

Few willing to change lifestyle to save the planet, climate survey finds

Citizens are alarmed by the climate crisis, but most believe they are already doing more to preserve the planet than anyone else, including their government, and few are willing to make significant lifestyle changes, an international survey has found.

The survey found that 62% of people surveyed saw the climate crisis as the main environmental challenge the world was now facing, ahead of air pollution (39%), the impact of waste (38%) and new diseases (36%).

But when asked to rate their individual action against others' such as governments, business and the media, people generally saw themselves as much more committed to the environment than others in their local community, or any institution.

About 36% rated themselves "highly committed" to preserving the planet, while only 21% felt the same was true of the media and 19% of local government. A mere 18% felt their local community was equally committed, with national governments (17%) and big corporations (13%) seen as even less engaged.

Respondents were also lukewarm about doing more themselves, citing a wide range of reasons. Most (76%) of those surveyed said they would accept stricter environmental rules and regulations, but almost half (46%) felt that there was no real need for them to change their personal habits.

Only 51% said they would definitely take individual climate action, with 14% saying they would definitely not and 35% torn. People in Poland and Singapore (56%) were the most willing to act, and in Germany (44%) and the Netherlands (37%) the least.

The most common reasons given for not being willing to do more for the planet were "I feel proud of what I am currently doing" (74%), "There isn't agreement among experts on the best solutions" (72%), and "I need more resources and equipment from public authorities" (69%).

Other reasons for not wanting to do more included "I can't afford to make those efforts" (60%), "I lack information and guidance on what to do" (55%), "I don't think individual efforts can really have an impact" (39%), "I believe environmental threats are overestimated" (35%) and "I don't have the headspace to think about it" (33%).

Asked which actions to preserve the planet should be prioritised, moreover, people attributed more importance to measures that were already established habits, required less individual effort, or for which they bore little direct responsibility.

About 57%, for example, said that reducing waste and increasing recycling was "very important". Other measures seen as priorities were reversing deforestation (54%), protecting endangered animal species (52%), building

energy-efficient buildings (47%), and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy (45%).

Respondents viewed measures likely to affect their own lifestyles, however, as significantly less important: reducing people's energy consumption was seen as a priority by only 32%, while favouring public transport over cars (25%) and radically changing our agricultural model (24%) were similarly unpopular.

Only 23% felt that reducing plane travel and charging more for products that did not respect environmental norms were important to preserve the planet, while banning fossil fuel vehicles (22%) and reducing meat consumption (18%) and international trade (17%) were seen as even lower priorities.

"Citizens are undeniably concerned by the state of the planet, but these findings raise doubts regarding their level of commitment to preserving it," the study said. "Rather than translating into a greater willingness to change their habits, citizens' concerns are particularly focused on their negative assessment of governments' efforts."

Representative samples of more than 1,000 people were questioned in the US, UK, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Singapore and New Zealand.

People gave themselves the highest score for commitment everywhere except Sweden, while only in Singapore and New Zealand were national governments seen as highly engaged. The gulf between citizens' view of their own efforts (44%) and that of their government (16%) was highest in the UK.

调查：多数人不愿意为环保改变生活方式

一项跨国调查发现，民众对气候危机感到担忧，但是多数人认为他们为保护地球所做的贡献已经比包括本国政府在内的其他人都要多，而且愿意为了环保在生活方式上做出重大改变的人也寥寥无几。

调查发现，62%的受访者认为气候危机是当前世界面临的主要环境挑战，紧随其后的是空气污染（39%）、废物污染（38%）和新型疾病（36%）。

但是当被要求对比其他人（包括政府、企业和媒体）来评价自己的个人行为时，人们通常认为自己对环境的贡献比本地社区其他人或机构都大得多。

约36%的受访者自称对保护地球“做出很大努力”，而认为媒体和本地政府做到这一点的人分别只有21%和19%。仅18%的受访者认为本地社区也在同样努力地保护地球，国家政府和大公司得到的评价更低，分别只有17%和13%的人认为这两者在努力保护地球。

受访者对于为环保付出更多个人努力也不太热心，并援引了各种理由。大多数（76%）受访者表示他们可以接受更严格的环保规定和条例，但是近半数（46%）受访者觉得无需改变自己的个人习惯。

只有 51%的受访者表示自己肯定会采取行动应对气候问题，14%的人表示肯定不会，还有 35%的人摇摆不定。波兰和新加坡的受访者采取气候行动的意愿最强，比例达到 56%，德国和荷兰受访者的意愿是最低的，分别只有 44%和 37%。

不愿意为保护地球做更多努力的最常见原因包括“我对自己现在的所作所为感到自豪”（74%）、“专家们对于最佳解决方案没有达成统一意见”（72%），以及“我需要公共部门提供更多资源和设备”（69%）。

其他原因还有“我的经济能力不允许”（60%）、“我缺乏与行动相关的信息和指导意见”（55%）、“我认为个人努力不会产生实质影响”（39%）、“我认为环境威胁被高估了”（35%）和“我没有多余的脑力来考虑这事儿”（33%）。

此外，在被问及应该优先采取哪些保护地球的行动时，受访者更倾向于选择那些已经成为习惯、不太需要个人努力以及基本不用个人承担直接责任的行动。

举例来说，约 57%的受访者表示减少垃圾、增加回收“非常重要”。其他被认为应该优先采取的措施包括退耕还林（54%）、保护濒危动物（52%）、建造节能建筑（47%）以及用再生能源替代化石燃料（45%）。

然而，受访者认为那些可能影响自身生活方式的措施没那么重要。只有 32%的人认为应该降低人们的能源消耗，同样，只有 25%的人认为应该多乘公交少坐车，24%的人认为应该彻底改变我们的农业模式（24%）。

只有 23%的受访者认为减少航空出行和向不环保的产品增加征税对于保护地球很重要。禁止燃油车、减少肉类消费和国际贸易的优先级更低，分别只有 22%、18%和 17%的人支持这些措施。

研究指出，“不可否认，民众对地球的现状感到担忧，但是这些发现却对人们保护地球的意愿提出了质疑。人们不是更积极地通过改变个人习惯去保护地球，而是特别关注对政府作为的负面评价。”

调查选取的 1000 多名具有代表性的受访者来自美国、英国、西班牙、法国、荷兰、德国、瑞典、波兰、新加坡和新西兰。

除了瑞典以外，其他国家的受访民众给自己为环保所做的努力都打了最高分。只有新加坡和新西兰的民众认为本国政府积极采取行动保护地球。民众对自身努力的评价（44%打高分）和对政府作为的评价（16%打高分）之间差距最大的是英国。