

GLOBAL WARMING

Britons Question Global Warming More Than Americans and Canadians

Half of respondents in the two North American countries think climate change is a fact and is caused by emissions—fewer Britons concur.

[NEW YORK - Sept. 12, 2011] - While Canadians continue to be more likely than Americans and Britons to blame global warming on man-made emissions, they are not as unwavering about it as they were last year, a new three-country Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of representative national samples also shows that belief in man-made climate change has reached the highest level in the United States since 2009, and has fallen considerably in Britain.

Overall, half of Canadians (52%, -8 since October) and Americans (49%, +7) say that that global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities. Only 43 per cent of Britons (-4) agree with this assessment.

In the United States, one-in-five respondents (20%, -5) think that global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven, along with 20 per cent of Britons (+2) and 14 per cent of Canadians (=).

More than half of Canadians (55%, -6) believe it is more important to protect the environment, even at the risk of hampering economic growth, while 22 per cent (+4) would prefer to foster economic growth, even at the risk of damaging the environment.

KEY FINDINGS

- **52% of Canadians (-8), 49% of Americans (+7) and 43% of Britons (-4) say global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities**
- **20% of Americans (-5), 20% of Britons (+2) and 14% of Canadians (=) think global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven.**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From August 25 to September 2, 2011 Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,001 Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists, 1,000 American adults who are Springboard America panellists, and 2,005 British adults who are Springboard UK panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for Canada and the United States, and 2.2 per cent for Great Britain. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada, the US and Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

In the United States, 47 per cent of respondents (+2) would emphasize protecting the environment, while 26 per cent (-4) would foster economic growth. The biggest change since last year comes in Britain, where only 40 per cent of respondents would protect the environment (-11) and 33 per cent would prefer to foster economic growth (+11).

Analysis

Since 2009, Angus Reid Public Opinion has conducted five three-country surveys on global warming. The latest poll outlines one of the lowest proportions of believers in man-made climate change ever recorded in Canada (52%). Still, Canadians are more likely than Americans or Britons to both believe in emissions as the primary source of global warming and to choose environmental protection over economic growth.

In the United States, despite the economic crisis, belief in man-made global warming has reached the high level that was observed before the so-called “climate-gate” controversy. In addition, the proportion of Americans who brand climate change as an unproven theory fell by five points, the biggest fluctuation observed in the past three years.

Britain has become the main source of skepticism, with the lowest proportion of believers in man-made global warming, and with a third of Britons acknowledging that they would foster economic growth even at the risk of damaging the environment—the largest proportion observed in all three countries.

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About Angus Reid Public Opinion

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

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Global Warming

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming (or climate change)?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	52%	49%	43%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	21%	18%	27%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	14%	20%	20%
Not sure	13%	12%	10%

Global Warming

What is more important to you at this point?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Protecting the environment, even at the risk of hampering economic growth	55%	47%	40%
Fostering economic growth, even at the risk of damaging the environment	22%	26%	33%
Not sure	24%	27%	26%

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Global Warming

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming (or climate change)?

CANADA



	Aug. 2011	Oct. 2010	Apr. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	52%	60%	58%	52%	63%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	21%	16%	17%	17%	16%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	14%	14%	18%	17%	16%
Not sure	13%	10%	7%	13%	5%

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Global Warming

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming (or climate change)?

UNITED STATES



	Aug. 2011	Oct. 2010	Apr. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	49%	42%	41%	46%	49%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	18%	21%	20%	23%	20%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	20%	25%	25%	21%	19%
Not sure	12%	12%	14%	10%	11%

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Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming (or climate change)?

GREAT BRITAIN



	Sept. 2011	Oct. 2010	Apr. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	43%	47%	38%	43%	47%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	27%	24%	26%	28%	25%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	20%	18%	27%	20%	21%
Not sure	10%	11%	9%	9%	7%

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