

Climate Change in the Global Public Mind



Yale SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Anthony Leiserowitz, PhD
Yale University
@ecotone2



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

0

1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080 2090 2100

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 and 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

*“...PUBLIC SENTIMENT IS EVERYTHING.
WITH PUBLIC SENTIMENT, NOTHING
CAN FAIL; WITHOUT IT NOTHING CAN
SUCCEED.”*



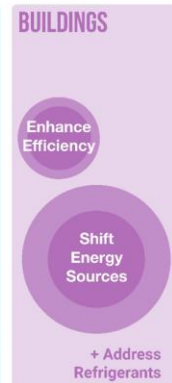
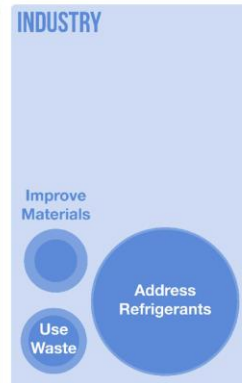
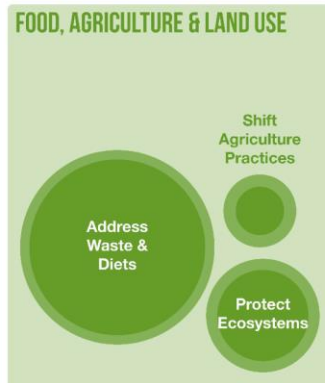
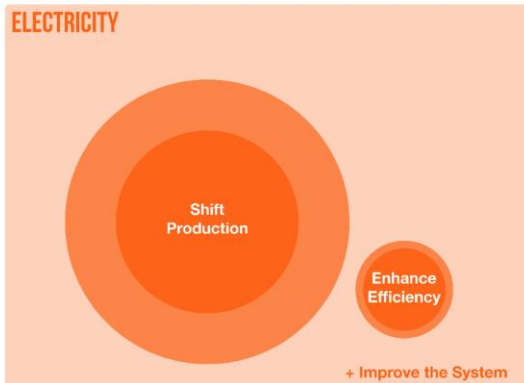
The public will play a critical role

How to Read It
Size represents potential
emissions reductions
(CO₂-eq (Gt)) 2020-2050

SECTOR

MAX
MIN
Sub-group

1. REDUCE SOURCES



2. SUPPORT SINKS



COASTAL & OCEAN SINKS
Protect & Restore Ecosystems

ENGINEERED SINKS
Remove & Store Carbon

3. IMPROVE SOCIETY



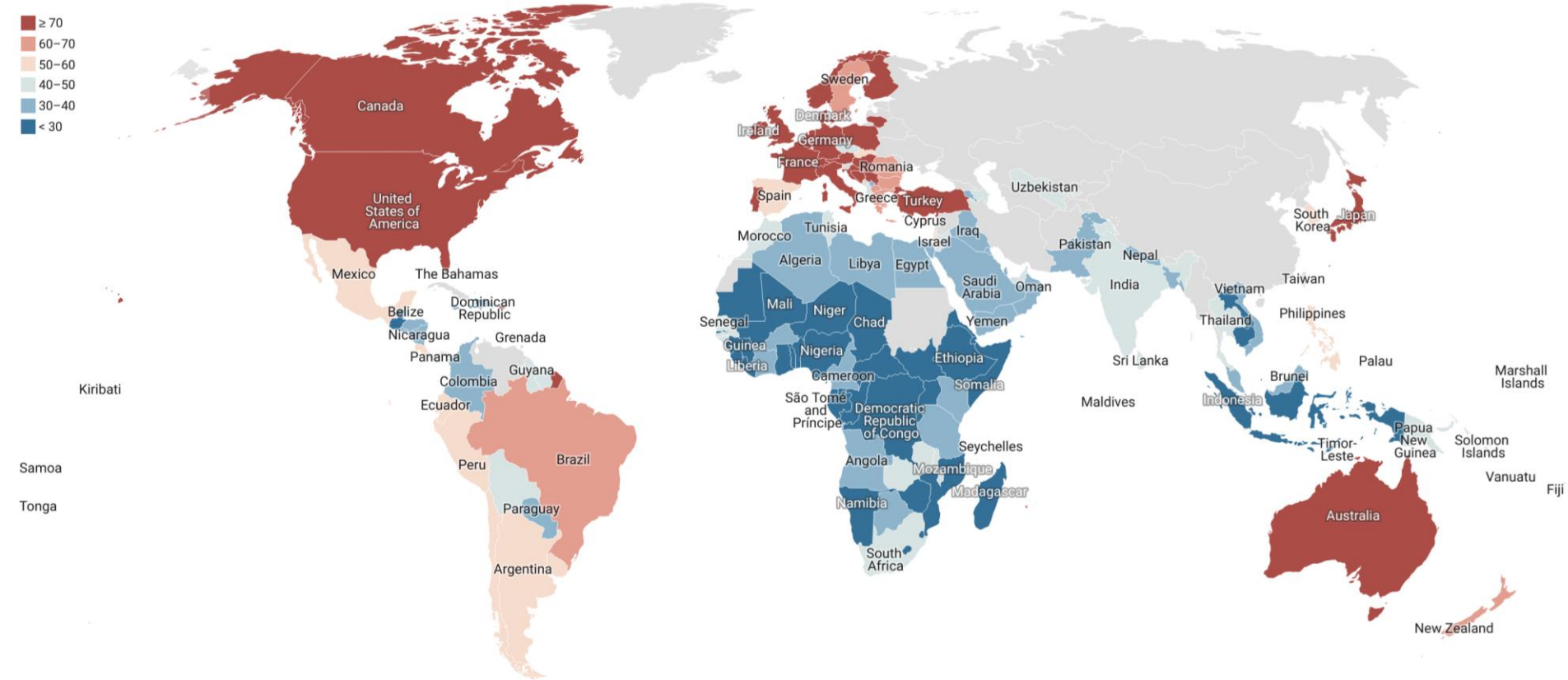
PROJECT
DRAWDOWN

Copyright © 2020, Project Drawdown

Source: Project Drawdown Analysis, www.drawdown.org

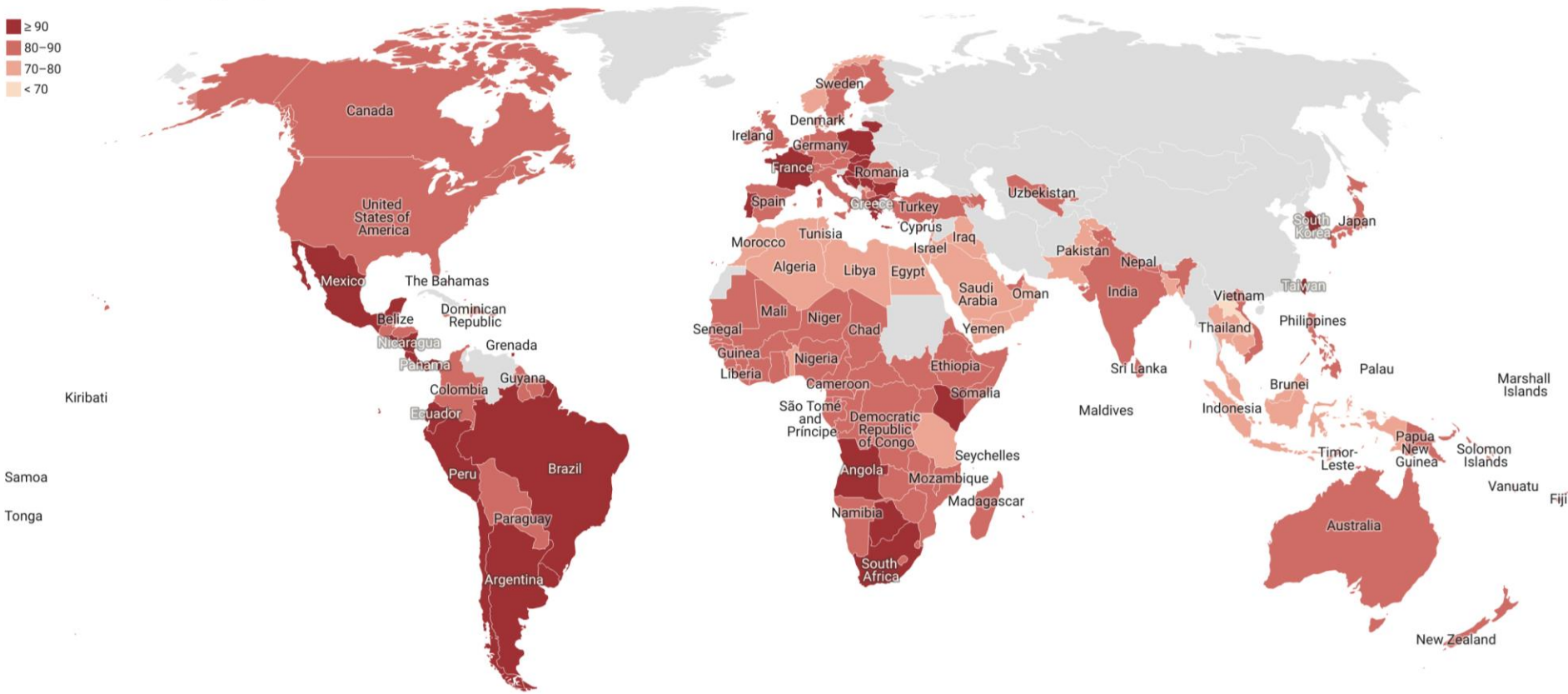
High climate change awareness in developed world, relatively low in developing world

% who know 'a moderate amount' or 'a lot' about climate change



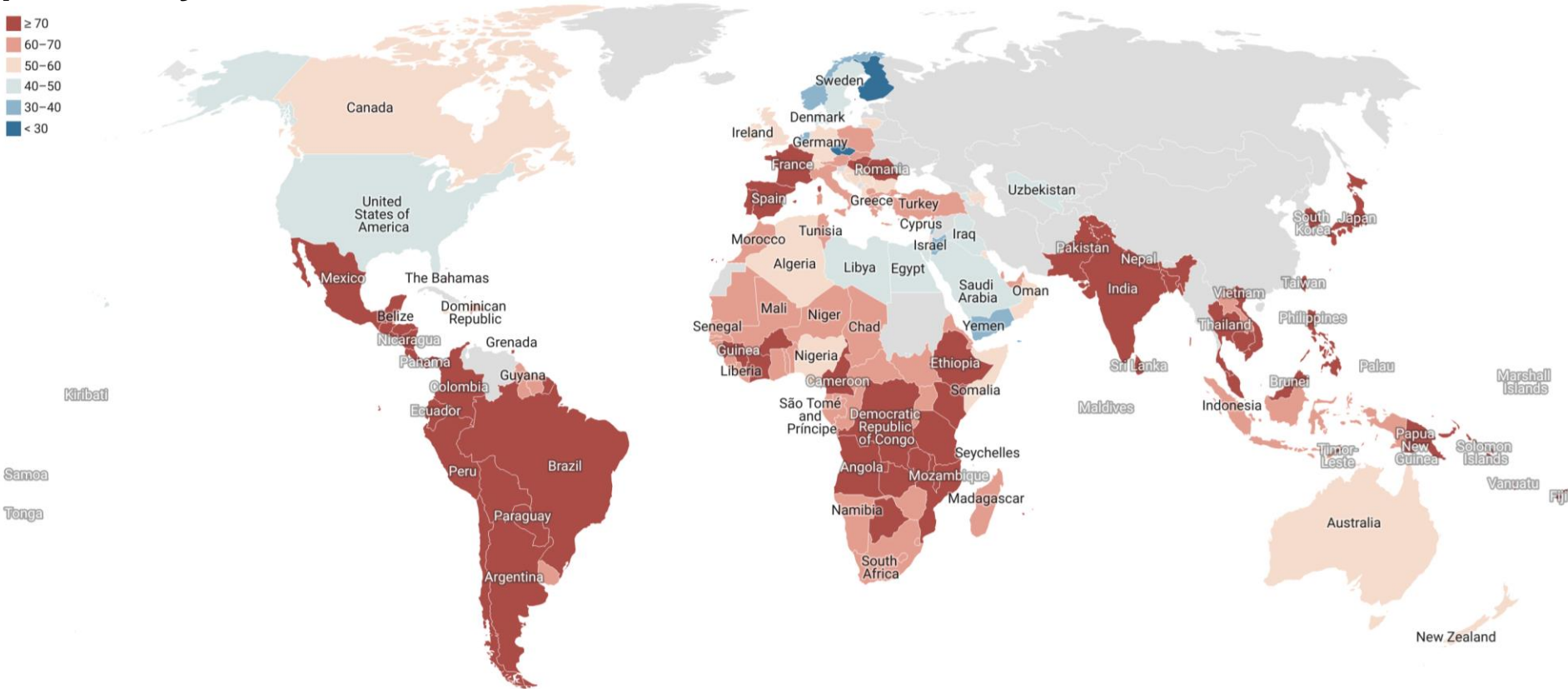
Large majorities think climate change is happening

% who think climate change is happening



Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication / Data for Good at Meta • Created with Datawrapper

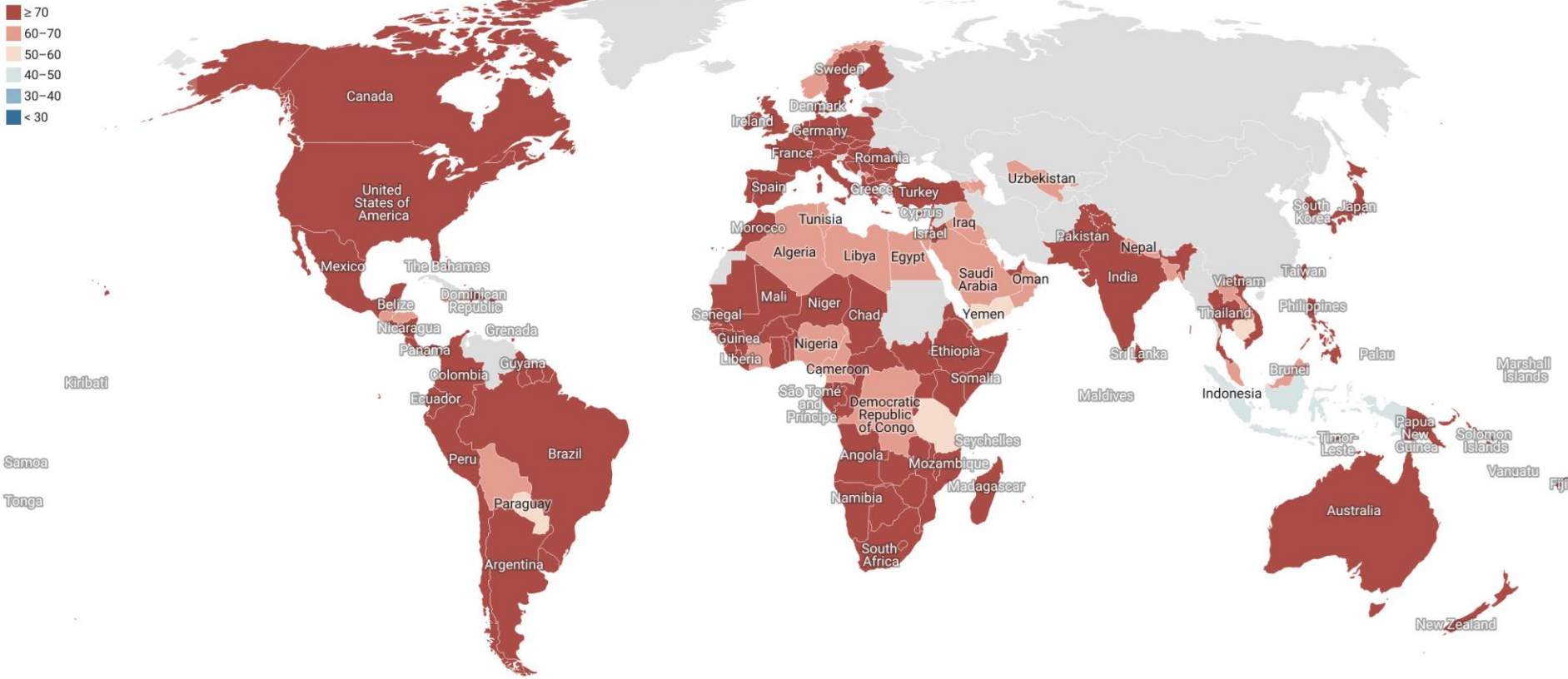
Large majorities in developing countries say climate change will harm them personally



Source: Yale/FB Data for Good • Created with Datawrapper

Majorities support their country using more renewable energy

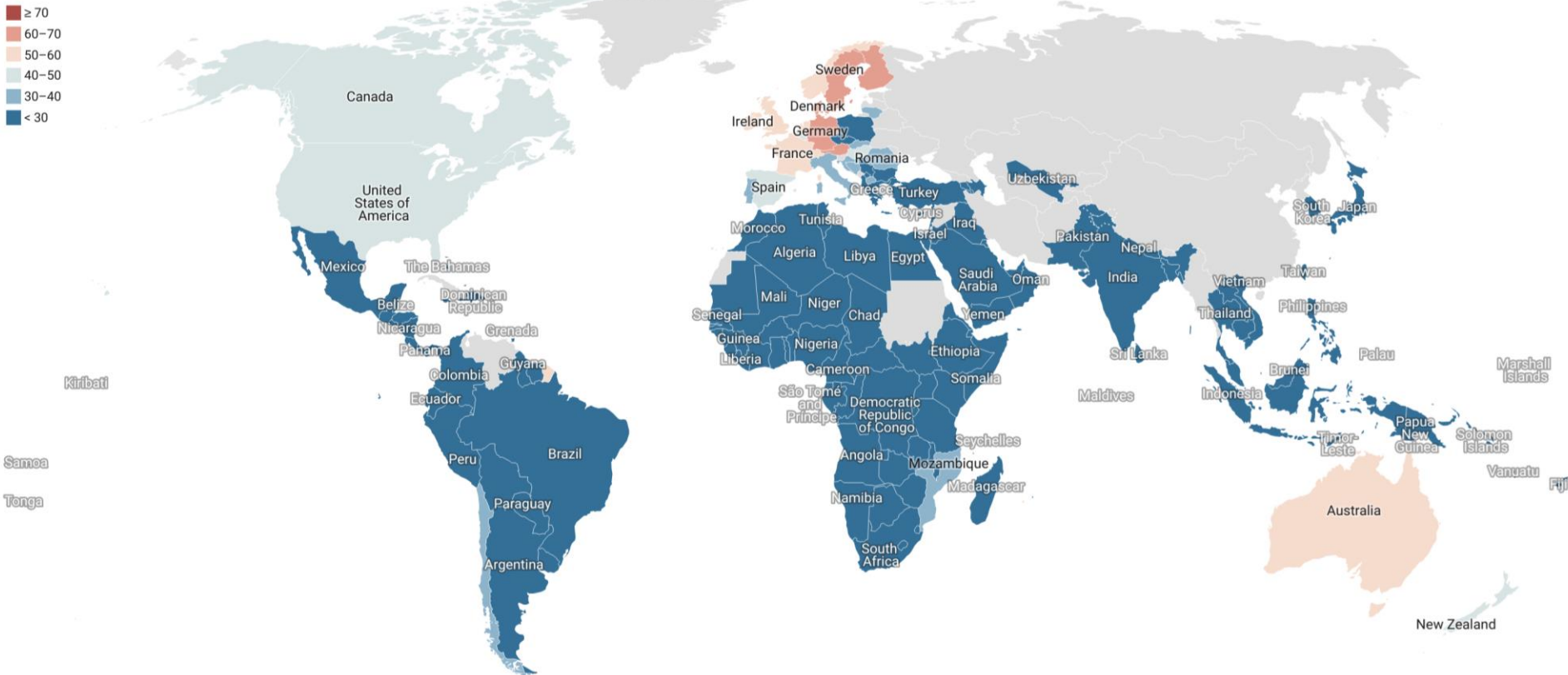
% who support 'much more' or 'somewhat more' renewable energy



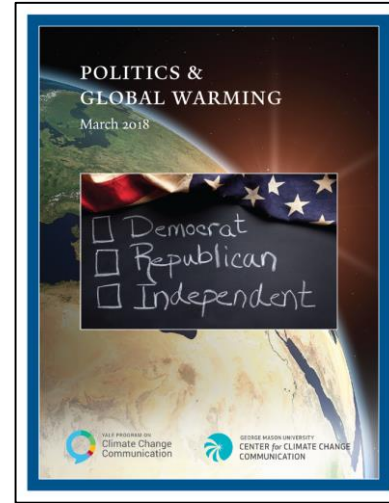
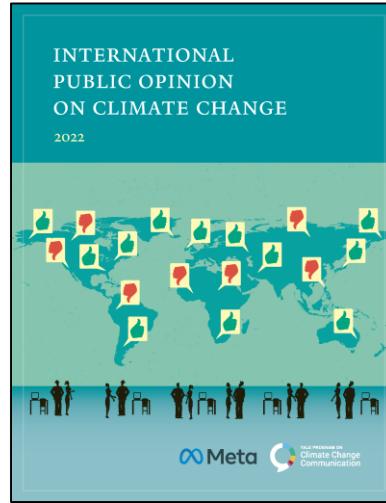
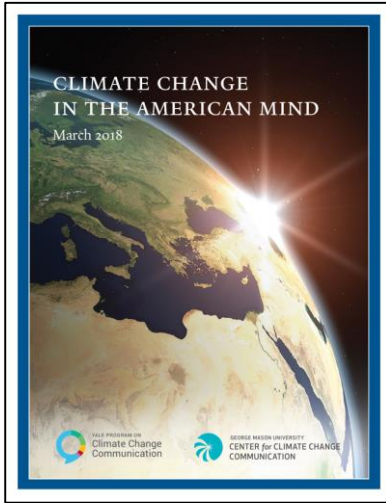
Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication / Data for Good at Meta • Created with Datawrapper

Few hear about climate change at least weekly

% who hear about climate change at least weekly



Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication / Data for Good at Meta • Created with Datawrapper



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

Climate Connections:
<https://yaleclimateconnections.org>

