

## MEMORANDUM

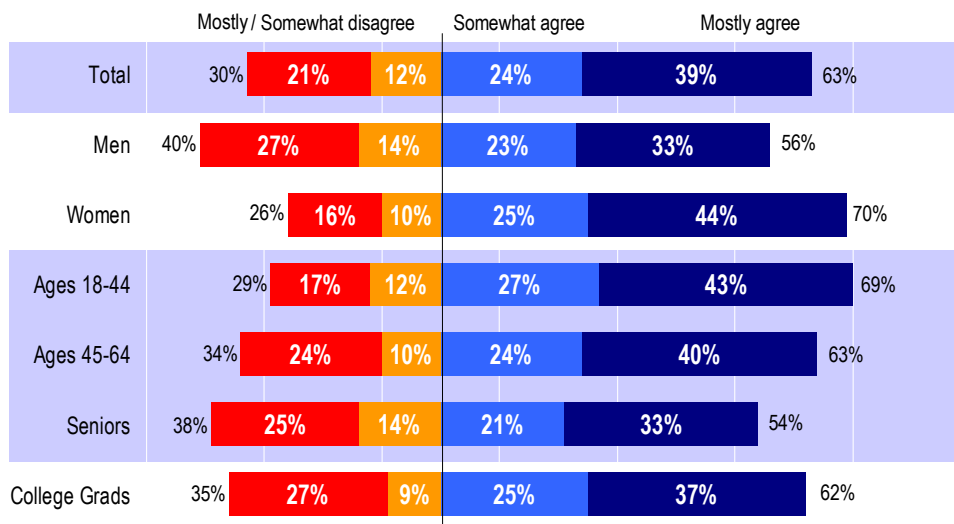
**To:** Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy  
**From:** Global Strategy Group  
**Re:** 2007 Environment Survey – Key Findings  
**Date:** March 7, 2007

The 2007 Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy Survey on American Attitudes on the Environment reveals that Americans want action on global warming and energy conservation – and most agree that they have a responsibility to do their part.

- Close to two-thirds (63%) of Americans agree that our country “is in as much danger from environmental hazards such as air pollution and global warming as it is from terrorists.”
  - Women (70%) are more likely to agree with this statement than are men (56%).

### Close to two in three agree that America is in as much danger from environmental hazards as it is from terrorists.

Do you mostly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or mostly disagree with this statement?  
“Our country is in as much danger from environmental hazards such as air pollution and global warming as it is from terrorists.”

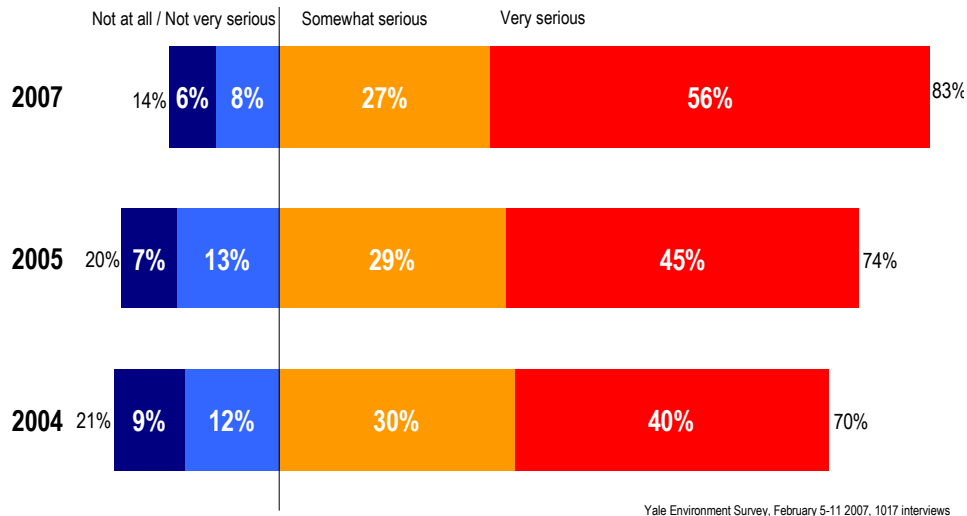


Yale Environment Survey, February 5-11 2007, 1017 interviews

- The percentage of Americans who say global warming is a serious problem has risen to 83% from 70% in 2004. 56% of Americans say global warming is a very serious problem, compared to 40% in 2004.

## Americans are growing more concerned about Global Warming

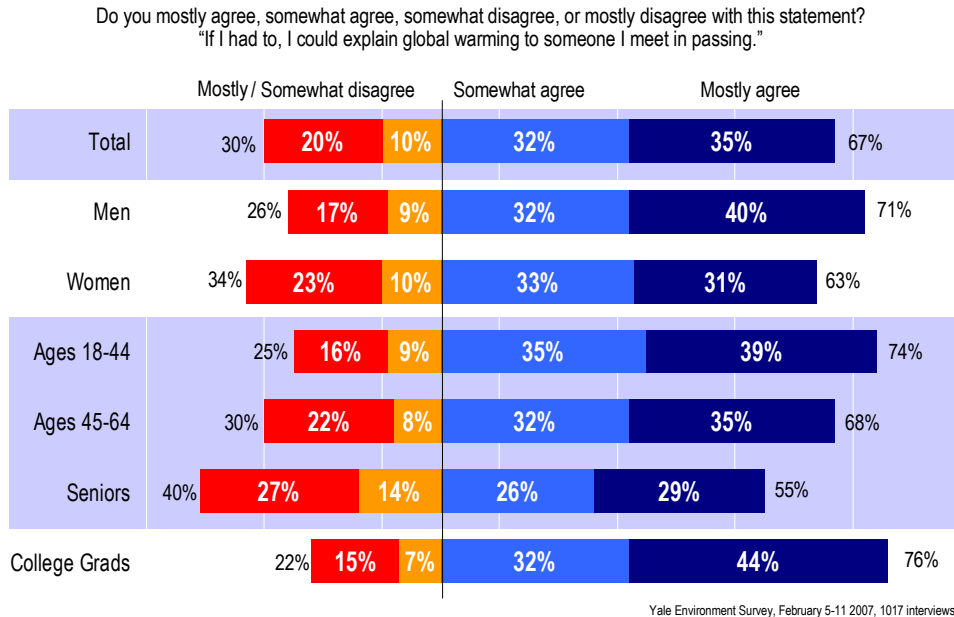
How serious a problem would you say is global warming? Would say it is a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, a not very serious problem, or a not at all serious problem?



- Slightly fewer Americans (79%) are concerned about ‘climate change,’ though concern about this issue has increased from 61% in 2004.
- More than two out of three (68%) Americans agree that global warming is something people can control. And fully 81% agree with the statement, “It is my responsibility to help reduce the impacts of global warming.”
  - 62% of Americans agree that we need more laws to enforce energy efficiency.
  - 87% agree that they look for new ways to save energy.
  - 90% adjust the temperature in their house to save energy.
  - Just 27% agree that “the need to conserve energy is exaggerated.”

- Two of three Americans (67%) say that, if they had to, they could explain global warming or climate change “to someone I meet in passing.”
  - Men (71%), younger Americans age 18-44 (74%) and college graduates (76%) are more likely than women (63%) or seniors (55%) to say they could explain global warming to others.

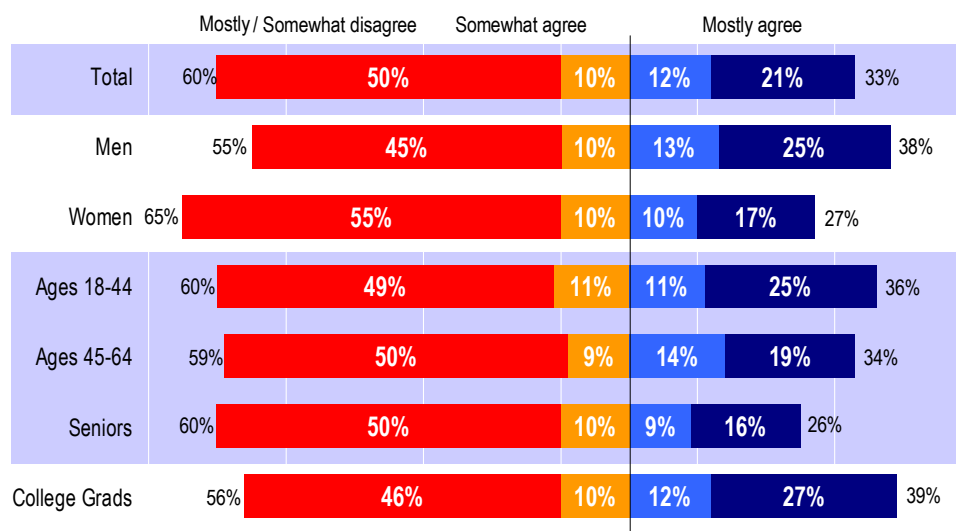
### Two out of three Americans say they could explain global warming to someone they meet in passing



- Just 33% of Americans say they are familiar with the phrase “carbon neutral.”
  - Younger Americans and those between the ages 45 and 64 are more likely (36% and 34%, respectively) to say they are familiar with the term than are seniors (26%).
  - Men (38%) are more likely to say they are familiar with “carbon neutral” than are women (27%).
  - Just 39% of college graduates are familiar with the phrase.

## Just one in three Americans are familiar with the phrase “Carbon Neutral”

Do you mostly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or mostly disagree with this statement?  
“I am familiar with the phrase “carbon neutral.”



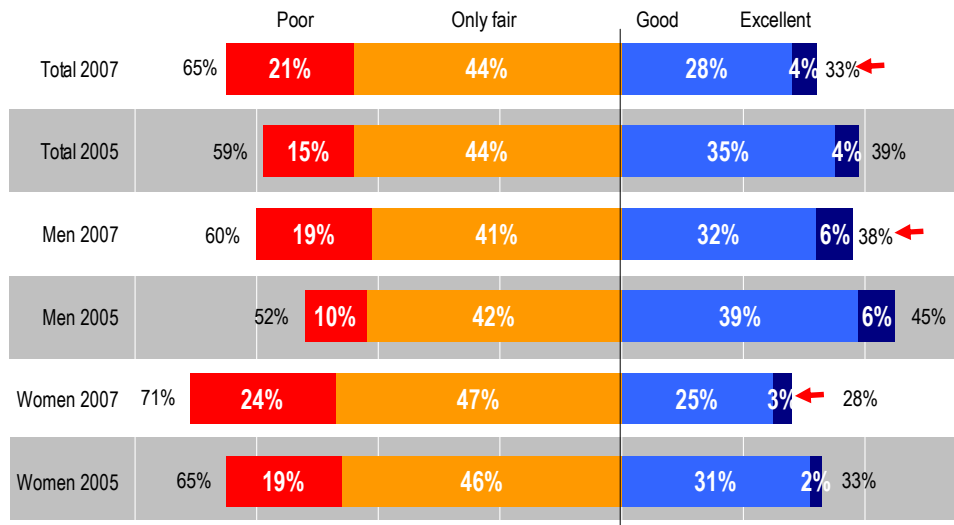
Yale Environment Survey, February 5-11 2007, 1017 interviews

### The National outlook is worsening

- Nearly two-thirds (62%) of Americans believe the environment in the United States is getting worse. Just 11% think it is getting better. In 2005, 52% believed the environment was getting worse and 15% thought it was getting better.
  - Women continue to be more downbeat about the direction of the environment than are men. 67% of women (up from 56% in 2005) believe the environment is getting worse, while 56% of men believe it is getting worse (compared to 47% in 2005).
- Just one in three Americans (33%) rate the overall quality of the environment in the United States as excellent or good. 65% rate the country’s environment as only fair or poor.
  - In 2004 and 2005 surveys, 39% rated the overall quality of the environment in the United States as excellent or good.

## Just one in three Americans rate the quality of the environment in the United States as good or excellent.

How would you rate the overall quality of the environment in the United States today?

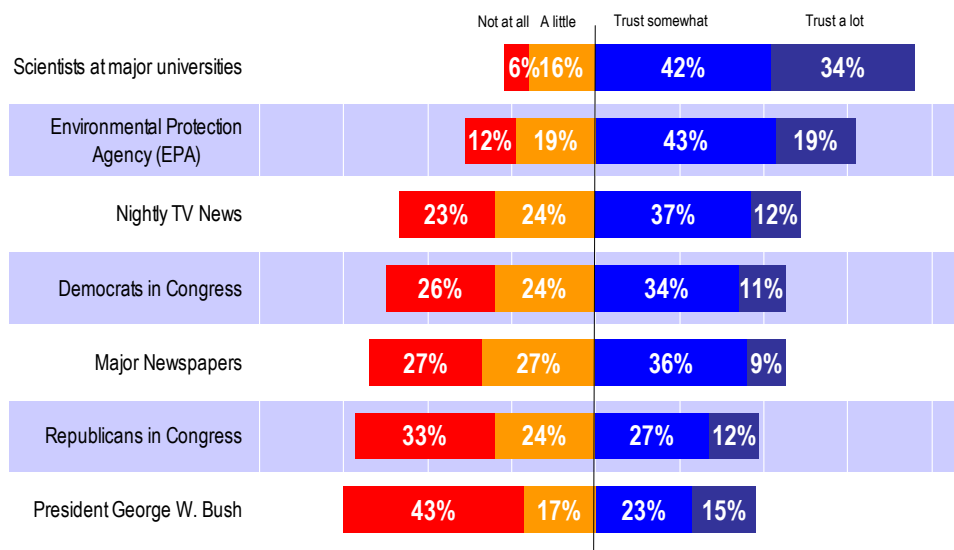


Yale Environment Survey, May 15-22 2007, 1002 interviews

- Fully 70% of Americans say President Bush doesn't do enough for the environment and should do more. 53% say President Bush should do 'much more.' In our 2005 survey, 63% believed the President wasn't doing enough for the environment.
  - Just 37% say they trust President Bush at least somewhat as a source for information about the environment.

## Sources of Information

I am going to read you the names of some public figures and organizations who may be sources of information about environmental issues. For each, please tell me if you trust them a lot, trust them somewhat, trust them a little, or do not trust them at all as sources of information about environmental issues.



Yale Environment Survey, February 5-11 2007, 1017 interviews

- The most-trusted sources of information about environmental issues are:
  - Scientists at major universities (trusted by 76%),
  - Universities (74%),
  - The Environmental Protection Agency (63%, but down from 73% in 2004), and
  - Industry scientists (56%).
- Nightly television news is trusted by 50% of Americans. 23% say they do not trust the nightly television news at all.
  - Just 45% of Americans say they trust newspapers as a source of information about environmental issues. Fully 27% say they do not trust major newspapers at all.
- When it comes to the environment, Democrats in Congress are slightly more trusted than Republicans in Congress, 45% to 39%.

### **Top Concerns: Dependence on Imported Oil**

- Americans continue to be nearly unanimous in the belief that dependence on imported oil is a very serious problem. Fully 93% say it is a serious problem and 70% say it is a 'very' serious problem.
- The most popular remedy to America's dependence on imported oil is to require the auto industry to make cars that get better gas mileage. 94% of Americans say this is a good idea. 61% say it is a 'very good' idea.
- 90% of Americans support building more wind-turbine farms, and 90% say it is a good idea to build more solar power facilities.
  - 86% want increased funding for renewable energy research.

### **Americans are more interested than ever in higher-mileage and hybrid cars**

- In 2005, 23% of Americans said they would 'never' buy a hybrid car. Today, just 13% say they would never buy a hybrid.
- 78% of Americans (and 86% of men age 18-54) would consider buying a vehicle powered by an alternative fuel like ethanol.
- 37% of Americans say they would never buy an S.U.V., down from 43% in 2005.
  - 46% say they have bought or would consider buying an S.U.V., compared to 42% in 2005.

**Other findings**

- 56% of Americans believe it is a bad idea to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil exploration and drilling.
- 86% of Americans think it is a good idea to increase funding for renewable energy research.
  - 90% think building more solar power facilities is a good idea for reducing U.S. dependence on imported oil.

**ABOUT THE POLL**

The nationwide survey of 1017 American adults was conducted on behalf of the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy by Global Strategy Group from February 5-11, 2007.

- The survey was conducted using professional phone interviewers.
- The nationwide sample was drawn from a random digit dial (RDD) process.
- Respondents were screened on the basis of age, i.e., to be over the age of 18.
- The survey has an overall margin of error of  $\pm 3.07\%$  at the 95% confidence level. That is, if the same survey were conducted among similar respondents, the results would fall within the range of  $\pm 3.07\%$  in 19 out of 20 cases.