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Attitudes About Climate and Environmental Issues

Black voters overwhelmingly support climate action.

- Four in five Black voters (82%) agree that “the U.S. government should take strong action to combat climate change,” compared to two-thirds of voters overall (67%). [[Global Strategy Group](#), Apr. 2023]

Most Black Americans recognize pollution as a day-to-day problem in their communities.

- Compared to the national average, Black Americans are much more likely to say that each of the following are “big” or “moderate” problems in their local community: [[Pew](#), June 2023]
 - Air pollution (68%, compared to 51% of all U.S. adults)
 - Pollution of lakes, rivers and streams (64%, compared to 54% of all U.S. adults)
 - Safety of drinking water (62%, compared to 42% of all U.S. adults)

Pollution of drinking water in particular is a high-priority concern for Black Americans.

- Three-quarters of Black Americans (76%) said that they worried “a great deal” about pollution of drinking water in Gallup surveys conducted between 2019 and 2023, compared to 56% of all U.S. adults. [[Gallup](#), May 2023]

Attitudes About Environmental Justice

Black Americans recognize the disproportionate impacts of climate change on communities of color.

- Roughly three-quarters of Black Americans (74%, compared to 56% of all Americans) agree that communities of color “are often disproportionately impacted by climate disasters, experiencing higher rates of pollution and negative health outcomes.” [[We Make the Future](#), Aug. 2023]

More than other groups, Black Americans see a clear role for the government in addressing unequal environmental and climate impacts across communities.

- The majority of Black Americans (63%, compared to 46% of all U.S. adults) say that the federal government should have a “major role” in addressing differences across communities in their health risks from pollution and other environmental problems. [[Pew](#), June 2023]
- Most Black Americans (60%, compared to 41% of all U.S. adults) agree more with a statement that “we should prioritize communities of color, which are most often affected by climate disasters” over a competing statement that “we should not allow preferential treatment for any community.” [[We Make the Future](#), Aug. 2023]

As with other groups, there is a large gap between Black Americans' support for climate justice goals and their familiarity with "climate justice" as a term.

- Seven in ten Black Americans (70%, compared to 53% of all U.S. adults) say that they support the *goals* of the climate justice movement after learning about it, but few Black Americans (12%) or U.S. adults overall (18%) say that they have heard "some" or more about "climate justice." [[Yale + GMU](#), Apr. 2023]

Climate and the Environment in the 2024 Election

Black voters in battleground states say that climate change is a major issue for them in the 2024 election.

- In a survey of Black voters across seven battleground states (AZ, GA, MI, NC, NV, PA, and WI), nearly three in five (58%) say that climate change is either a "top" or "major" priority for them in the election for president. [[Climate Power](#), Sep. 2024]
 - Younger black voters aged 18-34 are particularly likely to say that climate change is a "top" or "major" issue for them in the election (63%).

Black voters show an overwhelming preference for candidates who support climate action and clean energy over candidates who prioritize fossil fuels.

- By a 79%-21% margin, Black voters in battleground states say that they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who *"supports investing in expanding investments in clean energy, which would reduce our reliance on foreign oil, lower electricity bills, and would create good-paying, union jobs across the country while protecting the country from the impacts of climate change and pollution"* over a candidate who *"says that America has the oil and gas resources to be energy independent if we just use them and will fight to get rid of environmental regulations and red tape that are driving up prices, destroying jobs in the fossil fuel industry, and hurting Americans' pocketbooks."* [[Climate Power](#), Sep. 2024]

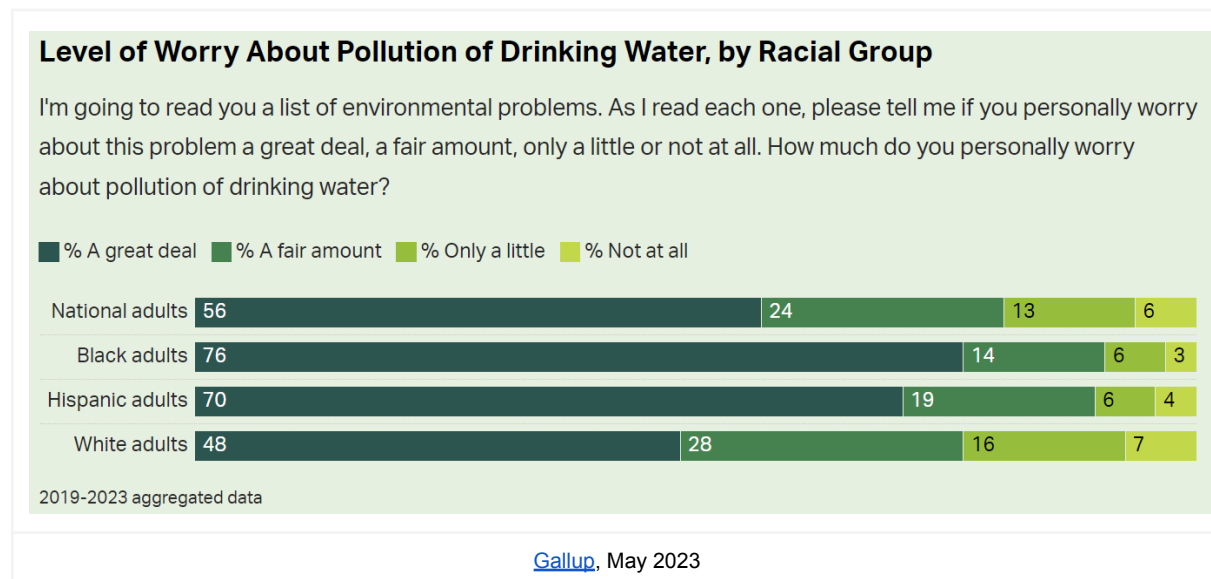
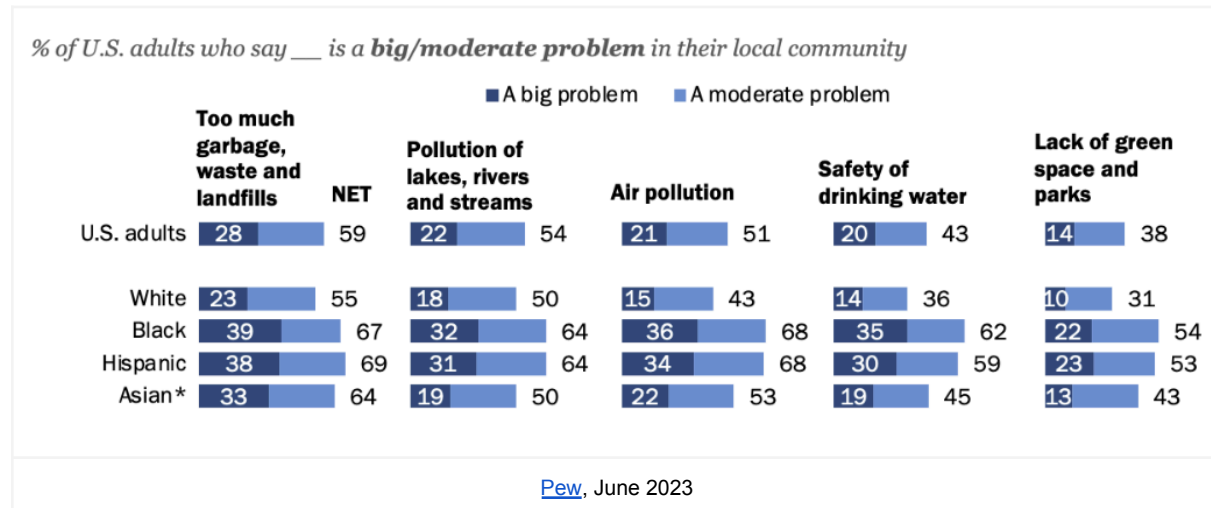
Messaging on climate change and clean energy increases Black voters' motivation to turn out.

- After seeing a series of messages about climate and environmental issues in the presidential race, including positive messages for VP Harris as well as negative messages against Trump, Black voters in battleground states shift slightly toward Harris (79%→81%) and also become more motivated to vote (71% "very motivated" → 77% "very motivated"). [[Climate Power](#), Sep. 2024]

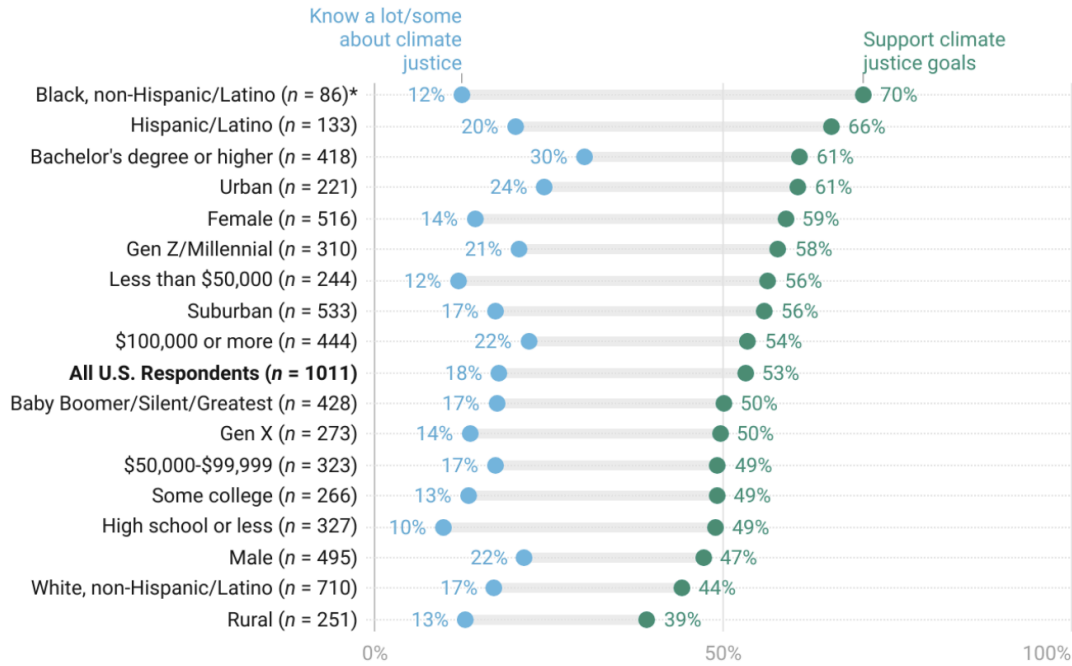
Black voters support the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and federal clean energy plans by wide margins, though there is significant room to raise awareness.

- Majorities of Black voters in battleground states say that they have favorable attitudes about each of the following, though in each case 30%+ either say that they feel neutrally or don't know enough to offer an opinion: [[Climate Power](#), Sep. 2024]
 - The Biden-Harris Administration's Clean Energy Plan - 58% favorable / 13% unfavorable
 - The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) - 53% favorable / 11% unfavorable
 - Congress's plan to boost clean energy production in the U.S. - 52% favorable / 10% unfavorable
 - The Clean Energy Plan passed by Congress in 2022 - 45% favorable / 11% unfavorable
- Nearly nine in ten Black voters (88%) support the Inflation Reduction Act when provided with a brief, one-sentence description of it: *"As you may know, Biden and Democrats' legislation that was passed by Congress is called the Inflation Reduction Act, which will give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, bring down health insurance premiums, and invest in clean energy like wind and solar power."* [[Navigator](#), Apr. 2024]
- Just over half of Black voters (56%) say that they've heard at least "some" about the Inflation Reduction Act, including only 16% who have heard "a lot" about it. [[Navigator](#), Apr. 2024]

Charts



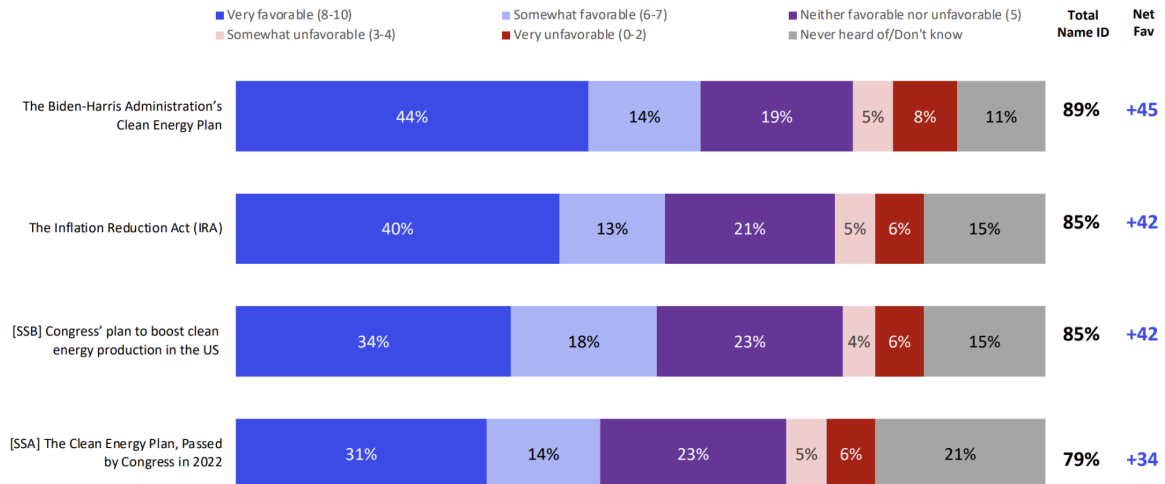
Across most demographic groups, a majority of Americans support the goals of climate justice after learning about them



Yale + GMU, Apr. 2023

Most Black voters feel favorable toward the Biden-Harris Administration's clean energy plans.

10. Now, we'd like you to rate how you feel about some people and some groups of people using a scale from 0 to 10, where "10" means that you feel VERY WARM and FAVORABLE towards them, "5" means that you feel neither warm or cold (neutral), and "0" means that you feel VERY COLD and UNFAVORABLE towards them.



Climate Power, Sep. 2024

Additional Resources

[*Winning on Climate and Energy Issues: Poll Findings Among Black Voters in the Battleground States*](#)

Climate Power, Sep. 2024

[*More Than Seven in Ten Americans Support the Inflation Reduction Act*](#)

Navigator, Apr. 2024

[*Who Supports Climate Justice in the U.S.?*](#)

Yale + GMU, Nov. 2023

[*Research Slides: Mobilizing Toward Climate Justice*](#)

We Make the Future, Aug. 2023

[*Majorities of Americans Prioritize Renewable Energy, Back Steps to Address Climate Change*](#)

Pew, June 2023

[*Race, Ethnicity, and American Views of Climate Change*](#)

Chicago Council on Global Affairs, May 2023

[*Most Black, Hispanic Adults Very Worried About Tainted Water*](#)

Gallup, May 2023

[*Public Opinion on Climate: The State of Play in 2023*](#)

Global Strategy Group, Apr. 2023

[*Nationwide Voters of Color Polling Results on Climate Change*](#)

Green 2.0, Oct. 2022