CLIMATE ACTION

The world is ready for climate change

A global Deloitte survey reveals strong public support for bold action against climate change, with most people saying their government should do more.

The majority of respondents believe climate change is an emergency; they’re directly experiencing its impacts; and they’re ready for the world to take action.

Despite significant geographic variation, several clear messages emerged: People are worried about climate change; they’re directly experiencing its impacts; and they’re ready for the world to take action.

As global leaders gather in Glasgow at COP26 for one of the most important climate negotiations in years, people across the world expect governments to take action—

The best science says we still have a narrow window to limit warming to 1.5°C.

In September 2021, Deloitte surveyed 23,000 people across 23 countries to understand their perceptions of climate change and what they would like to see, including what governments should do in the short and long term.

Do you believe climate change is an emergency?

IN THE LAST MONTH, HAVE YOU FELT WORRIED OR ANXIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

“Do you believe climate change is an emergency?”

THE MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS BELIEVE CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN EMERGENCY

Overall

About half of respondents believe climate change is an emergency. While some concern was particularly pronounced among people age 18–34, climate change worry was more widely spread across age groups, sex and income levels. This is consistent with the scientific consensus that climate events in the last six months are becoming more extreme across the board.

Those who had experienced potential climate impacts such as extreme heat, flooding, and drought, were more likely to support such regulation.

52% said they would support new climate regulation, even if it made some goods or services more expensive or unavailable. Higher-income households were more likely to support such regulation.

IN THE LAST MONTH, HAVE YOU FELT WORRIED OR ANXIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Overall

Anxiety over climate change

Overall, 67% of those surveyed said they had directly experienced climate-related events in the last six months. This is consistent with the scientific consensus that climate events in the last six months are becoming more extreme across the board.

Respondents were asked a series of questions about whether they had directly experienced flood, extreme weather events, drought, extreme heat, or shortages in food, water, and power.

Across age groups, sex, and income levels, two-thirds of those surveyed (67%) said their fires were significantly more likely to report feeling climate anxiety.

Among those with children, concern was particularly pronounced among people age 18–34. Pronounced among people age 18–34 was a higher number of positive responses to the question, “Do you believe climate change is an emergency?”

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Change 2021, 2021.