

# Topline questionnaire

2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
**WAVE 67 TOPLINE**  
**April 29-May 5**  
**TOTAL N=10,957**

## OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

### ASK ALL:

ENV2 Do you favor or oppose EXPANDING each of the following sources of energy in our country? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|                                                                                          | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>No Answer</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| a. More offshore oil and gas drilling<br>in U.S. waters                                  |              |               |                  |
| April 29-May 5, 2020                                                                     | 40           | 58            | 2                |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                                                           | 42           | 56            | 1                |
| Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018                                                                       | 39           | 60            | 1                |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016                                                                       | 45           | 52            | 3                |
| b. More nuclear power plants to<br>generate electricity                                  |              |               |                  |
| April 29-May 5, 2020                                                                     | 43           | 55            | 2                |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                                                           | 49           | 49            | 2                |
| Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018                                                                       | 44           | 54            | 2                |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016                                                                       | 43           | 54            | 3                |
| c. More coal mining                                                                      |              |               |                  |
| April 29-May 5, 2020                                                                     | 33           | 65            | 2                |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                                                           | 35           | 63            | 2                |
| Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018                                                                       | 37           | 61            | 2                |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016                                                                       | 41           | 57            | 3                |
| d. More solar panel "farms"                                                              |              |               |                  |
| April 29-May 5, 2020                                                                     | 90           | 9             | 1                |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                                                           | 92           | 8             | 1                |
| Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018                                                                       | 89           | 10            | 1                |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016                                                                       | 89           | 9             | 2                |
| e. More hydraulic fracturing,<br>sometimes called "fracking," for<br>oil and natural gas |              |               |                  |
| April 29-May 5, 2020                                                                     | 37           | 60            | 3                |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                                                           | 38           | 60            | 2                |
| Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018                                                                       | 39           | 58            | 2                |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016                                                                       | 42           | 53            | 5                |
| f. More wind turbine "farms"                                                             |              |               |                  |
| April 29-May 5, 2020                                                                     | 83           | 16            | 2                |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                                                           | 85           | 14            | 1                |
| Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018                                                                       | 85           | 13            | 2                |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016                                                                       | 83           | 14            | 3                |

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON**

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Would you favor or oppose allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters?

|                              | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>(VOL.)</u><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Jan 10-15, 2018              | 41           | 57            | 12                             |
| Aug 15-25, 2014 <sup>2</sup> | 39           | 51            | 10                             |

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: As I read some possible government policies, tell me whether you would favor or oppose. Would you favor or oppose the government allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters?

|                 | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>(VOL.)</u><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Mar 7-11, 2012  | 65           | 31            | 4                              |
| Oct 13-18, 2010 | 57           | 37            | 6                              |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 44           | 52            | 4                              |
| May 6-9, 2010   | 54           | 38            | 8                              |
| Feb 3-9, 2019   | 63           | 31            | 6                              |
| April 2009      | 68           | 27            | 5                              |
| September 2008  | 67           | 28            | 5                              |

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: All in all, do you favor or oppose building more nuclear power plants to generate electricity?

|                     | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>(VOL.)</u><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Aug 15-25, 2014     | 45           | 51            | 4                              |
| Apr 28-May 12, 2009 | 51           | 42            | 7                              |

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: As I read some possible government policies, tell me whether you would favor or oppose. Would you favor or oppose the government promoting the increased use of nuclear power?

|                     | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>(VOL.)</u><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Mar 7-11, 2012      | 44           | 49            | 7                              |
| Nov 3-6, 2011       | 39           | 53            | 8                              |
| Mar 17-20, 2011     | 39           | 52            | 8                              |
| Oct 13-18, 2010     | 45           | 44            | 11                             |
| Jun 16-20, 2010     | 47           | 47            | 6                              |
| May 6-9, 2010       | 45           | 44            | 11                             |
| Feb 3-9, 2019       | 52           | 41            | 7                              |
| April 2009          | 45           | 46            | 7                              |
| September 2008      | 50           | 43            | 7                              |
| Late February, 2008 | 44           | 48            | 8                              |
| February, 2006      | 44           | 49            | 7                              |
| Mid-September 2005  | 39           | 53            | 8                              |

<sup>2</sup> In August 2014 respondents were asked, "All in all, do you favor or opposed allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters?"

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Do you favor or oppose increased use of fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?

|                 | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>(VOL.)</u><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Nov 6-9, 2014   | 41           | 57            | 12                             |
| Aug 15-25, 2014 | 39           | 51            | 10                             |
| Sep 4-8, 2013   | 44           | 49            | 7                              |
| Mar 13-17, 2013 | 48           | 38            | 14                             |

**ASK ALL:**

EN1 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

| <u>Apr 29-<br/>May 5<br/>2020</u> |                                                                             | <u>Oct 1-13<br/>2019</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 79                                | Developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology | 77                       |
| 20                                | Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas           | 22                       |
| 1                                 | No answer                                                                   | 1                        |

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

|                       | <u>Developing<br/>alternative sources<br/>such as, wind, solar<br/>and hydrogen<br/>technology</u> | <u>Expanding<br/>exploration and<br/>production of oil,<br/>coal and natural<br/>gas</u> | <u>(VOL.)</u><br><u>Both should be<br/>given equal<br/>priority</u> | <u>(VOL.)</u><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jan 4-9, 2017         | 65                                                                                                 | 27                                                                                       | 5                                                                   | 3                              |
| Dec 3-7, 2014         | 60                                                                                                 | 30                                                                                       | 5                                                                   | 4                              |
| Feb 12-26, 2014       | 65                                                                                                 | 28                                                                                       | 5                                                                   | 2                              |
| Sep 4-8, 2013         | 58                                                                                                 | 34                                                                                       | 6                                                                   | 3                              |
| Feb 13-18, 2013       | 54                                                                                                 | 34                                                                                       | 7                                                                   | 4                              |
| Oct 24-28, 2012       | 47                                                                                                 | 39                                                                                       | 9                                                                   | 5                              |
| Mar 7-11, 2012        | 52                                                                                                 | 39                                                                                       | 5                                                                   | 4                              |
| Feb 22-Mar 1,<br>2011 | 63                                                                                                 | 29                                                                                       | 6                                                                   | 2                              |

**ASK ALL:**

ENVIR6

Which of these statements comes closest to your own view about the MOST EFFECTIVE WAY to increase reliance on renewable energy sources, even if neither is exactly right?  
**[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

Apr 29–  
May 5  
2020

Mar 27–  
Apr 9  
2018

|    |                                                                                                                                              |    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 58 | Government regulations are necessary to encourage businesses and consumers to rely more on renewable energy sources                          | 56 |
| 39 | The private marketplace will ensure that businesses and consumers rely more on renewable energy sources, even without government regulations | 42 |
| 2  | No Answer                                                                                                                                    | 1  |

**TREND FOR COMPARISON**

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Which of these statements come closest to your own view about the MOST EFFECTIVE WAY to increase reliance on renewable energy sources, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

May 3-7  
2017

|    |                                                                                                                                              |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 54 | Government regulations are necessary to encourage businesses and consumers to rely more on renewable energy sources                          |
| 38 | The private marketplace will ensure that businesses and consumers rely more on renewable energy sources, even without government regulations |
| 8  | No answer                                                                                                                                    |

**ASK ALL:**

ENVIR8

How much do you think the federal government is doing to... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS;  
show on same screen]**

|                                                                 | <u>Too much</u> | <u>Too little</u> | <u>About the<br/>right amount</u> | <u>No<br/>Answer</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Protect air quality                                          |                 |                   |                                   |                      |
| April 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,<br>rivers and streams        |                 |                   |                                   |                      |
| April 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<br>habitats                        |                 |                   |                                   |                      |
| April 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<br>parks and nature preserves |                 |                   |                                   |                      |
| April 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<br>climate change               |                 |                   |                                   |                      |
| April 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                    |

**ASK ALL:**

EN7

How much do you think human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels, contributes to global climate change?

Apr 29-  
May 5  
2020

|    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 49 | A great deal |
| 32 | Some         |
| 13 | Not too much |
| 6  | Not at all   |
| 1  | No answer    |

Oct 1-13  
2019

|    |
|----|
| 49 |
| 30 |
| 14 |
| 5  |
| 2  |

**ASK ALL:**

CCPOLICY

Do you favor or oppose the following proposals to reduce the effects of global climate change? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; show on same screen]**

|                                                                                                                                                                              | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>No Answer</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| a. Planting about a trillion trees around the world to absorb carbon emissions in the atmosphere<br>Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                       | 90           | 9             | 1                |
| b. Taxing corporations based on the amount of carbon emissions they produce<br>Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                                            | 73           | 25            | 1                |
| c. Providing a tax credit to encourage businesses to develop technology which captures and stores carbon emissions so they do not enter the atmosphere<br>Apr 29-May 5, 2020 | 84           | 15            | 1                |
| d. Tougher restrictions on power plant carbon emissions<br>Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                                                                | 80           | 19            | 1                |
| e. Tougher fuel-efficiency standards for automobiles and trucks<br>Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                                                        | 71           | 28            | 1                |

**ASK ALL:**

CLIM9 How much, if at all, do you think global climate change is currently affecting your local community?

|                                 | A great<br><u>deal</u> | <u>Some</u> | Not too<br><u>much</u> | <u>Not at all</u> | <u>No Answer</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020              | 24                     | 39          | 25                     | 12                | <1               |
| Oct 1-13, 2019 <sup>3</sup>     | 22                     | 39          | 24                     | 13                | 1                |
| Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018 <sup>4</sup> | 22                     | 37          | 25                     | 15                | <1               |

**ASK IF CLIM9=1,2 (LOCAL COMMUNITY AFFECTED A GREAT DEAL OR SOME) [N=7,384]:**

CLIM10 Would you say each of the following is a MAJOR way that global climate change is currently affecting your local community, or not? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

**BASED ON ALL ASKED [N=7,384]**

|                                                         | <u>Yes, a<br/>major way</u> | <u>No, not a<br/>major way</u> | <u>No<br/>answer</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Droughts or water shortages                          |                             |                                |                      |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                      | 60                          | 39                             | 1                    |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                          | 64                          | 35                             | 1                    |
| b. Long periods of unusually hot weather                |                             |                                |                      |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                      | 73                          | 26                             | 1                    |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                          | 79                          | 21                             | 1                    |
| c. Severe weather, like floods or intense storms        |                             |                                |                      |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                      | 70                          | 29                             | 1                    |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                          | 70                          | 29                             | <1                   |
| d. Rising sea levels that erode beaches and shore lines |                             |                                |                      |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                      | 58                          | 41                             | 1                    |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                          | 56                          | 43                             | 1                    |
| e. Damage to forests and plant life                     |                             |                                |                      |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                      | 67                          | 32                             | 1                    |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                          | 67                          | 32                             | 1                    |
| f. Harm to animal wildlife and their habitats           |                             |                                |                      |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                      | 69                          | 30                             | 1                    |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                          | 69                          | 30                             | 1                    |
| g. More frequent wildfires                              |                             |                                |                      |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                      | 59                          | 41                             | 1                    |
| Oct 1-13, 2019                                          | 56                          | 43                             | 1                    |

<sup>3</sup> October 2019 survey combines those asked in a series and those asked as the question is shown here.

<sup>4</sup> Spring 2018 survey asked about climate change affecting your local community as part of a series.

**OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**