

**CLIMATE CHANGE & POVERTY SURVEY**  
**MARCH 20-27, 2009**  
**NATIONAL SAMPLE N=1,200**  
**Catholic Oversample N=252**  
**White Evangelical Oversample N=250**  
**TOPLINE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am calling from Opinion Access Corporation, a national public opinion research company. We're conducting a telephone opinion survey on behalf of a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. We are not selling anything, and your individual responses will be kept completely confidential. I'd like to ask a few questions of the YOUNGEST MALE, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. [IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the YOUNGEST FEMALE, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

64	Approve
26	Disapprove
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.2 Do you think the current administration is generally moving in the right direction or do you feel it has gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

56	Right Direction
35	Wrong Track
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.3 What do you think is the MOST important ENVIRONMENTAL problem that the current administration should focus on [READ & RANDOMIZE]?

**INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION:** If respondent says all, ask only once: What do you think is the MOST important problem?

23	Climate change
40	Air and water pollution
9	Shrinking of wilderness areas
4	Endangered species
16	All of these equally (VOL.)
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

**ASK FORM 1 [N=603]:**

Q.4a How important is the issue of climate change to you personally? **[READ IN ORDER]**

18	Extremely important
30	Very important
28	Somewhat important
12	Not too important
10	Not at all important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

**ASK FORM 2 [N=597]:**

Q.4b How important is the issue of global warming to you personally? **[READ IN ORDER]**

17	Extremely important
30	Very important
26	Somewhat important
9	Not too important
16	Not at all important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.5 How much do you feel you know about climate change **[READ IN ORDER]**?

14	A lot
47	A fair amount
33	A little [OR]
5	Nothing at all
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.6 From what you've read and heard, do you believe there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

69	Yes
26	No
2	Mixed/some evidence (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

**IF "YES or MIXED" (Q6=1,3) ASK [N=831]:**

Q.7 Which statement comes closest to your view about the causes of climate change...**[READ AND ROTATE]**?

67	Climate change is caused mostly by human activity such as burning fossil fuels
29	Climate change is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth's environment
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

**ASK ALL:**

Q.8 [IF Q6=2,9 ADD: Assuming it's happening] Do you think the United States should take action on climate change only if other countries such as China and India agree to do equally effective things, that the United States should take action even if these other countries do less, or that the United States should not take action on this at all?

21	Take action only if other countries do
60	Take action even if other countries do less
16	Should not take action at all
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.9 Now I am going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right. **[READ; ROTATE OPTIONS]**

a.

51	1 – Climate change is an urgent problem and we need to start taking action now.
	<b>OR</b>
47	2 – Climate change is NOT an urgent problem and requires more study before we take action.
1	Both/Neither (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b.

34	1 – Given our current economic problems, we cannot afford to deal with climate change right now.
	<b>OR</b>
61	2 – Dealing with climate change now will create new jobs and help avoid more serious economic problems in the future
3	Both/Neither (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.10 Now I am going to read you a list of statements. For each statement, please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree. **[READ & RANDOMIZE]**

**WHEN NECESSARY READ:** Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree?

a. Taking the lead in addressing global poverty and hunger is NOT America's responsibility.

14	Completely agree
25	Mostly agree
31	Mostly disagree
29	Completely disagree
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

**Q10 CONTINUED...**

b. Reducing global poverty would increase stability in the most dangerous parts of the world and make us safer.

25	Completely agree
42	Mostly agree
21	Mostly disagree
9	Completely disagree
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. We have an obligation to care for God's creation by supporting stricter environmental laws and regulations.

38	Completely agree
43	Mostly agree
11	Mostly disagree
6	Completely disagree
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Climate change is causing increased drought and crop failure, making it harder for the world's poorest people to support their families.

30	Completely agree
39	Mostly agree
19	Mostly disagree
9	Completely disagree
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

**NO QUESTION 11**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 How important are your religious beliefs to your thinking about the stewardship of the environment and climate change?

14	The most important thing
28	Very important
30	Somewhat important
11	Not too important
15	Not at all important
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.13 Now, I'd like to get your views on some policies that are being discussed in the country today to address environmental problems. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose the following... First, **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**...

**WHEN NECESSARY READ:** Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose?

a. Investing in green technology like wind turbines, solar panels, and fuel cells.

50	Strongly Favor
37	Favor
7	Oppose
4	Strongly Oppose
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Protecting natural habitats of plants and animals threatened by rising global temperatures.

36	Strongly Favor
42	Favor
11	Oppose
8	Strongly Oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Helping the world's poorest people adapt to food and water shortages caused by rising global temperatures.

31	Strongly Favor
43	Favor
12	Oppose
11	Strongly Oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Assisting low-income Americans with rising energy costs.

32	Strongly Favor
45	Favor
14	Oppose
6	Strongly Oppose
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Helping communities prepare for the impacts of increasingly severe natural disasters like hurricanes, floods and wildfires.

41	Strongly Favor
47	Favor
7	Oppose
3	Strongly Oppose
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.14 On the issues of the environment and climate change, please tell me whether the following groups should be doing more, should be doing less or are doing the right amount? **[READ & RANDOMIZE]**

a. Religious groups

44	Should do more
11	Should do less
37	Right amount
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Environmental groups

46	Should do more
13	Should do less
37	Right amount
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. The federal government

63	Should do more
13	Should do less
20	Right amount
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Business corporations

73	Should do more
7	Should do less
17	Right amount
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Now, turning to the economy...

Q.15 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

7	Excellent
30	Good
42	Fair
20	Poor
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

**END OF INTERVIEW.**

**THANK RESPONDENT:** Thank you again for your time. Have a nice day/evening.

I HEREBY ATTEST THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND HONEST INTERVIEW.  
INTERVIEWER ENTER INITIALS

## **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research on behalf of Faith in Public Life and Oxfam America. Results of the survey were based on telephone interviews conducted by professional interviewers under the direction of Opinion Access Corporation. The survey includes a national sample of 1,200 adults 18 years of age and older and an over sample of 250 white evangelical Protestants and 252 Catholics. The survey was conducted from March 20 to March 27, 2009.

The margin of error for the national sample is +/- 3.0% at the 95% confidence interval. The margin of error for Catholics (N=508) and white evangelical Protestants (N=522) is +/- 5.0% at the 95% confidence interval. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

The national sample of adults was interviewed using random digit dial process. The sample was weighted to match the national adult population on gender, age, education, race, Hispanic ethnicity, region, and religious affiliation. The demographic parameters were derived from the March 2007 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and the religious parameters were derived from 2007 Religious Landscape Survey conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. The religion adjustment was used to correct for an oversample of white evangelicals and Catholics. Weighting was accomplished using sample balancing, a special iterative sample weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables.

## **ABOUT FAITH IN PUBLIC LIFE**

Faith in Public Life is a strategy center advancing faith in the public square as a positive and unifying force for justice, compassion and the common good. In order to maximize the faith community's unique ability to shape public debates, Faith in Public Life identifies and creates moments of opportunity, builds and supports broad coalitions, and designs and implements innovative campaigns, bold initiatives and capacity-building tools. For more information, visit [www.faithinpubliclife.org](http://www.faithinpubliclife.org).

## **ABOUT OXFAM AMERICA**

Oxfam America is dedicated to finding long-term solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice around the world. For more information, please visit [www.oxfamamerica.org](http://www.oxfamamerica.org).

## **ABOUT PUBLIC RELIGION RESEARCH**

Public Religion Research is a consulting firm specializing in public opinion polling and research-based strategic advice at the intersection of religion, values, and public policy. We also work with clients to develop strategies to engage people of faith for social change. For more information, visit [www.publicreligion.org](http://www.publicreligion.org).