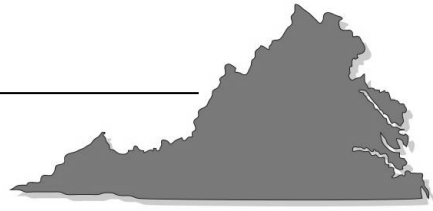


Public Perceptions of Climate Change

Virginia



George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication conducted a study in 2013 with Virginia television news viewers.

- 85% said that climate change is happening.
- Virginians were split on whether climate change is caused mostly by human activity (31%) or a combination of human activity and natural changes in the environment (36%).
- About half (49%) said that climate change either was currently harming people in Virginia or would harm them within the next 10 years.
- Just over half (51%) said that they have personally experienced the effects of climate change.
- Less than half of Virginians said that there is agreement among scientists that climate change is happening (43%). About a third (34%) said that there is a lot of disagreement between scientists over whether climate change is happening, and about a quarter (23%) said that they did not know enough to say.

Maibach, E.W., Bloodhart, B., & Zhao, X. (2013). *Perceptions of Extreme Weather and Climate Change in Virginia*. Fairfax, VA: Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University. Available [here](#).

A 2008 study with the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia also found high belief that climate change is occurring and support for governmental action.

- 75% said there is solid evidence that the average temperature on Earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades.
- 39% said that it was because of human activities; 20% natural patterns; and 33% a combination.
- 61% said global warming is a serious problem.
- 72% said global warming requires immediate government action.

Rabe, B., & Borick, C. (2008). *Report of the Virginia Climate Change Survey*. Charlottesville, VA: Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia. Available [here](#).

Other polls in Virginia from the last two years include: [Better Energy Future](#) (2014), [League of Conservation Voters](#) (2014), [Clean Energy Works for Us](#) (2014), [Politico](#) (2013).