



1-Page Update and Recap on Public Opinion on Energy and Climate

Voters Support Action Two-to-One (67% to 30%) after Hearing Both Sides of the Debate¹

⇒ **Act Now (67% of voters):** “America needs a new energy plan right now to build a clean energy future that revives our economy, reduces our dependency on foreign oil, and protects our planet from global warming. This proposal will increase investments in dependable, "made in America" energy sources like wind and solar and create millions of clean energy jobs.”

⇒ **Wait (30%):** “This is really a massive energy tax increase that will affect every single American whenever they buy gasoline, use electricity in their home or buy anything that required energy to make or transport it. America will lose jobs because taxing energy will weaken our economy further. In these tough economic times, working families simply cannot afford these massive increases in energy costs.”

71% of voters aged 65 and older favor taking action now over waiting.

A poll by the Mellman Group found that 50% of voters say they would view their member of Congress more favorably if they support a comprehensive plan to create clean energy jobs and fight global warming, only 22% would view their member of Congress less favorably.²

Support for “Cap-and-Trade” Higher Than Ever

Support for cap-and-trade has increased in recent months despite attacks from opponents. This week, a Washington Post/CBS poll found that 75% of Americans support regulations on greenhouse gases, and 56% support a “cap-and-trade” program even if it cost \$10 per month in increased utility bills.³ This support is somewhat higher than polls earlier this year:

⇒ In April, a Wall Street Journal-NBC poll found that 53% approve of “a proposal that would require companies to reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming, even if it would mean higher utility bills for consumers to pay the charges?”⁴ In March, an NPR poll found that 53% approve of a plan that caps global warming pollution.⁵

The Mellman Group found that 59% of voters believe efforts to tackle global warming will create new American jobs.

So Where Are the Phone Calls Coming From?

Members & Senators have been getting phone calls against a cap-and-trade plan, many from outside their districts. These calls are coming from groups such as the "Tea Party Patriots" and Newt Gingrich's American Solutions that encourage callers to lie about where they are calling from⁶ and favor the old energy strategies that hurt our economy, security, and environment.⁷

¹ Public Opinion Strategies, May 2009, http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/05-14-09_NWF_National_Poll_Exec_Summary.pdf

² http://www.pewglobalwarming.org/newsroom/release_ppt13may2009.html

³ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/24/AR2009062403648.html>

⁴ http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Sections/NEWS/4_090428_NBC-WSJ_Full.pdf

⁵ http://media.npr.org/documents/2009/mar/nprpoll/nprpoll_presentation.pdf

⁶ <http://www.nwf.org/news/story.cfm?pagelid=75765143-5056-A868-A098EC256AE13FFC>

⁷ <http://www.americansolutions.com/take-action/call.php> .