Ipsos Public attitudes towards energy conservation

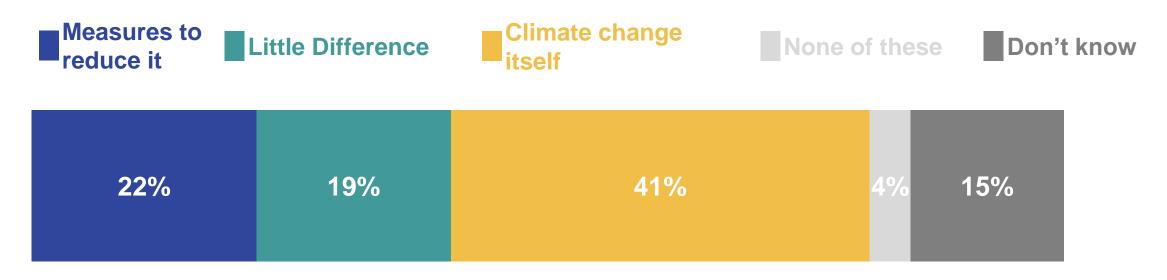
lpso:

August 2023

© Ipsos | August 2023

The public think that the economic costs of climate change itself will be greater than the cost of measures to reduce climate change

What do you think would be greater, the economic costs of measures to reduce climate change, or the economic costs of climate change itself, or do you think there would be little difference?





Half say that they are too worried about the cost of living to think about the impacts of climate change, or that they would like to do more to reduce climate change but cannot afford it

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your own experiences?

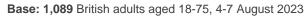
	Strongly/ tend to agree	tend Neither a nor disag			Strongly/ tend to disagree	
I'm too worried about cost of living to think about the impacts of climate change and the environment	52%	52%			26%	
I'd like to do more to reduce climate change and help the environment, but I can't afford to	51%		26%		19%	
When I'm trying to save money, I try to avoid lifestyle changes that harm the environment	45%		29%		20%	
I find that lifestyle choices that reduce climate change and help the environment are often cheaper.	29%	27%		37%		



Three quarters support investing more in renewable energy, or improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses, as a way of reducing how much the UK relies on imported energy.

Below are some steps that the UK could take to reduce how much we rely on imported energy. How much, if at all, do you support or oppose the UK taking each of these steps?

	Strongly/ tend N to support no	Strongly/ tend to oppose		
Investing more in renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, tidal)	77%		12% 7%	
Reducing the amount of energy we use in the country by improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses	75%	14% 5%		
Investing more in nuclear energy	49%	20%	20%	
Re-starting or increasing the UK's own production of fossil fuels (e.g coal mining, oil production)	43%	20%	29%	





Three in five would support investing more in renewable energy, or improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses, even if it led to an increase in bills or taxes

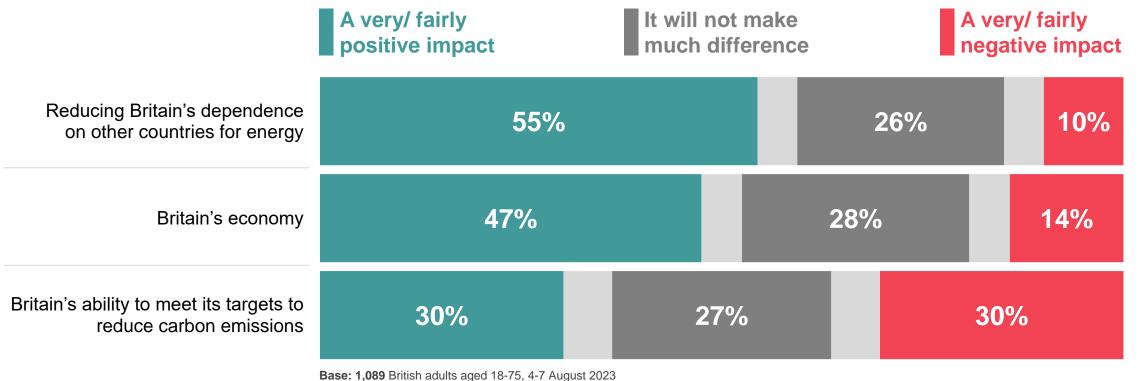
And how much, if at all, would you support or oppose the UK taking each of the following steps to reduce its reliance on imported energy if they led to an increase in energy bills or taxes?

	Strongly/ tendNeither supportto supportnor oppose				Strongly/ tend to oppose
Investing more in renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, tidal)	60%	16%		17%	
Reducing the amount of energy we use in the country by improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses	58%	18%		17%	
Investing more in nuclear energy	39%	22%	30%		30%
Re-starting or increasing the UK's own production of fossil fuels (e.g coal mining, oil production)	32%	19%	40%		/o



Half think that Rishi Sunak's announcement of 100 new licenses for oil and gas in the North Sea will have a positive impact for reducing Britain's dependency on other countries for energy

This week the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, announced that the Government would be releasing 100 new licences for companies to drill for oil and gas in the North Sea. Do you think this policy will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following, or do you think it will make little difference?

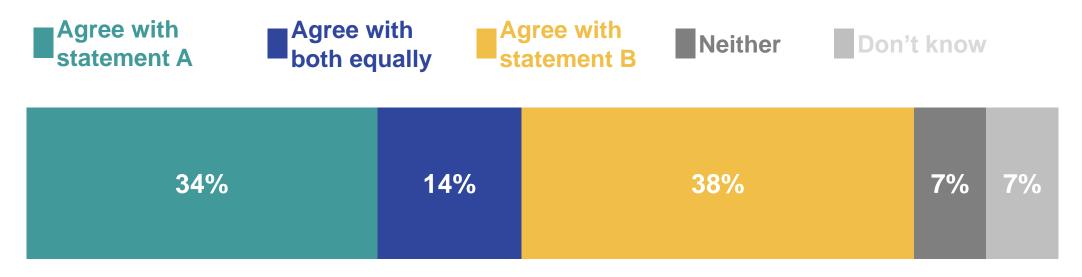




The public are slightly more likely to think that we should not make it more expensive or difficult for drivers to use their cars, even if that is worse for climate change

Which of the following statements, if either, do you most agree with?

- A) We should reduce the use of cars to reduce climate change, even if that makes it more expensive or more difficult for drivers
- B) We should not make it more expensive or more difficult for drivers to use their cars, even if that is worse for climate change

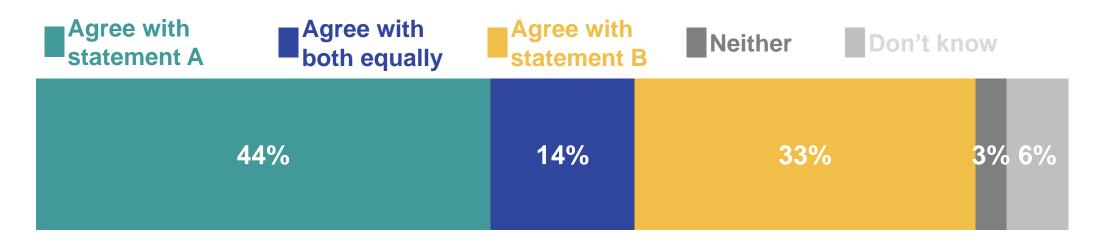




The public are more likely to agree that reducing the use of cars will have a positive impact on climate change

Which of the following statements, if either, do you most agree with?

A) Reducing the use of cars would have a significant positive impact on climate changeB) Reducing the use of cars will not make much difference to climate change





Three quarters of Britons support making it easier to travel by public transport to reduce the use of cars, while just 3 in 10 support making it more expensive to drive

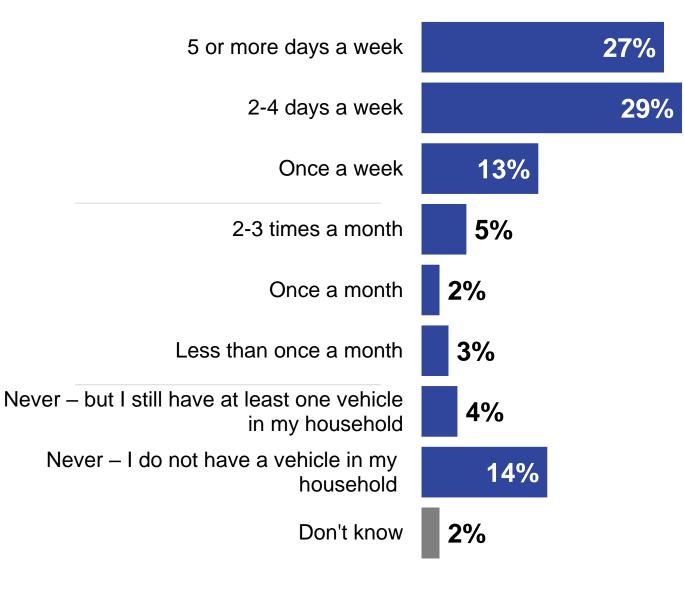
To what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose each of the following policies to reduce the use of cars?

	Strongly/ tend to supportNeither support nor oppose				Strongly/ tend to oppose		
Making it easier to travel by public transport, for example through reduced prices or by investing in more routes	74%				16%	7%	
Making it harder to drive by car in some areas to encourage more walking and cycling , for example through creating more car-free spaces	43%	21%			33%		
Making it more expensive for people to drive, for example through a congestion charge in cities or increasing fuel duty	31%	19%		46%			



Over a quarter say they use their vehicle at least 5 days a week, to travel around their local area

How often, if at all, do you use a vehicle to travel around your local area? By vehicle, I mean a personal car, motorbike, or scooter.





psos

For more information

Rachel Brisley Research Director Rachel.Brisley@ipsos.com Kate Mesher Senior Research Executive Kate.Mesher@ipsos.com

