Q12. Excluding weddings and funerals, approximately how often did you go to religious services over the past 12 months?

- a. Once a week or more
- b. Almost every week

- c. Once or twice a month
- d. A few times a year
- e. Never

Q13. Outside of religious services, how often do you pray?

- a. Several times a day
- b. Once a day
- c. A few times a week
- d. Once a week or less
- e. Never

Q14. Which of the following best describes your religious preference?

- a. Protestant
- b. Catholic
- c. Jewish
- d. Muslim
- e. Mormon
- f. Some other religion
- g. No religion

Q15. During the past 5 years, did you usually vote in national, state, and local elections?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q16. Are you currently registered to vote?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

Q17. Do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

- a. Republican
- b. Democrat
- c. Independent
- d. Libertarian
- e. Something else

Q18. Do you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning marriage between two people who are the same sex?

- a. Favor

- b. Oppose
- c. Neither favor nor oppose

Q19. Do you favor or oppose raising federal income taxes for people who make \$200,000 per year or more?

- a. Favor
- b. Oppose
- c. Neither favor nor oppose

Q20. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. government paying for all of the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens who are living on very little income?

- a. Favor
- b. Oppose
- c. Neither favor nor oppose

Q21. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. government paying for all necessary medical care for all Americans?

- a. Favor
- b. Oppose
- c. Neither favor nor oppose

Q22. Imagine that the U.S. government suspects a person in the United States of being a terrorist. Do you favor or oppose the government being able to put this person in prison for months without ever bringing the person to court and charging him or her with a crime?

- a. Favor
- b. Oppose
- c. Neither favor nor oppose

Q23. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. government making it possible for illegal immigrants to become U.S. citizens?

- a. Favor
- b. Oppose
- c. Neither favor nor oppose

Q24. Would you vote in favor of a law that significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the US and raised your household's annual electricity bill by \$150?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

Q25. Would you vote in favor of a law that significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the US and raised your household's annual electricity bill by \$300?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

Q26. About how much did you donate to charity, including religious organizations, in the past year?

____ dollars

Q27. Which of the following do you use to get news (select as many as apply)? RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ANSWERS

- a. CNN
- b. Fox News
- c. ABC News
- d. CBS News
- e. NBC News
- f. PBS News
- g. MSNBC
- h. Wall Street Journal
- i. New York Times
- j. USA Today
- k. Washington Post
- l. Washington Times
- m. US News
- n. Other (please specify)

Q28. After completing the survey, you will be entered in a drawing for one of six \$50 prizes. You have the option to send part of your winnings to Alliance to Save Energy, a nonprofit organization that is working to prevent the onset of climate change through promoting energy efficiency. Should you win, the amount will be deducted prior to you receiving the prize money and anonymously sent to Alliance to Save Energy.

If you win one of the prizes, how much of your winnings do you want sent to Alliance to Save Energy? Enter a dollar amount between \$0 and \$50.

Thank you for completing the survey! We will notify you if you are one of the winners.