Public Perceptions of Climate Change

A Maryland Statewide Survey | Fall 2014

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary

This 2014 survey on public perceptions of climate change in Maryland is a follow-up to a 2013 study conducted by George Mason University in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In 2014, we repeated some questions – such as about state residents' certainty that climate change is happening, and their understanding of the level of scientific consensus – and added new ones, including Marylanders' preferences for prioritizing climate change compared to other issues at the state level; and whether Marylanders thought that the cold 2013-2014 winter was, or was not, evidence for whether climate change is occurring. This report is one of four being released from the 2014 survey. The others highlight attitudes, behaviors and policy preferences on public health and climate change, energy, and climate adaptation and sea-level rise.

Key findings from this report include:

A majority continue to say climate change is happening, regardless of 2014's cold winter.

- About three-quarters (77%) of Marylanders say that climate change is happening. Almost half of state residents – 45% – say that they are extremely or very sure it is happening. Very few residents (10%) in the state do not think that it is occurring. By way of comparison, only 64% of Americans nationwide say that global warming is happening, according to nationally representative survey results using a similarly phrased question in April 2014.
- A majority of Marylanders say that the past year's cold winter weather was evidence that climate change is happening (55%). Very few Maryland residents say that the cold weather is evidence that climate change is not happening (2%).

Marylanders support state climate and energy policies, and rank climate with universal pre-kindergarten as a priority for the General Assembly and Governor.

- Climate change is ranked similarly to establishing universal pre-kindergarten as a priority for the General Assembly and Governor. Eight in 10 Marylanders (79%) say that it should be a medium, high or very high priority for the state; 75% say the same for universal pre-kindergarten.
- Statewide, majorities of residents support 7 of 8 climate and energy policies that we listed in the survey. Most popular are expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances (82%), and supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products (82%).
- Other policies supported by a majority of Marylanders include: requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting (78%); requiring that Maryland's electricity

suppliers provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2022 (73%); doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by 2020 (65%); encouraging the development of more homes in our cities, with better access to public transportation, as a means to reduce sprawl (63%); and participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases (54%).

The level of scientific consensus on climate change remains little understood.

- About one quarter of Marylanders (26%) correctly say that 81% or more of climate scientists agree that climate change is happening. (A number of studies have placed the true estimate of scientific consensus to be about 97%.)

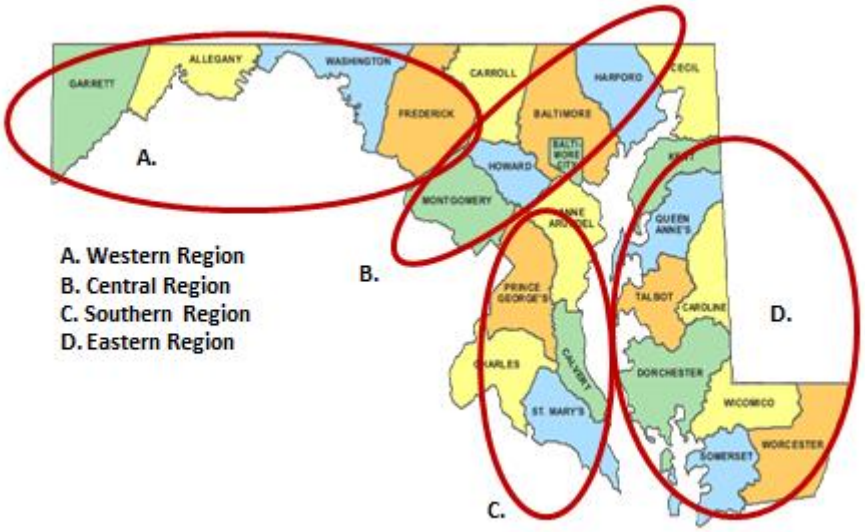
Scientists, health experts and environmental organizations are most trusted on climate; agencies also rank highly.

- More than half of residents say that they trust scientists at Maryland universities (70%), doctors and other public health experts (63%), and environmental organizations (52%) for information on climate change.
- More than half of state residents say that on climate change they trust three of five listed state agencies: Maryland Department of the Environment (58%), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (53%), and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (51%).

Study methodology

The survey was mailed to 6,401 households in the state of Maryland, randomly selected from within each of four regions of the state. (See Figure 1) We sampled at the regional level to ensure the final data was generalizable to these distinctly different geographic and cultural areas of the state, as well as to the state as a whole, weighting the data at both the state and regional levels in accordance with U.S. Census population distributions. Households that responded to the survey in 2013 were not re-contacted in 2014. The survey was fielded from March 17 to June 10, 2014 with a response rate of 35%. The unweighted sample margin of error is +/- 2 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval for the state and less than +/- 5 percentage points for each region. (See study methodology, p. 14). This report includes survey data from 2013 as a basis for comparison; statistical comparisons between years were assessed for significance. Survey reports from 2013 can be found at climatemaryland.org and include a description of the sample and methodology. Both were consistent across years.

Figure 1 | *Four regions of the state were sampled in the survey*



Western Region – Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties; Central Region – Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery counties and Baltimore City; Southern Region – Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties; Eastern Region – Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

1. Most Marylanders say climate change is happening, regardless of 2014's cold winter temperatures

This survey was sent to Marylanders starting in March 2014, just as residents were seeing the last snow storms of the year, and having weathered a chilly winter and the state's 12th coldest March on record. Baltimore set a record for an all-time daily low temperature that month.[1] As newspapers – and scientists – pondered whether the polar vortex and associated cold weather, could be linked to climate change,[2] we also asked Marylanders for their opinions. A number of studies have shown that temperatures can influence climate change public attitudes.[3] A majority of Marylanders say that they thought that the cold winter weather was evidence that climate change is happening (55%), though many scientists are still not yet in agreement.[4] Very few Maryland residents say that the cold weather is evidence that climate change is *not* happening (2%). (See Figure 2)

These responses are fairly consistent across the state. Half or more of residents of the Western, Central and Southern regions say that the cold temperatures were an indication of climate change (50%, 55% and 59%, respectively), and just less than half of people in the Eastern region (43%). (See Table 1, Appendices, p. 19)

Almost half in the state are very certain climate change is happening

All told, 77% of Marylanders say that climate change is happening. (See Figure 3) Almost half of state residents – 45% – say that they are extremely or very sure it is happening. Very few (10%) residents in the state do not think that it is occurring. By way of comparison, only 64% of Americans nationwide said that global warming is happening, according to nationally representative survey results using a similarly phrased question in April.[5] The Central and Southern regions of the state are most likely to say that climate change is occurring (78% and

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[1] Northeast Regional Climate Center. (March 2014). *Mid-Atlantic Climate Summary*. Ithaca, NY: Northeast Regional Climate Center. Available at http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/pubs/msmry_ma_2014-03.pdf

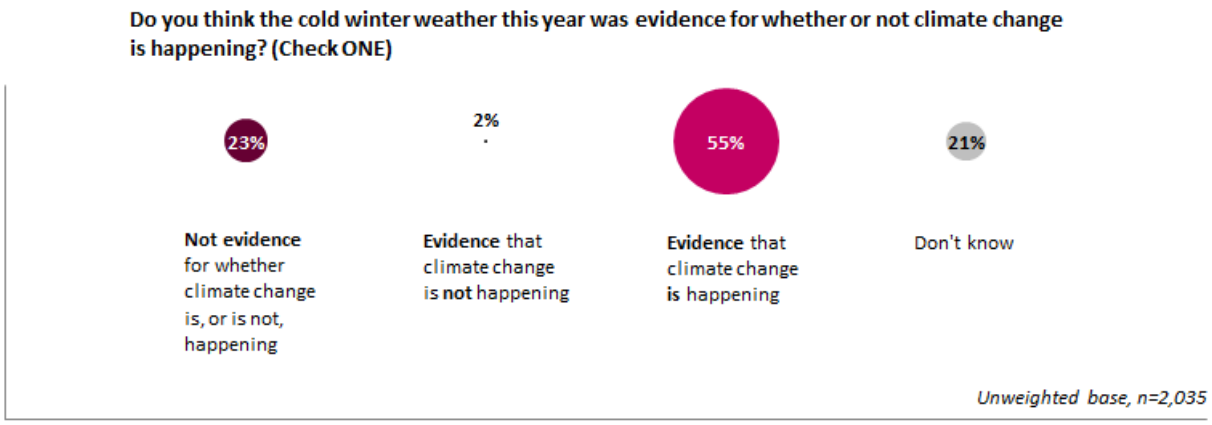
[2] Gillis, J. (2014, February 10). Freezing out the bigger picture. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/11/science/freezing-out-the-bigger-picture.html; Kim, B.-M., Son, S.-W., Min, S.-K., Jeong, J.-H., Kim, S.-J., Zhang, X., … Yoon, J.-H. (2014). Weakening of the stratospheric polar vortex by Arctic sea-ice loss. *Nature Communications, 5*.

[3] Brooks, J., Oxley, D., Vedlitz, A., Zahran, S., & Lindsey, C. (2014). Abnormal daily temperature and concern about climate change across the United States. *Review of Policy Research, 31*(3), 199–217.; Li, Y., Johnson, E. J., & Zaval, L. (2011). Local warming daily temperature change influences belief in global warming. *Psychological Science, 22*(4), 454–459.

[4] Associated Press. (2014, Sept. 2). Polar vortex visits to U.S. linked to climate change. *USA TODAY.* Available at http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2014/09/02/polar-vortex-climate-change/14973047/

[5] Leiserowitz, A., Maibach, E., Roser-Renouf, C., Feinberg, G., & Rosenthal, S. (2014) *Climate change in the American mind: April, 2014*. Yale University and George Mason University. New Haven, CT: Yale Project on Climate Change Communication.

Figure 2 | *A cold winter can be evidence that climate change is happening, say most residents*



79%, respectively), while the Western and Eastern regions are slightly less likely to say the same (71% and 66%, respectively). (See Table 2, Appendices, p. 19) Even the most skeptical regions of the state are more likely to say that climate change is happening than the national average.

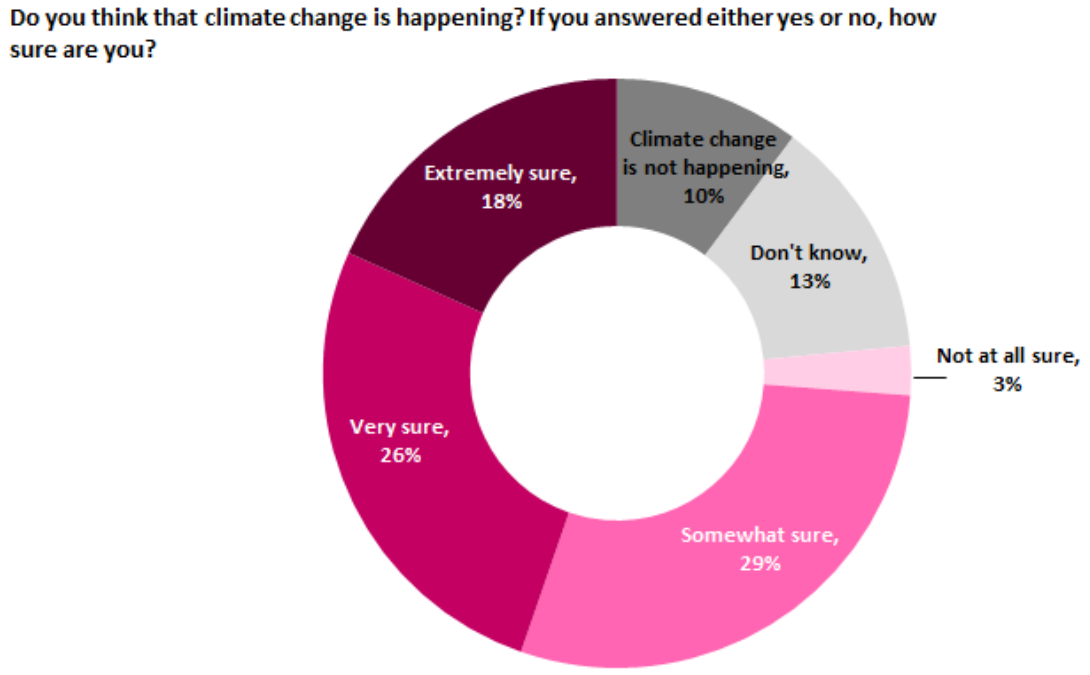
Over the past year, more say that they don't know whether climate change is occurring

Between 2013 and 2014 there was a 10 percentage point increase in those Marylanders who say they do not know whether climate change is happening, and a 9 percentage point drop in those who say it is happening. The percentages of people who say that climate change is *not* happening remained almost identical between 2013 and 2014, a drop in one percentage point. (See Figure 4) The shifts between the two years occurred among those who are less sure that climate change was occurring. There was essentially no change in the percentage of Marylanders who are extremely sure, either that climate change is happening or that it is not. The people who were more unsure, however, became more likely to say that they "don't know" whether it is happening.

More than half of state residents say they are noticing changes in their environment

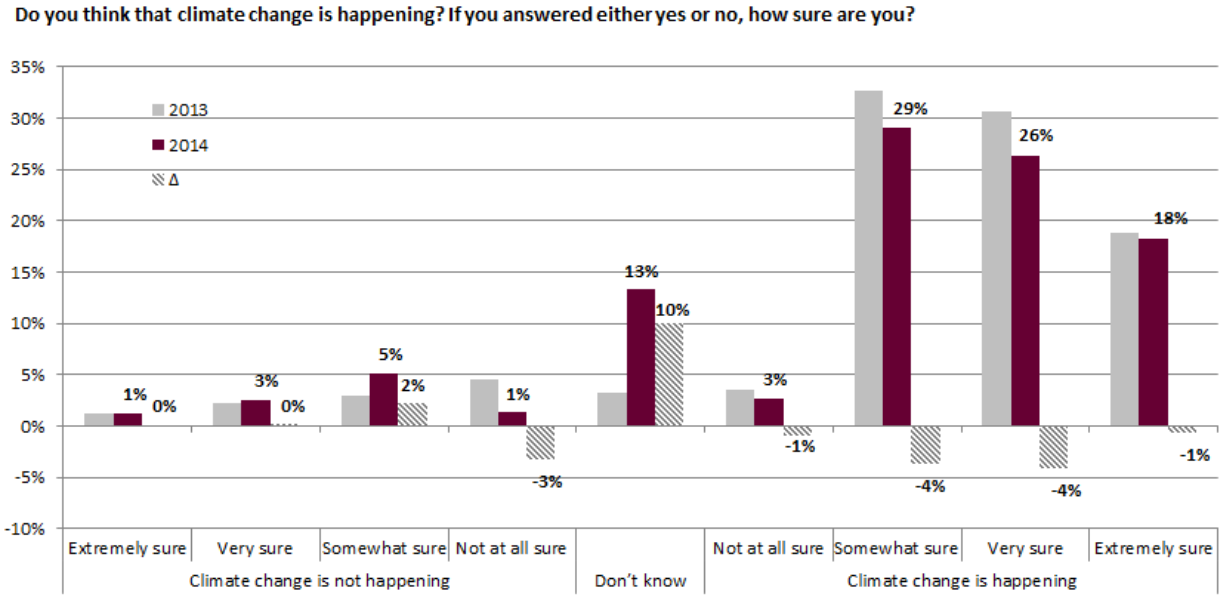
Majorities of residents across all of the state's regions report that they are noticing differences over the course of the last several years in the natural environments and weather conditions of their communities (State, 55%; Western, 54%; Central, 57%; Southern, 56%; Eastern, 52%). (See Table 3, Appendices, p. 20) Much smaller, though still sizeable, percentages say they do not know whether changes have been occurring – between 15 and 17 percent of the people in each of the regions. The numbers of Marylanders who say they are recognizing changes in their environments dipped in the last year by the same percentage as the drop in climate change belief, 9 percentage points. Again, a rise in the numbers of people who said they "don't know" (9 percentage points) accounted for almost all of the difference.

Figure 3 | *A vast majority say climate change is happening*



Unweighted base, n=2,035

Figure 4 | *Marylanders became slightly more unsure about climate change in 2014*



Unweighted base: 2013, n=2,126; 2014, n=2,035

Marylanders are divided over whether climate change is primarily caused by humans

Almost identical percentages of Marylanders say that climate change is caused entirely or mostly by human activities (37%), or that it is about equally driven by natural changes in the environment and human activities (36%). The rest are divided between those that say they don't know (10%), say that climate change is not happening (6%), or that it is caused mostly or entirely by changes in the natural environment (11%). (See Figure 5) Over the last few decades, scientists have become increasingly certain that they can identify a human fingerprint on the changes that are occurring. The National Climate Assessment released in 2014 notably stated "the global warming of the past 50 years is primarily due to human activities."[6] Understanding that human beings are the primary driver of climate change, as opposed to natural cycles, is also highly correlated with wanting Maryland's Governor and the General Assembly to place a high priority on climate change, and support for local and state government protection of communities against climate change harms.[7] There is little variation across the Western, Central and Southern regions in the percentage of people who say that they think that climate change is caused entirely or mostly by human activities (Western, 40%; Central, 38%; Southern, 40%). Residents of the Eastern region are about half as likely to say that climate change is mostly or entirely due to human causes (20%). (See Table 4, Appendices, p. 20)

The level of scientific consensus on climate change remains little understood

About one quarter of Marylanders (26%) say that 81% or more of climate scientists agree that climate change is happening. (See Figure 6) A number of studies have placed the true estimate of scientific consensus to be about 97%.[8] Perception of the scientific consensus in Maryland changed little in the past year; in 2013, 23% answered correctly that the consensus was between 81-100% of climate scientists. (See Table 5, Appendices, p. 21) Research has demonstrated that understanding of the high level of consensus is a critical gateway to greater support for action on climate change.[9] The Central, more urban, region of the state is most likely to correctly state the level of scientific consensus (29%), while the Eastern region is least likely to do so (19%) (Western, 22%; Southern, 23%). (See Table 5, Appendices, p. 21)

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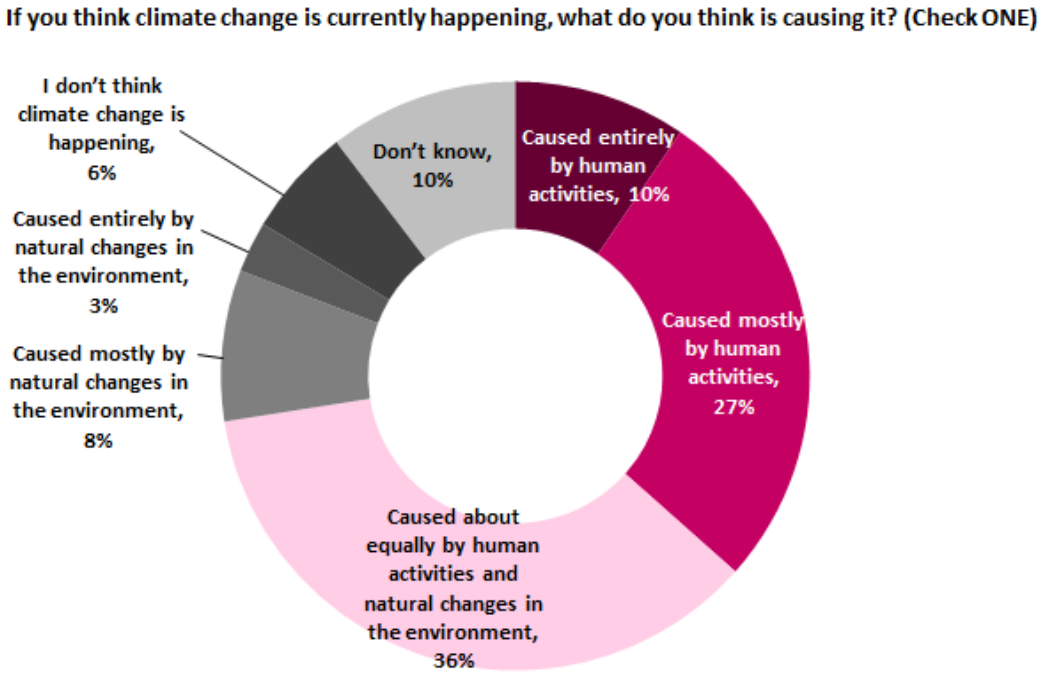
[6] Melillo, J. M., Richmond, T. C., & Yohe, G. W. (Eds.) (2014). *Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment*. Washington, DC: U.S. Global Change Research Program. Available at http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/

[7] Causation of climate change is strongly correlated with preferred level of prioritization by the General Assembly and the Governor of climate change, and support for local and state government protections. (Respective Pearson's correlations, r=0.52 & r=0.53, p<.001, when prioritization, support for government action, and human causation are coded high.)

[8] Anderegg, W. R. L., Prall, J. W., Harold, J., & Schneider, S. H. (2010). Expert credibility in climate change. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 107*(27), 12107–12109.; Cook, J., Nuccitelli, D., Green, S. A., Richardson, M., Winkler, B., Painting, R., … Skuce, A. (2013). Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature. *Environmental Research Letters*, *8*(2), 024024.

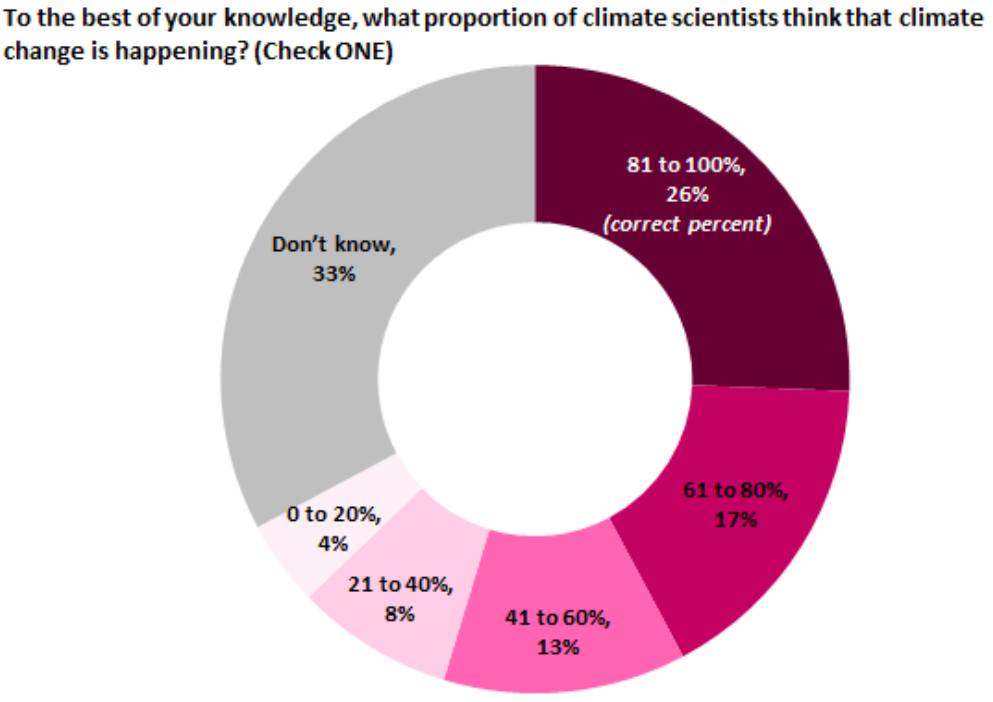
[9] Ding, D., Maibach, E. W., Zhao, X., Roser-Renouf, C., & Leiserowitz, A. (2011). Support for climate policy and societal action are linked to perceptions about scientific agreement. *Nature Climate Change, 1*(9), 462–466.

Figure 5 | *Almost 4 in 10 say climate change is mostly or entirely human-caused*



Unweighted base, n=2,035

Figure 6 | *Only a quarter of Marylanders correctly identify the level of scientific consensus*



Unweighted base, n=2,035

2. Scientists, health experts and environmental organizations are most trusted on climate change

Information does not usually arrive in a vacuum; it is delivered by people. Who those people are, and the extent to which we trust them, makes a big difference in terms of how likely we are to believe the information, and perhaps even act on it. We asked Marylanders a series of questions this year about who they most trusted on climate change: different types of professionals, and organizations, such as state agencies and utility companies. More than half of residents say that they trust scientists at Maryland universities (70%), doctors and other public health experts (63%), and environmental organizations (52%). (See Figure 7) Just under half say that they trust television weathercasters (45%), the news media (43%), and policy experts at Maryland universities (43%). Notably, substantial percentages of Marylanders have no opinion on these questions – between 22% and 53% of residents.

Scientists and health experts, such as doctors, are ranked as the top most trusted sources of climate change information by all regions of the state (Western, 56%/52%; Central, 71%/64%; Southern, 74%/67%; Eastern, 65%/55%). Environmental organizations are ranked third across all regions, but are trusted by half or more residents only in the Central or Southern regions (Western, 44%; Central, 50%; Southern, 62%; Eastern, 44%). (See Table 6, Appendices, p. 22)

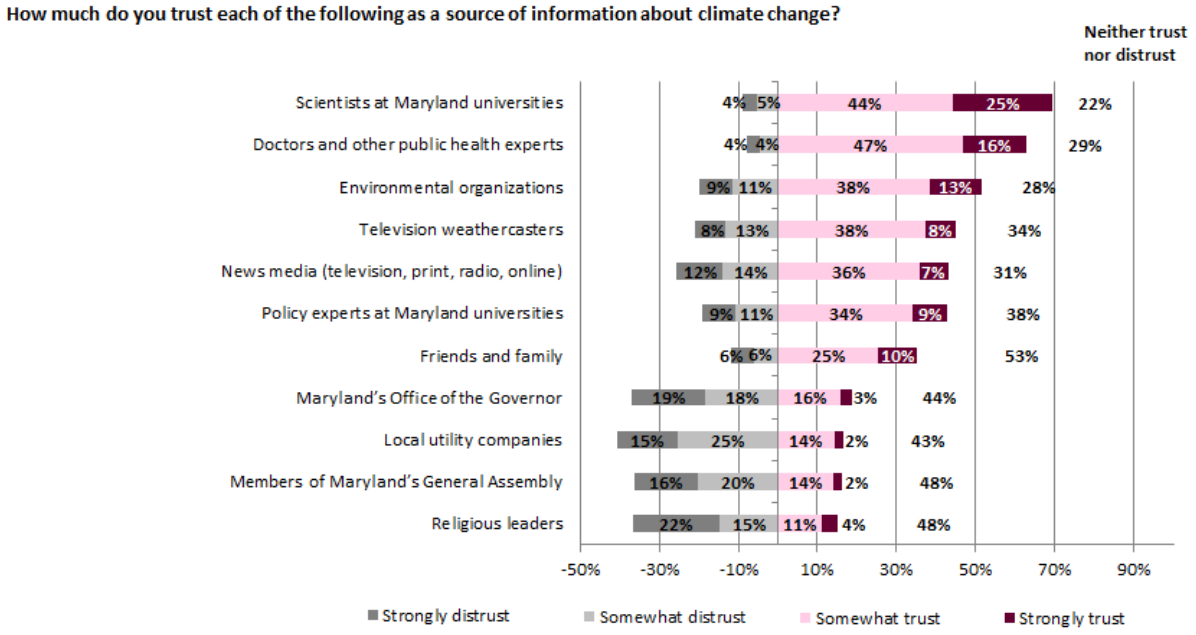
Groups that Marylanders are more likely to distrust than trust on climate change include: Maryland's Office of the Governor (37% distrust/19% trust); local utility companies (41% distrust/17% trust); members of Maryland's General Assembly (36% distrust/16% trust); and religious leaders (37% distrust/15% trust). (See Table 6, Appendices, p. 22)

State agencies also rank highly as trusted messengers on climate change

We also asked Marylanders how much they trust five of the state's agencies that play a role in climate change and energy policy. More than half of state residents say that they trust three of the agencies: Maryland Department of the Environment (58%), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (53%), and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (51%). (See Figure 8) Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Department of Natural Resources rank higher than environmental organizations as trusted messengers (58% and 53% vs. 52%), and within 10 percentage points of doctors and other public health experts (63%).

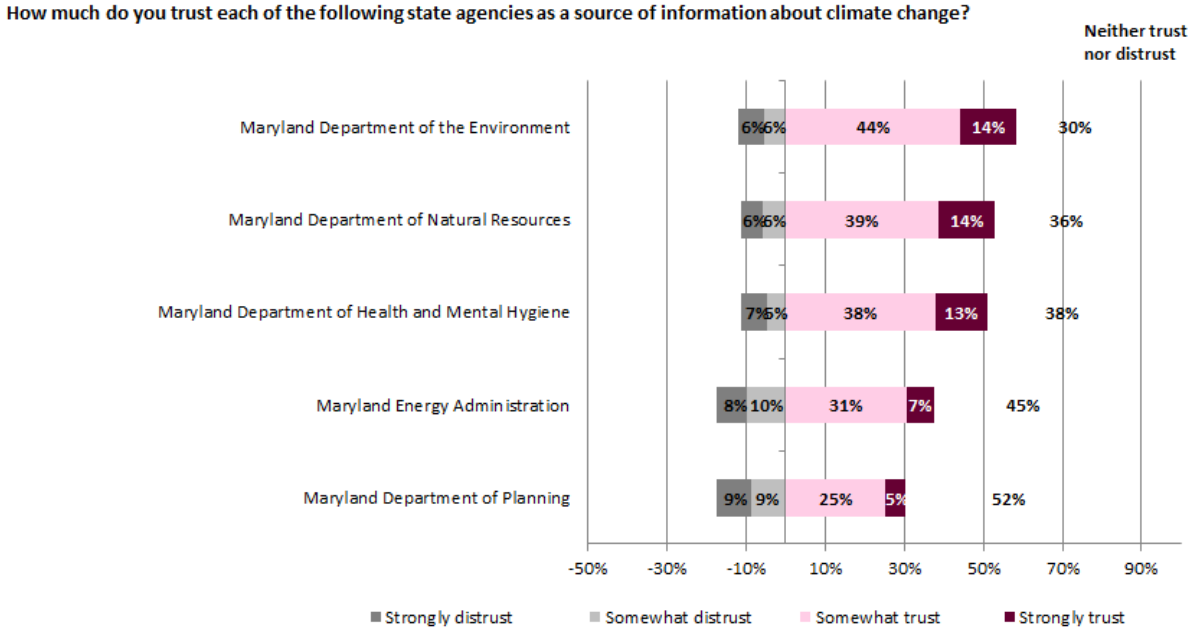
Of the agencies that we asked about, all ranked higher than Maryland's Office of the Governor, members of Maryland's General Assembly, and religious leaders. In the Western region, trust in the agencies was the lowest; none of them garnered more than 50% of residents who said that they trusted them on climate. (See Table 7, Appendices, p. 24)

Figure 7 | *Scientists, health experts and environmental organizations are trusted on climate*



Unweighted base, n=2,035

Figure 8 | *State agencies are more trusted than not on climate change*



Unweighted base, n=2,035

3. Marylanders support state climate and energy policies, and rank climate with universal pre-kindergarten as a priority

In 2014, we asked survey respondents to assess how much of a priority nine different topics should be, in their opinion, for the Governor and General Assembly. A number of these topics were priorities for the Governor's administration in the 2014 legislative session, such as increasing the minimum wage and expanding pre-kindergarten, and were likely well-known due to media coverage.[10] Climate change is ranked similarly to establishing universal pre-kindergarten as a priority for the General Assembly and Governor. Eight in 10 Marylanders (79%) say that it should be a medium, high or very high priority for the state; 75% say the same for universal pre-kindergarten. (See Figure 9) Support for climate change as a high or very high priority issue is strongest in the Central region of the state (55%), and weaker in other regions (Southern, 48%; Western, 40%; Eastern, 37%). (See Table 8, Appendices, p. 25)

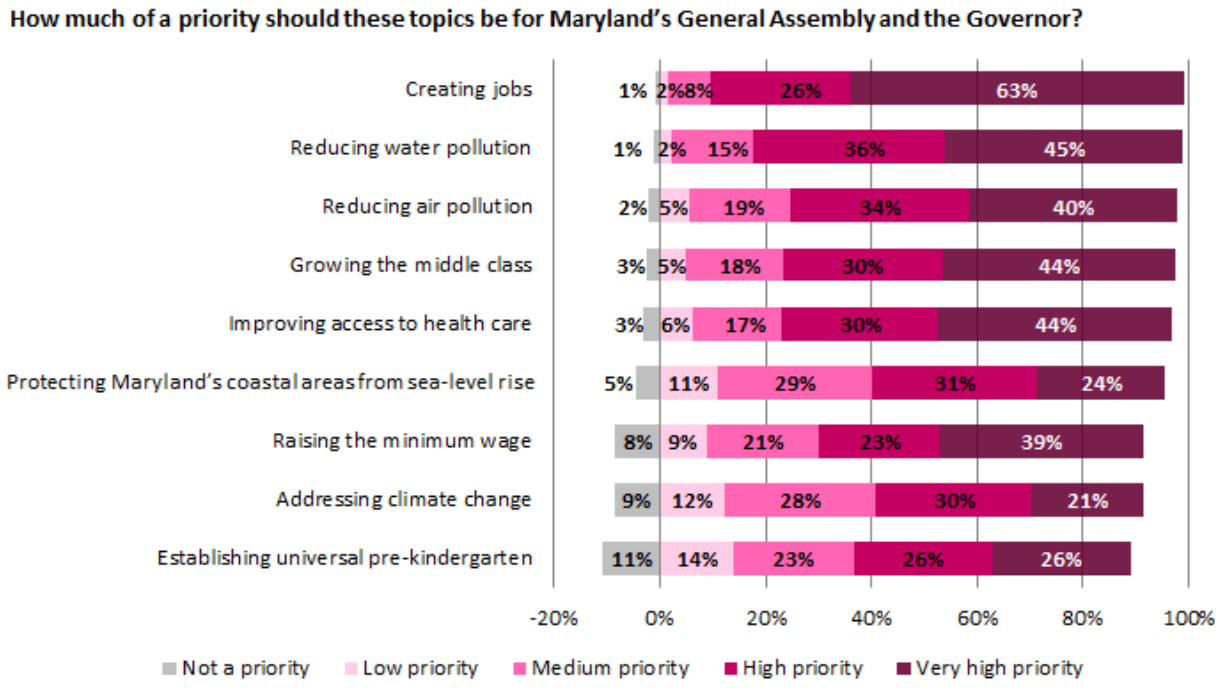
Vast majorities back expanding energy efficiency rebates and supporting local agriculture

Statewide, majorities of residents support 7 of 8 climate and energy policies that we listed in the survey. (See Figure 10) Most popular are expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances (82%), and supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products (82%). Other policies supported by a majority of Marylanders include: requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting (78%); requiring that Maryland's electricity suppliers provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2022 (73%); doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by 2020 (65%); encouraging the development of more homes in our cities, with better access to public transportation, as a means to reduce sprawl (63%); and participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases (54%). Tax incentives for installation of residential wood fuel heating systems is the least favored of the eight policies, with only 43% support statewide. In 2013, we found almost identical levels of support for all of these policies. (See Table 9, Appendices, p. 29)

Overall support for these policies is 50% or more across all regions of the state with the exception of tax incentives for residential wood fuel heating systems – which is only supported by half or more in the Eastern region (51%) – and participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases. The latter is less supported in the Western and Eastern regions of the state (39% and 38%, respectively) than in the Central and Southern regions (55% and 59%). Doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by

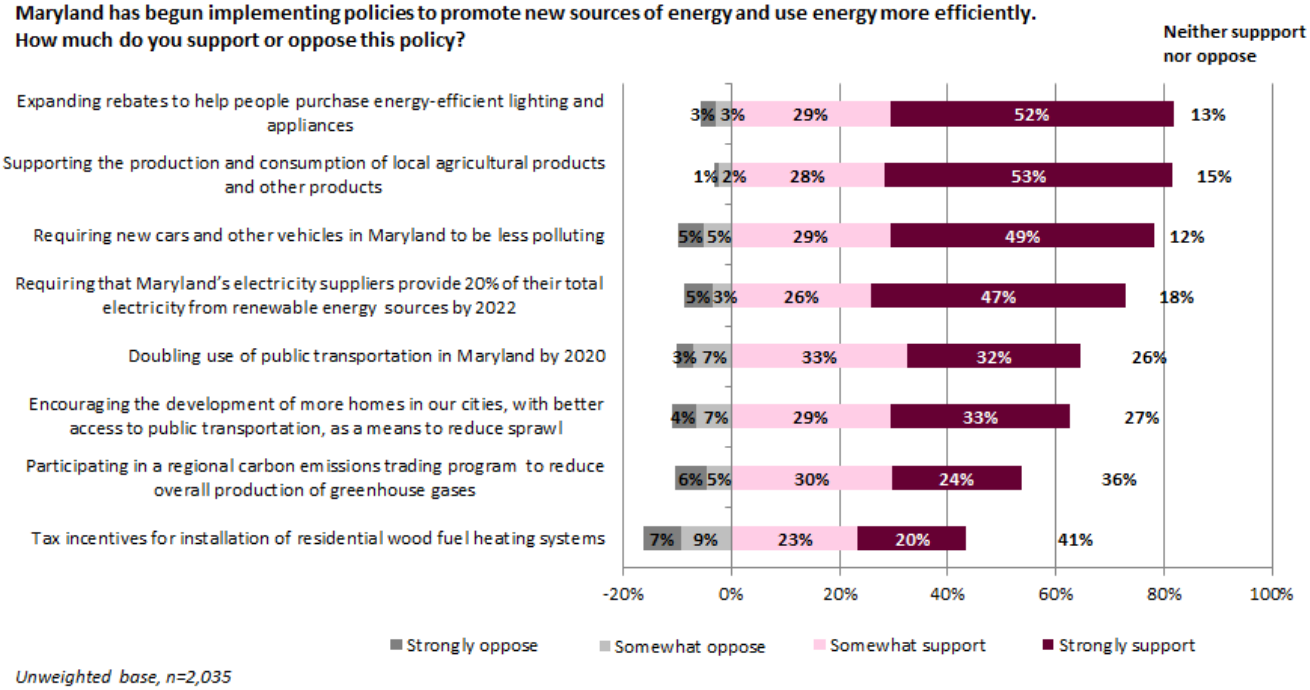
[10] Wagner, J., & Johnson, J. (2014, January 8). Maryland Gov. O'Malley puts minimum wage hike at top of list of legislative priorities. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/maryland-gov-omalley-puts-minimum-wage-hike-at-top-of-list-of-legislative-priorities/2014/01/08/5293ffa2-789c-11e3-b1c5-739e63e9c9a7_story.html

Figure 9 | *Climate ranks lower than other issues, but more than half rank it as high priority*



Unweighted base, n=2,035

Figure 10 | *Majorities support almost all of the state's climate and energy policies*



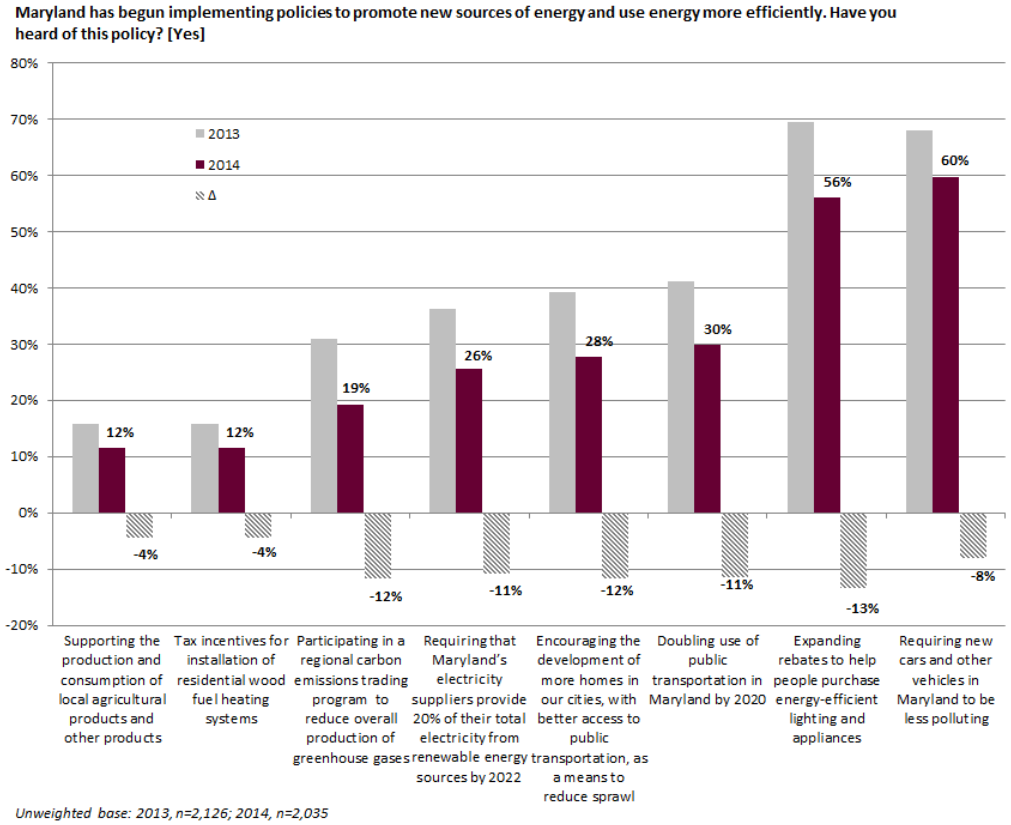
Unweighted base, n=2,035

2020, and requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting are also policies that are less favored by the Western and Eastern regions compared to the middle sections of the state. (See Table 9, Appendices, p. 27)

Residents are less likely to say that they have heard of the policies

Of eight climate and energy policies that we presented to Marylanders in the survey, majorities said that they recognized only two: expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances (56%), and requiring cars and other vehicles to be less polluting (60%). (See Figure 11) The state's residents were less likely in 2014 than in 2013 to say that they had heard of each of the policies, with drops in reported levels of awareness between 4 and 13 percentage points. Energy-efficiency rebates and reducing the pollution from cars and vehicles were consistently recognized by majorities of residents across all four regions of the state. Supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products and other products was also recognized by a majority of residents of the Eastern region (53%). (See Table 10, Appendices, p. 31)

Figure 11 | *Residents are most aware of vehicle pollution and energy efficiency rebate policies*



Unweighted base: 2013, n=2,126; 2014, n=2,035

4. Study methodology

This study was conducted by George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to explore Marylanders' views on public health, energy and the environment. The survey instrument was developed at George Mason University, partially based on questions used in the Climate Change in the American Mind national surveys run by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication (http://environment.yale.edu/ climate-communication/) and George Mason's Center for Climate Change Communication (http://climatechange communication.org/). The mail survey consisted of 50 questions, and took approximately 20 minutes to complete.

For reporting purposes, the data has been broken into four separate documents on Marylanders' attitudes, behaviors and policy preferences regarding public health and climate change, climate adaptation and sea-level rise, energy, and climate change generally.

The unweighted sample margin of error is +/- 2 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval for the state and less than +/- 5 percentage points for each region. (See Table 1)

Sampling design and fielding

The survey was mailed to 6,401 households in the state of Maryland, randomly selected from within each of four regions of the state from Survey Sampling International household address databases, based primarily on U.S. Postal Service delivery route information. We sampled at the regional level to ensure the final data was generalizable to these distinctly different geographic and cultural areas of the state, as well as the state as a whole. The sample size for the Central region of the state was higher relative to the other three regions because it accounts for more than half of the state's population (see Table 1). Households that responded to the survey in 2013 were not re-contacted in 2014.

The survey was fielded from March 17 to June 10, 2014. Each household was sent up to four mailings: an announcement letter introducing the survey (March 17), a copy of the survey with a $2 bill as a thank you (March 24), a reminder postcard (April 7), and a follow-up survey (April 22). (As a point of comparison, the 2013 survey was fielded from March 28 to June 4. Methodology for the 2013 survey is available within those reports at climatemaryland.org.) In order to achieve randomization of respondents within each household, we requested that the person with the most recent birthday complete the survey. Households that completed and returned the survey were taken off of subsequent mailing lists.

Weighting

The data tables report percentages for the state and each region. State data were weighted for regional representation, gender, age, and education level based on 3-year American Community Survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau, following the same procedure as in 2013. Each region's data were also weighted for the same demographic variables. Base unweighted sample sizes for each question are reported in addition to the weighted percentages.

Respondents who did not provide regional, gender, age or education level data were dropped from the data set. This lowered the number of respondents by 201 cases. (The overall response rate for the study before those cases were dropped was 38%.) Please see the demographics section of the appendix for more information on the characteristics of the survey sample pre- and post-weighting.

Institutional Review Board

The study was reviewed by Institutional Review Boards for both George Mason University (Protocol #8508) and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Protocol #13-04).

Table 1 | *Regional samples, response rates and margin of error*

Region	Counties	Initial sample	Refusals	Undeliverable addresses	Number of respondents*	Response rate	Margin of error
Western	Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Washington	1,467	14	107	495	36%	+/- 4.40 % points
Central	Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Baltimore City	2,000	16	130	629	33%	+/- 3.91 % points
Southern	Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's	1,467	11	85	435	31%	+/- 4.70 % points
Eastern	Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester	1,467	18	190	476	37%	+/- 4.49 % points
State	All counties	6,401	70	512	2,035	35%	+/- 2.2 % points

Appendices

– Data tables

– Sample demographics

The following tables provide data at the state and regional level for each of the questions included in this survey report. “Unweighted n” refers to the number of people who responded to each question. The samples were weighted to better approximate U.S. Census data on state population distributions. More information can be found in the study methodology section. The counties included in each region are listed below.

Region	Counties
Western	Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties
Central	Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery counties and Baltimore City
Southern	Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties
Eastern	Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties
State	All counties

Data tables | Marylanders' climate change attitudes and beliefs

Table 1 | *Whether cold winter is evidence for climate change*

Do you think the cold winter weather this year was evidence for whether or not climate change is happening? (Check ONE)

	STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
No — not evidence for whether climate change is, or is not, happening	**22.5%**	32.2%	23.2%	16.0%	32.8%
Yes – evidence that climate change is not happening	**1.9%**	2.6%	.8%	3.7%	2.9%
Yes – evidence that climate change is happening	**55.1%**	49.9%	55.2%	59.8%	43.2%
Don't know	**20.5%**	15.2%	20.9%	20.5%	21.1%
Unweighted n	2006	485	622	431	468

Table 2 | *Belief certainty that climate change is happening*

Do you think that climate change is happening? If you answered either yes or no, how sure are you?

	STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Extremely sure climate change is not happening	**1.2%**	1.9%	.8%	1.4%	1.7%
Very sure climate change is not happening	**2.5%**	6.3%	2.0%	2.4%	3.5%
Somewhat sure climate change is not happening	**5.1%**	5.9%	5.4%	3.2%	7.5%
Not at all sure climate change is not happening	**1.4%**	1.9%	1.5%	2.1%	1.1%
Don't know	**13.3%**	12.7%	12.0%	12.2%	20.0%
Not at all sure climate change is happening	**2.7%**	3.2%	3.0%	1.8%	2.6%
Somewhat sure climate change is happening	**29.1%**	26.1%	31.4%	26.2%	26.7%
Very sure climate change is happening	**26.4%**	29.1%	25.8%	27.8%	24.0%
Extremely sure climate change is happening	**18.3%**	12.9%	18.0%	22.9%	12.9%
Unweighted n	1995	482	617	431	465

	2013	2014	Δ
Extremely sure climate change is not happening	1.2%	1.2%	0.0%
Very sure climate change is not happening	2.2%	2.5%	0.3%
Somewhat sure climate change is not happening	3.0%	5.1%	2.2%
Not at all sure climate change is not happening	4.6%	1.4%	-3.2%
Don't know	3.3%	13.3%	10.0%
Not at all sure climate change is happening	3.6%	2.7%	-0.9%
Somewhat sure climate change is happening	32.7%	29.1%	-3.6%
Very sure climate change is happening	30.6%	26.4%	-4.1%
Extremely sure climate change is happening	18.9%	18.3%	-0.6%
Unweighted n	1923	1995	

Table 3 | *Perceived changes in local weather and the environment*

Over the past several years, have you noticed any changes in the weather patterns or other aspects of the natural environment in your community? (Check ONE)

	STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Yes	**54.7%**	53.7%	56.5%	56.2%	52.3%
No	**27.9%**	31.2%	26.8%	26.4%	30.6%
Don't know	**17.3%**	15.1%	16.8%	17.4%	17.1%
Unweighted n	2014	490	619	434	471

	2013	2014	Δ
Yes	64.1%	54.7%	-9.3%
No	27.4%	27.9%	0.5%
Don't know	8.5%	17.3%	8.8%
Unweighted n	2102	2014	

Table 4 | *Beliefs about the causes of climate change*

If you think climate change is currently happening, what do you think is causing it? (Check ONE)

	STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Caused entirely by human activities	**9.5%**	11.2%	11.6%	8.2%	5.5%
Caused mostly by human activities	**27.1%**	28.3%	26.2%	32.1%	13.9%
Caused about equally by human activities and natural changes in the environment	**36.0%**	26.1%	37.6%	33.9%	38.0%
Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment	**8.3%**	10.6%	7.0%	8.8%	13.2%
Caused entirely by natural changes in the environment	**2.8%**	2.7%	2.8%	1.7%	7.0%
I don't think climate change is happening	**6.0%**	9.8%	5.3%	5.6%	8.4%
Don't know	**10.4%**	11.4%	9.4%	9.6%	13.9%
Unweighted n	1892	454	578	415	445

Table 5 | *Beliefs about the scientific consensus on climate change*

To the best of your knowledge, what proportion of climate scientists think that climate change is happening? (Check ONE)

	STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
0 to 20%	**4.4%**	13.1%	3.0%	3.9%	4.2%
21 to 40%	**8.1%**	6.3%	7.4%	9.2%	8.4%
41 to 60%	**12.5%**	9.9%	10.1%	17.4%	14.9%
61 to 80%	**16.6%**	17.7%	16.9%	17.4%	16.9%
81 to 100%	**25.6%**	21.8%	28.8%	22.5%	18.5%
Don't know	**32.8%**	31.1%	33.7%	29.6%	37.2%
Unweighted n	2017	490	624	430	473

	2013	**2014**	**Δ**
0 to 20%	2.7%	4.4%	1.7%
21 to 40%	6.0%	8.1%	2.2%
41 to 60%	13.5%	12.5%	-1.0%
61 to 80%	20.1%	16.6%	-3.4%
81 to 100%	23.4%	25.6%	2.1%
Don't know	34.4%	32.8%	-1.6%
Unweighted n	2088	2017	

Data tables | Trusted sources of information about climate change

Table 6 | *Trusted messengers by occupation*

How much do you trust each of the following as a source of information about climate change?

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Television weathercasters	Strongly distrust	**7.5%**	14.2%	5.9%	9.2%	9.1%
	Somewhat distrust	**13.3%**	13.7%	13.7%	10.3%	17.0%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**34.1%**	34.8%	37.9%	25.4%	35.0%
	Somewhat trust	**37.5%**	30.6%	35.7%	45.7%	34.4%
	Strongly trust	**7.6%**	6.8%	6.8%	9.3%	4.5%
	Unweighted n	2003	487	621	428	467
News media (television, print, radio, online)	Strongly distrust	**11.6%**	20.2%	10.4%	10.7%	18.2%
	Somewhat distrust	**14.0%**	15.6%	15.0%	10.0%	19.4%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**31.3%**	34.3%	33.0%	29.3%	24.9%
	Somewhat trust	**36.0%**	26.6%	34.5%	41.9%	33.4%
	Strongly trust	**7.1%**	3.3%	7.1%	8.0%	4.1%
	Unweighted n	1995	487	616	425	467
Doctors and other public health experts	Strongly distrust	**3.6%**	8.8%	3.1%	3.2%	4.0%
	Somewhat distrust	**4.4%**	8.2%	4.1%	4.4%	7.4%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**29.1%**	31.0%	29.1%	25.1%	33.2%
	Somewhat trust	**46.8%**	40.2%	48.7%	44.6%	44.0%
	Strongly trust	**16.1%**	11.9%	15.1%	22.5%	11.3%
	Unweighted n	1979	486	606	427	460
Religious leaders	Strongly distrust	**22.0%**	20.9%	22.5%	22.4%	22.4%
	Somewhat distrust	**14.7%**	19.5%	15.5%	13.6%	12.0%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**48.1%**	40.4%	50.7%	46.8%	43.4%
	Somewhat trust	**11.1%**	15.7%	8.0%	12.7%	16.9%
	Strongly trust	**4.1%**	3.4%	3.4%	4.4%	5.3%
	Unweighted n	1980	481	611	424	464
Scientists at Maryland universities	Strongly distrust	**3.7%**	7.4%	3.4%	2.7%	6.2%
	Somewhat distrust	**5.3%**	7.9%	5.1%	4.6%	9.9%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**21.5%**	29.1%	20.8%	18.8%	18.5%
	Somewhat trust	**44.1%**	37.8%	44.7%	45.7%	43.7%
	Strongly trust	**25.4%**	17.8%	26.0%	28.3%	21.7%
	Unweighted n	1994	484	618	428	464

Table 6 Continued>>

Table 6 Continued>>

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Policy experts at Maryland universities	Strongly distrust	**8.6%**	12.0%	8.5%	6.9%	13.8%
	Somewhat distrust	**10.6%**	12.3%	11.0%	8.6%	13.3%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**38.0%**	43.0%	37.0%	36.0%	37.4%
	Somewhat trust	**34.2%**	26.5%	33.2%	40.7%	28.7%
	Strongly trust	**8.7%**	6.2%	10.2%	7.8%	6.8%
	Unweighted n	1971	478	603	427	463
Members of Maryland's General Assembly	Strongly distrust	**15.8%**	23.6%	15.9%	13.0%	24.7%
	Somewhat distrust	**20.4%**	17.8%	20.5%	18.9%	26.9%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**47.7%**	47.1%	48.2%	49.7%	32.4%
	Somewhat trust	**14.1%**	10.8%	13.9%	15.6%	13.6%
	Strongly trust	**2.0%**	.6%	1.5%	2.8%	2.4%
	Unweighted n	1983	481	614	424	464
Maryland's Office of the Governor	Strongly distrust	**18.5%**	26.5%	20.0%	13.4%	25.1%
	Somewhat distrust	**18.4%**	17.5%	16.4%	19.8%	26.2%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**44.2%**	42.9%	45.8%	44.4%	29.0%
	Somewhat trust	**16.0%**	12.1%	15.3%	18.5%	16.4%
	Strongly trust	**2.9%**	1.0%	2.4%	3.9%	3.3%
	Unweighted n	1988	482	615	427	464
Local utility companies	Strongly distrust	**15.4%**	20.4%	14.6%	15.3%	19.1%
	Somewhat distrust	**25.4%**	26.8%	25.2%	26.9%	19.6%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**42.8%**	41.6%	47.6%	34.8%	41.2%
	Somewhat trust	**14.2%**	10.8%	11.2%	19.2%	17.9%
	Strongly trust	**2.3%**	.4%	1.4%	3.8%	2.3%
	Unweighted n	1990	483	614	426	467
Environmental organizations	Strongly distrust	**8.6%**	14.0%	8.9%	6.2%	11.9%
	Somewhat distrust	**11.3%**	13.5%	11.6%	9.4%	16.1%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**28.4%**	28.4%	30.0%	22.9%	27.8%
	Somewhat trust	**38.3%**	35.6%	36.5%	45.8%	33.0%
	Strongly trust	**13.4%**	8.4%	13.0%	15.7%	11.3%
	Unweighted n	1994	488	613	426	467
Friends and family	Strongly distrust	**5.8%**	6.8%	6.1%	4.9%	6.5%
	Somewhat distrust	**6.1%**	6.5%	7.5%	4.0%	5.9%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**52.8%**	50.2%	53.0%	52.3%	53.9%
	Somewhat trust	**25.4%**	28.9%	23.7%	27.6%	24.0%
	Strongly trust	**9.8%**	7.7%	9.6%	11.3%	9.7%
	Unweighted n	1988	484	615	427	462

Table 7 | *Maryland state agencies as trusted messengers*

How much do you trust each of the following state agencies as a source of information about climate change?

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Maryland Department of the Environment	Strongly distrust	**6.3%**	10.6%	6.2%	4.3%	13.1%
	Somewhat distrust	**5.5%**	11.4%	6.4%	2.6%	8.5%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**30.1%**	30.2%	32.0%	25.4%	23.7%
	Somewhat trust	**44.0%**	37.9%	41.2%	51.1%	45.8%
	Strongly trust	**14.2%**	9.9%	14.1%	16.6%	8.9%
	Unweighted n	2008	489	621	430	468
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Strongly distrust	**6.5%**	11.4%	5.6%	5.7%	11.5%
	Somewhat distrust	**4.8%**	10.0%	5.1%	2.6%	8.4%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**37.8%**	39.0%	38.7%	33.8%	37.0%
	Somewhat trust	**37.8%**	34.3%	36.2%	43.3%	35.4%
	Strongly trust	**13.1%**	5.3%	14.3%	14.6%	7.8%
	Unweighted n	2005	489	619	428	469
Maryland Department of Planning	Strongly distrust	**8.8%**	14.1%	6.9%	10.1%	13.2%
	Somewhat distrust	**8.7%**	12.7%	10.5%	5.3%	11.9%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**52.3%**	50.2%	53.1%	48.8%	48.7%
	Somewhat trust	**25.2%**	20.4%	24.7%	30.0%	23.3%
	Strongly trust	**5.0%**	2.5%	4.8%	5.8%	2.8%
	Unweighted n	1996	485	615	429	467
Maryland Energy Administration	Strongly distrust	**7.5%**	13.0%	6.8%	6.5%	10.9%
	Somewhat distrust	**9.9%**	14.4%	10.6%	8.3%	16.7%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**45.0%**	44.3%	44.8%	42.2%	43.9%
	Somewhat trust	**30.8%**	24.7%	30.3%	36.6%	25.4%
	Strongly trust	**6.8%**	3.5%	7.6%	6.4%	3.2%
	Unweighted n	2005	489	620	428	468
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	Strongly distrust	**5.5%**	9.6%	5.1%	4.6%	8.7%
	Somewhat distrust	**5.6%**	12.2%	4.6%	5.5%	7.7%
	Neither trust nor distrust	**36.1%**	32.2%	38.7%	30.8%	32.8%
	Somewhat trust	**38.5%**	34.7%	36.2%	43.7%	40.2%
	Strongly trust	**14.4%**	11.3%	15.4%	15.4%	10.6%
	Unweighted n	2007	489	621	429	468

Data tables | Marylanders' priorities for the Assembly and Governor

Table 8 | *Top priority areas for the state*

How much of a priority should these topics be for Maryland's General Assembly and the Governor?

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Improving access to health care	Not a priority	**3.2%**	5.3%	3.2%	2.3%	4.4%
	Low	**6.3%**	9.7%	5.7%	7.4%	5.2%
	Medium	**16.7%**	25.5%	16.4%	11.6%	32.4%
	High	**29.5%**	21.5%	28.3%	33.7%	25.1%
	Very high	**44.3%**	37.9%	46.5%	45.1%	32.9%
	Unweighted n	1997	485	617	431	464
Establishing universal pre-kindergarten	Not a priority	**11.0%**	17.5%	10.7%	9.5%	14.4%
	Low	**13.9%**	21.0%	12.4%	14.3%	17.6%
	Medium	**22.8%**	28.1%	21.1%	23.6%	24.7%
	High	**26.1%**	15.1%	28.8%	25.5%	22.4%
	Very high	**26.2%**	18.3%	26.9%	27.0%	20.9%
	Unweighted n	1993	485	614	428	466
Reducing water pollution	Not a priority	**1.2%**	2.0%	1.5%	.5%	2.4%
	Low	**2.3%**	5.4%	1.2%	2.2%	5.8%
	Medium	**15.4%**	24.8%	15.7%	12.0%	18.9%
	High	**36.3%**	30.0%	37.7%	36.5%	30.6%
	Very high	**44.8%**	37.8%	44.0%	48.8%	42.4%
	Unweighted n	1989	485	613	426	465
Addressing climate change	Not a priority	**8.6%**	16.3%	6.7%	9.1%	16.0%
	Low	**12.3%**	17.5%	11.1%	11.8%	18.0%
	Medium	**28.4%**	25.8%	27.3%	31.3%	29.1%
	High	**29.6%**	18.3%	31.4%	29.9%	20.0%
	Very high	**21.0%**	22.1%	23.6%	17.9%	16.9%
	Unweighted n	1994	486	614	430	464
Raising the minimum wage	Not a priority	**8.4%**	12.5%	8.8%	6.6%	12.8%
	Low	**8.8%**	14.3%	8.4%	7.2%	15.9%
	Medium	**21.2%**	19.1%	21.3%	20.5%	25.6%
	High	**22.9%**	20.9%	22.4%	24.4%	18.8%
	Very high	**38.7%**	33.2%	39.1%	41.4%	26.9%
	Unweighted n	2001	487	620	430	464

Table 8 Continued>>

Table 8 Continued>>

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Reducing air pollution	Not a priority	**2.0%**	3.2%	1.9%	1.7%	4.3%
	Low	**5.4%**	7.7%	3.3%	8.1%	8.4%
	Medium	**19.2%**	27.5%	19.1%	16.8%	25.1%
	High	**33.8%**	29.8%	35.9%	33.2%	28.7%
	Very high	**39.5%**	31.8%	39.9%	40.2%	33.5%
	Unweighted n	1993	485	613	429	466
Creating jobs	Not a priority	**0.9%**	.8%	.8%	.9%	2.4%
	Low	**1.5%**	3.4%	2.1%	.6%	.5%
	Medium	**8.2%**	7.5%	8.0%	7.9%	8.9%
	High	**26.2%**	21.8%	26.0%	28.8%	28.4%
	Very high	**63.1%**	66.5%	63.2%	61.8%	59.8%
	Unweighted n	2002	487	618	429	468
Growing the middle class	Not a priority	**2.5%**	1.9%	2.4%	2.6%	2.4%
	Low	**4.9%**	5.7%	5.0%	5.8%	4.9%
	Medium	**18.4%**	19.8%	19.3%	16.6%	18.2%
	High	**30.1%**	29.8%	27.9%	31.9%	36.4%
	Very high	**44.1%**	42.7%	45.3%	43.1%	38.1%
	Unweighted n	1982	483	609	427	463
Protecting Maryland's coastal areas from sea-level rise	Not a priority	**4.5%**	9.3%	3.3%	4.2%	7.1%
	Low	**11.0%**	15.4%	11.7%	8.8%	10.1%
	Medium	**29.2%**	30.6%	29.4%	29.1%	27.2%
	High	**31.2%**	19.3%	32.1%	33.5%	26.0%
	Very high	**24.1%**	25.4%	23.4%	24.5%	29.7%
	Unweighted n	1998	487	613	429	469

Data tables | Awareness of and support for Maryland state policies

Table 9 | *Residents' level of support for state policies*

How much do you support or oppose this policy?

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting	Strongly oppose	**4.6%**	3.9%	5.2%	3.4%	5.6%
	Somewhat oppose	**5.2%**	11.8%	5.0%	2.9%	6.8%
	Neither support nor oppose	**12.1%**	16.5%	11.0%	11.2%	19.7%
	Somewhat support	**29.4%**	34.4%	29.0%	27.4%	34.1%
	Strongly support	**48.8%**	33.3%	49.7%	55.1%	33.7%
	Unweighted n	1941	467	602	413	459
Expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances	Strongly oppose	**2.8%**	3.3%	3.1%	2.9%	2.2%
	Somewhat oppose	**2.8%**	5.1%	2.0%	3.4%	4.9%
	Neither support nor oppose	**12.6%**	18.1%	11.6%	12.5%	17.1%
	Somewhat support	**29.4%**	33.6%	31.4%	24.1%	31.6%
	Strongly support	**52.4%**	39.8%	51.9%	57.0%	44.2%
	Unweighted n	1951	469	604	417	461
Doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by 2020	Strongly oppose	**2.8%**	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	3.1%
	Somewhat oppose	**7.2%**	14.6%	6.1%	7.7%	6.1%
	Neither support nor oppose	**25.5%**	30.4%	25.3%	24.0%	33.9%
	Somewhat support	**32.6%**	28.3%	34.8%	28.9%	28.7%
	Strongly support	**31.9%**	24.1%	31.2%	36.7%	28.2%
	Unweighted n	1914	464	592	412	446
Participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases	Strongly oppose	**5.8%**	8.1%	4.5%	7.0%	7.3%
	Somewhat oppose	**4.5%**	17.2%	2.9%	2.6%	12.0%
	Neither support nor oppose	**35.9%**	35.5%	37.4%	31.0%	42.7%
	Somewhat support	**29.6%**	21.7%	30.1%	35.0%	19.7%
	Strongly support	**24.2%**	17.5%	25.1%	24.4%	18.3%
	Unweighted n	1855	445	575	396	439
Encouraging the development of more homes (houses, condos and apartments) in our cities, with better access to public transportation, as a means to reduce sprawl, and preserve forests and farmland	Strongly oppose	**4.3%**	6.5%	2.5%	5.6%	6.7%
	Somewhat oppose	**6.6%**	7.8%	6.3%	6.6%	9.5%
	Neither support nor oppose	**26.6%**	27.8%	30.2%	19.9%	25.4%
	Somewhat support	**29.4%**	30.9%	30.7%	28.0%	28.9%
	Strongly support	**33.1%**	27.0%	30.2%	39.9%	29.5%
	Unweighted n	1907	458	594	406	449

Table 9 Continued>>

Table 9 Continued>>

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products and other products	Strongly oppose	**0.7%**	.4%	.2%	1.3%	.8%
	Somewhat oppose	**2.4%**	5.6%	2.2%	2.4%	.8%
	Neither support nor oppose	**15.3%**	15.0%	17.5%	10.7%	12.2%
	Somewhat support	**28.2%**	23.7%	29.7%	28.1%	26.4%
	Strongly support	**53.4%**	55.4%	50.5%	57.6%	59.8%
	Unweighted n	1920	465	594	405	456
Tax incentives for installation of residential wood fuel heating systems	Strongly oppose	**6.9%**	7.4%	5.7%	9.4%	8.2%
	Somewhat oppose	**9.3%**	11.6%	8.6%	9.2%	8.8%
	Neither support nor oppose	**40.5%**	33.0%	44.2%	37.0%	31.9%
	Somewhat support	**23.4%**	22.3%	24.1%	20.7%	27.5%
	Strongly support	**20.0%**	25.8%	17.4%	23.7%	23.6%
	Unweighted n	1872	452	577	399	444
Requiring that Maryland's electricity suppliers provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2022 (such as solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, and hydroelectric power)	Strongly oppose	**5.2%**	11.7%	3.1%	7.1%	3.5%
	Somewhat oppose	**3.4%**	8.3%	2.7%	3.2%	4.4%
	Neither support nor oppose	**18.4%**	13.7%	20.4%	15.5%	22.7%
	Somewhat support	**25.7%**	24.0%	25.9%	26.3%	27.8%
	Strongly support	**47.3%**	42.2%	48.0%	47.8%	41.5%
	Unweighted n	1905	461	593	404	447

How much do you support or oppose this policy?				
		2013	2014	Δ
Requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting	Strongly oppose	3.9%	4.6%	0.7%
	Somewhat oppose	3.5%	5.2%	1.7%
	Neither support nor oppose	17.2%	12.1%	-5.2%
	Somewhat support	24.2%	29.4%	5.2%
	Strongly support	51.3%	48.8%	-2.5%
	Unweighted n	2040	1941	
Expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances	Strongly oppose	3.6%	2.8%	-0.8%
	Somewhat oppose	4.1%	2.8%	-1.3%
	Neither support nor oppose	12.4%	12.6%	0.2%
	Somewhat support	23.6%	29.4%	5.9%
	Strongly support	56.3%	52.4%	-4.0%
	Unweighted n	2038	1951	
Doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by 2020	Strongly oppose	5.5%	2.8%	-2.8%
	Somewhat oppose	5.1%	7.2%	2.1%
	Neither support nor oppose	27.5%	25.5%	-2.0%
	Somewhat support	25.7%	32.6%	6.9%
	Strongly support	36.1%	31.9%	-4.2%
	Unweighted n	1968	1914	
Participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases	Strongly oppose	6.1%	5.8%	-0.4%
	Somewhat oppose	5.6%	4.5%	-1.1%
	Neither support nor oppose	35.2%	35.9%	0.7%
	Somewhat support	21.0%	29.6%	8.6%
	Strongly support	32.1%	24.2%	-7.8%
	Unweighted n	1937	1855	
Encouraging the development of more homes (houses, condos and apartments) in our cities, with better access to public transportation, as a means to reduce sprawl, and preserve forests and farmland	Strongly oppose	5.2%	4.3%	-0.9%
	Somewhat oppose	5.7%	6.6%	0.8%
	Neither support nor oppose	23.4%	26.6%	3.3%
	Somewhat support	26.1%	29.4%	3.3%
	Strongly support	39.6%	33.1%	-6.4%
	Unweighted n	1992	1907	
Supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products and other products	Strongly oppose	0.9%	0.7%	-0.3%
	Somewhat oppose	1.9%	2.4%	0.5%
	Neither support nor oppose	18.7%	15.3%	-3.4%
	Somewhat support	23.9%	28.2%	4.4%
	Strongly support	54.6%	53.4%	-1.2%
	Unweighted n	1998	1920	
Tax incentives for installation of residential wood fuel heating systems	Strongly oppose	10.1%	6.9%	-3.3%
	Somewhat oppose	10.2%	9.3%	-0.9%
	Neither support nor oppose	41.0%	40.5%	-0.6%
	Somewhat support	20.7%	23.4%	2.7%
	Strongly support	17.9%	20.0%	2.1%
	Unweighted n	1954	1872	

Continued>>

Continued>>

		2013	2014	Δ
Requiring that Maryland's electricity suppliers provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2022 (such as solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, and hydroelectric power)	Strongly oppose	6.6%	5.2%	-1.4%
	Somewhat oppose	3.7%	3.4%	-0.3%
	Neither support nor oppose	15.0%	18.4%	3.4%
	Somewhat support	27.8%	25.7%	-2.1%
	Strongly support	46.8%	47.3%	0.5%
	Unweighted n	1973	1905	

Table 10 | *Residents' awareness of state policies*

Maryland has begun implementing policies to promote new sources of energy and use energy more efficiently. For each of the following policies, please answer two questions:

Have you heard of this policy?

		STATE	WESTERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EASTERN
Requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting	Yes	**59.8%**	60.7%	60.2%	60.9%	59.8%
	No	**40.2%**	39.3%	39.8%	39.1%	40.2%
	Unweighted n	1978	482	612	422	462
Expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances	Yes	**56.1%**	59.4%	54.1%	58.9%	60.6%
	No	**43.9%**	40.6%	45.9%	41.1%	39.4%
	Unweighted n	1971	478	609	422	462
Doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by 2020	Yes	**29.9%**	28.4%	31.8%	29.3%	27.7%
	No	**70.1%**	71.6%	68.2%	70.7%	72.3%
	Unweighted n	1966	476	609	419	462
Participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases	Yes	**19.3%**	26.5%	17.5%	23.6%	19.1%
	No	**80.7%**	73.5%	82.5%	76.4%	80.9%
	Unweighted n	1937	470	600	417	450
Encouraging the development of more homes (houses, condos and apartments) in our cities, with better access to public transportation, as a means to reduce sprawl, and preserve forests and farmland	Yes	**27.7%**	29.0%	25.1%	32.2%	25.5%
	No	**72.3%**	71.0%	74.9%	67.8%	74.5%
	Unweighted n	1958	476	608	417	457
Supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products and other products	Yes	**44.1%**	44.1%	42.2%	47.2%	52.6%
	No	**55.9%**	55.9%	57.8%	52.8%	47.4%
	Unweighted n	1945	475	602	413	455
Tax incentives for installation of residential wood fuel heating systems	Yes	**11.5%**	21.1%	9.5%	14.0%	15.0%
	No	**88.5%**	78.9%	90.5%	86.0%	85.0%
	Unweighted n	1931	468	598	412	453
Requiring that Maryland's electricity suppliers provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2022 (such as solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, and hydroelectric power)	Yes	**25.5%**	29.3%	26.7%	22.5%	32.1%
	No	**74.5%**	70.7%	73.3%	77.5%	67.9%
	Unweighted n	1930	469	598	411	452

Have you heard of this policy?				
		2013	2014	Δ
Requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting	Yes	68.0%	59.8%	-8.1%
	No	32.0%	40.2%	
	Unweighted n	2043	1978	
Expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances	Yes	69.5%	56.1%	-13.4%
	No	30.5%	43.9%	
	Unweighted n	2022	1971	
Doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by 2020	Yes	41.2%	29.9%	-11.3%
	No	58.8%	70.1%	
	Unweighted n	2006	1966	
Participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases	Yes	31.0%	19.3%	-11.7%
	No	69.0%	80.7%	
	Unweighted n	2008	1937	
Encouraging the development of more homes (houses, condos and apartments) in our cities, with better access to public transportation, as a means to reduce sprawl, and preserve forests and farmland	Yes	39.2%	27.7%	-11.6%
	No	60.8%	72.3%	
	Unweighted n	2007	1958	
Supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products and other products	Yes	51.0%	44.1%	-6.9%
	No	49.0%	55.9%	
	Unweighted n	2017	1945	
Tax incentives for installation of residential wood fuel heating systems	Yes	15.8%	11.5%	-4.3%
	No	84.2%	88.5%	
	Unweighted n	1996	1931	
Requiring that Maryland's electricity suppliers provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2022 (such as solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, and hydroelectric power)	Yes	36.2%	25.5%	-10.7%
	No	63.8%	74.5%	
	Unweighted n	2006	1930	

Sample demographics

Region

	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %
Western Region	**495**	**8.4%**
Central Region	**629**	**55.4%**
Southern Region	**435**	**30.2%**
Eastern Region	**476**	**6.0%**
Unweighted n	2035	

Gender

	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
Male	799	**48.0%**	50.0%	48.0%	49.0%	49.0%
Female	1236	**52.0%**	50.0%	52.0%	51.0%	51.0%
Unweighted n	2035	2035	495	629	435	476

Age

	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
18 to 24 years	42	**13.0%**	11.8%	12.0%	14.0%	14.0%
25 to 34 years	223	**17.5%**	15.6%	18.0%	18.0%	14.0%
35 to 44 years	295	**17.5%**	17.8%	17.0%	18.0%	15.0%
45 to 54 years	392	**20.0%**	20.6%	20.0%	20.0%	18.5%
55 to 64 years	487	**16.0%**	16.1%	16.0%	15.5%	17.0%
65 to 74 years	355	**9.0%**	9.7%	9.0%	9.0%	12.0%
75 to 84 years	179	**5.0%**	5.9%	5.0%	4.0%	7.0%
85 years and over	62	**2.0%**	2.4%	3.0%	1.5%	2.5%
Unweighted n	2035	2035	495	629	435	476

Number of people under 18 years of age currently living in the household	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
0	1102	**55.5%**	49.8%	55.2%	57.4%	60.8%
1	300	**19.4%**	22.2%	20.0%	17.3%	21.9%
2	245	**16.1%**	19.7%	15.3%	17.3%	11.3%
3	85	**6.7%**	5.7%	7.3%	5.9%	3.4%
4	22	**1.2%**	2.1%	.6%	1.7%	2.1%
5	7	**0.6%**	.5%	1.0%	.1%	.4%
6	2	**0.2%**	0.0%	.2%	.2%	0.0%
7	2	**0.2%**	0.0%	.4%	0.0%	0.0%
9	2	**0.0%**	0.0%	.0%	0.0%	.2%
Unweighted n	1767	1767	422	552	386	407

Education	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
Less than high school	43	**11.0%**	11.5%	11.0%	11.0%	13.0%
High school or GED	845	**46.0%**	53.5%	41.0%	41.0%	54.0%
Associate's degree	175	**6.0%**	8.0%	6.0%	6.0%	7.0%
Bachelor's degree	471	**20.0%**	16.0%	22.0%	22.0%	15.0%
Advanced degree beyond a bachelor's degree	501	**17.0%**	11.0%	20.0%	20.0%	11.0%
Unweighted n	2035	2035	495	629	435	476

Income	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
Less than $10,000	77	**8.6%**	5.2%	9.3%	8.7%	7.9%
$10,000 — $14,999	79	**4.8%**	8.4%	3.8%	5.3%	5.1%
$15,000 — $24,999	125	**7.3%**	8.8%	9.0%	3.0%	8.1%
$25,000 — $34,999	162	**8.5%**	7.8%	8.8%	7.9%	12.3%
$35,000 — $49,999	250	**11.6%**	15.1%	10.4%	11.4%	18.0%
$50,000 — $74,999	343	**16.5%**	18.1%	14.2%	17.8%	20.3%
$75,000 — $99,999	238	**12.4%**	10.3%	11.8%	14.8%	11.8%
$100,000 — $149,999	338	**15.9%**	18.6%	18.0%	13.6%	10.4%
$150,000 or more	295	**14.4%**	7.7%	14.7%	17.6%	6.0%
Unweighted n	1907	**1907**	458	595	417	437

Political ideology

	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
Very conservative	182	**6.5%**	10.8%	4.3%	8.1%	11.1%
Somewhat conservative	418	**18.9%**	21.9%	18.2%	18.0%	19.7%
Moderate, middle of the road	844	**46.8%**	46.8%	46.0%	48.2%	50.8%
Somewhat liberal	380	**20.8%**	13.1%	23.5%	19.8%	13.0%
Very liberal	168	**7.1%**	7.5%	8.0%	6.0%	5.3%
Unweighted n	1992	1992	485	612	428	467

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
Hispanic or Latino	53	**3.7%**	1.4%	3.8%	3.8%	2.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	1907	**96.3%**	98.6%	96.2%	96.2%	97.7%
Unweighted n	1960	1960	472	600	424	464

Race

	STATE unweighted sample n	STATE weighted %	WESTERN weighted %	CENTRAL weighted %	SOUTHERN weighted %	EASTERN weighted %
White	1548	**67.1%**	91.0%	68.9%	55.7%	83.6%
Black or African American	303	**21.0%**	3.6%	19.4%	30.1%	9.5%
Asian	44	**3.4%**	.9%	4.7%	3.5%	0.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	**0.1%**	0.0%	.1%	.1%	.3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2	**0.1%**	0.0%	.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	44	**2.8%**	2.0%	1.7%	4.3%	.9%
Two or more races	57	**5.5%**	2.4%	4.9%	6.2%	5.7%
Unweighted n	2002	2002	487	614	428	473