Climate Change in the Global Public Mind

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Global greenhouse gas emissions and warming scenarios
- Each pathway comes with uncertainty, marked by the shading from low to high emissions under each scenario.
- Warming refers to the expected global temperature rise by 2100, relative to pre-industrial temperatures.

Annual global greenhouse gas emissions in gigatonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalents

- **150 Gt**
- **100 Gt**
- **50 Gt**

**Greenhouse gas emissions up to the present**

- **No climate policies**
  - 4.1 – 4.8 °C
  - Expected emissions in a baseline scenario if countries had not implemented climate reduction policies.

- **Current policies**
  - 2.7 – 3.1 °C
  - Emissions with current climate policies in place result in warming of 2.7 to 3.1°C by 2100.

- **Pledges & targets (2.4 °C)**
  - Emissions if all countries delivered on reduction pledges result in warming of 2.4°C by 2100.

- **2°C pathways**

- **1.5°C pathways**

Data source: Climate Action Tracker (based on national policies and pledges as of May 2021). OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world’s largest problems. Last updated: July 2021. Licensed under CC-BY by the authors Hannah Ritchie & Max Roser.
“...PUBLİC SENTIMENT İS EVERYTHING. WITH PUBLİC SENTIMENT, NOTHING CAN FAIL; WITHOUT IT NOTHING CAN SUCCEED.

– ABRAM LINCOLN
The public will play a critical role
High climate change awareness in developed world, relatively low in developing world
Large majorities think climate change is happening

% who think climate change is happening

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication / Data for Good at Meta • Created with Datawraper
Large majorities in developing countries say climate change will harm them personally.
Many do not know climate change is human-caused

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication / Data for Good at Meta • Created with Datawrapper
Majorities in developed countries support using less fossil fuels

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication / Data for Good at Meta • Created with Datawrapper
Majorities support their country using more renewable energy

% who support ‘much more’ or ‘somewhat more’ renewable energy

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication / Data for Good at Meta • Created with Datawrapper
Few hear about climate change at least weekly

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For new research alerts, please sign up at: climatecommunication.yale.edu

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