

World Wide Views on Climate and Energy

Canada Report

July 2015



Bringing
citizens'
voices...

...to
global
issues



World Wide Views Canadians and world talk about climate change

Largest ever global citizen consultation on climate and energy

Citizens around the world came together for all-day discussions on the same climate and energy issues, including fossil fuel exploration, carbon pricing and global responsibilities.

Quick facts

211

Canadians



10,000

global citizens



97 all-day discussions
on climate and energy targets,
measures and policies

Process



1. Recruit diverse citizens



2. Introduce each topic with video



3. Round table discussions



4. Individual votes

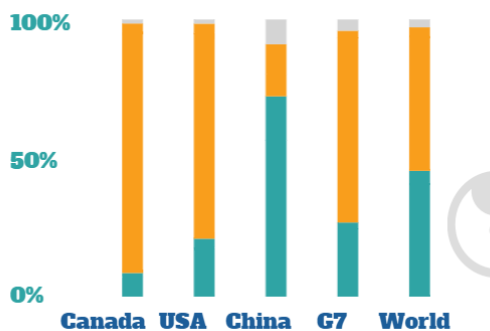


5. Share votes online in real-time

What did Canadians say?

Canada is not doing enough

87% say climate change is **not** a national priority but it should be



- Climate change is a national priority
- Climate change is not a national priority
- Don't know/No answer

Canadians more accepting of a shift away from fossil fuels

Canada

94%

86%

80%

World

80% want greenhouse gas emission reduction

86% support a global carbon tax

63% say stop exploration of new fossil fuel reserves

Top 2 ways Canadians prefer for making cuts in greenhouse gas emissions

- #1** Cut fossil fuel subsidies
- #2** Subsidize low-carbon energy

1. Overview of the World Wide Views initiative

World Wide Views World Wide Views on Climate and Energy was the largest-ever global citizen consultation held on climate and energy. On June 6th, 2015, beginning at dawn in the Pacific Islands and ending at dusk in the West Coast of the United States, demographically representative groups of 10,000 citizens from 76 countries deliberated in their respective nations (Figure 1). As part of this international dialogue, two Canadian citizen consultation events were held in Montreal, Quebec and Waterloo, Ontario with a total of 211 Canadians attending. Citizens discussed and voted on issues related to climate change and energy, including fossil fuel exploration, carbon pricing, and climate change adaptation.



Figure 1: Participating countries in World Wide Views on Climate and Energy

World Wide Views was held to convene citizen dialogue and contribute input to the new, universal climate change agreement that the nations of the world will negotiate under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 21st Conference of the Parties (“COP21”) in Paris, France in December of 2015.

2. Key messages from Canadian citizen consultations

The results from consultations in Canada show support for international action and national-level policy, and also illuminate the need for continued efforts to understand regional priorities and develop provincially differentiated approaches. It was also clear from the consultations that there is appetite for continued discussion among Canadians on these topics, even if they can be controversial.

“On this issue, and ones like it that could be polarizing, you tend to speak to people with similar mindsets; this is a good opportunity to share differing views.”

- World Wide Views Ontario participant

“I learned that a lot more people – citizens – feel strongly about world-wide climate [issues]. It is empowering to know that citizens’ views matter. Hopefully, our governments and the U.N. get really serious and act responsibly, putting aside their politics for the betterment of all.”

- World Wide Views Ontario participant

Canadians think climate change should be a national priority

- **87%** of Canadians participating in World Wide Views say climate change is not a national priority **but it should be**.
- Canadians believe that tackling climate change is primarily the responsibility of global deliberations led by the national government; however, **92%** of Canadians say the outcomes of the United Nations negotiations have not done enough to address climate change to date.
- **94%** say Canada should take measures to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions even if many other countries do not. Relative to the response of citizens across the globe, **14%** more Canadians advocated for action in our country regardless of the climate actions of other countries.

There is political will to ambitiously decrease Canada's emissions

- **86%** of Canadians consulted would support participation in a global carbon-pricing scheme. In Ontario, citizens expressed this view even with the understanding that carbon prices might lead to higher energy prices in the near term.
- When asked whether “measures to fight climate change” are perceived as an opportunity or a threat, **73%** of Canadians answered that measures to address climate change “are mostly an opportunity to improve our quality of life”.
- In response to the concept of a global carbon budget, **72%** of Canadians consulted called for stopping exploration for all fossil fuel reserves and another **8%** called for stopping for the exploration of coal. Only **10%** said to continue to explore. In comparison to the views of citizens across all of the Americas, the G7 nations, and the world overall, Canadians showed the most support for stopping the exploration of all fossil fuel reserves.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity to openly discuss these ideas, and realize it’s about rediscovering our values. I believe in change and the power of humanity to overcome every challenge.”

- World Wide Views Ontario participant

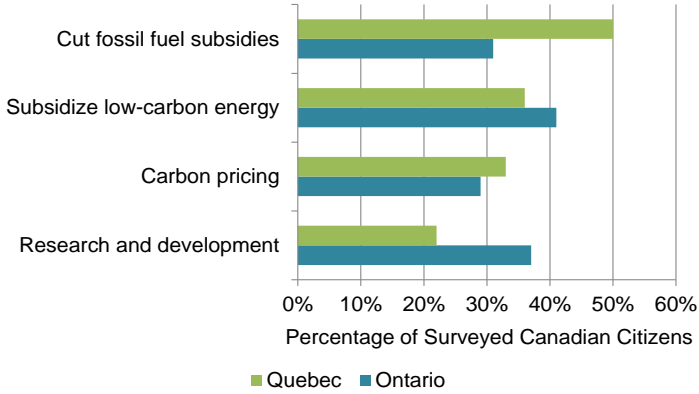


Canadian citizens discuss climate and energy issues at World Wide Views citizen consultation in Waterloo, Ontario

Canadians support a diverse portfolio of action on climate issues

- Canadians understand that there is no single “silver bullet” for combatting climate change; rather they think a myriad of solutions must be explored together. This includes support for expanding the portfolio of energy solutions, discouraging future major developments in the fossil fuel industry, and enabling markets to reflect the full cost of different energy alternatives.
- Canadians overall ranked “cutting fossil fuel subsidies” and “subsidization for low-carbon energy” as top choices for climate action, followed by carbon pricing and funding research and development of low carbon technologies. There were differences in the prioritization of these policies between the Quebec and Ontario groups as shown in Figure 2. Because of such differences, in addition to a national strategy, it may be important to give provinces flexibility in setting their own priorities for climate actions.

Figure 2: Citizen preferences for methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by province



Canadians want to learn and talk about climate and energy issues

- While **83% of global citizens** consulted agree that the World Wide Views results will be used in a meaningful way during negotiations at COP21, only **61% of Canadians** hold the same sentiment.
- **74%** of Canadians say that education programs on climate change for the broader public are needed.
- **95%** of Canadian participants would like future citizen consultation events like World Wide Views to be arranged for similar and/or different issues.

“I learned a lot about the world today. We need to do more of this [type of event] with other issues such as health care, aging and population, etc!”
 - World Wide Views Ontario participant



Citizens gathered in Montreal, Quebec for a World Wide Views discussion

3. Policy Implications

World Wide Views partners in Canada conducted these citizen consultation sessions as our country considers further policy actions to address climate change. A number of provinces, Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec in particular, are currently undertaking significant climate policy changes to reduce carbon emissions. Ontario will be implementing a cap-and-trade system to link with Quebec's system, while Alberta has raised the price of its carbon charge on industry and commenced a wide-ranging review of climate options for future policy direction.

"It was nice to see our voice being heard as a group as well as individually. And to see what it ends up being as a group representing our community, and then Canada as a whole. Hopefully the government will do something with it!"

- World Wide Views Ontario participant

The views expressed by citizens through World Wide Views support more action by governments and industry. In doing so, governments are going to need to engage citizens in the choices and trade-offs at stake. The World Wide Views approach can help governments and the business community alike to assess the desire and direction of changes contemplated. It demonstrates that a structured, focused consultation can yield constructive discussion and informed views from the general public to inform decision-makers.

A number of independent organizations across the country are engaged in climate policy idea generation. From carbon pricing to low-carbon economic development, the outcome of the World Wide Views consultation supports these efforts. It also identifies where further policy and engagement work can usefully be focused. This includes:

- the role of citizens in the policy development process
- carbon pricing tools and effectiveness
- low-carbon economy transition
- energy efficiency and energy literacy among consumers

It was a useful exercise in grassroots democracy. We don't get to do that in Canada very often."

- World Wide Views Ontario participant

In doing so, broader consultation and citizen participation would be ideal. World Wide Views results reinforce an apparent rise in attention among Canadians to the issue of climate change and the need to address it. There is a particularly unique opportunity for open and informed dialogue on climate policy options leading up to the Canadian federal election and critical global climate negotiations in late 2015. Any policy ideas and options considered will be more effective if they are informed by citizen engagement.

4. Citizen recruitment and consultation strategy

Participant recruitment process

All participating partners in the World Wide Views initiative were required to use a structured participant recruitment process, rather than simply calling for volunteers. Participants were required to be Canadian citizens over the age of 18. Those who work professionally on climate and energy issues were ineligible to participate. The goal was to gather at least 100 citizens for each consultation event who collectively reflected the demographic diversity of their country or region considering factors such as age, gender, occupation, education, and membership of environmental organizations.¹

At the Ontario site, for example, 5000 Canadian citizens who reside in Waterloo Region and surrounding areas (such as Wellington County and City of Guelph) were randomly chosen and mailed invitations to apply for participation. Based on the 240 applications received, 140 participants who were eligible and reflected Canada's demographic diversity, to the extent possible given the applications received, were formally invited to attend the citizen consultation. The targets for demographic diversity were identified based on the 2011 National Household Survey and the 2011 Census. Of those invited, 107 Canadian citizens attended and took part in the citizen consultation event in Waterloo, Ontario.



World Wide Views citizen consultation in Waterloo, Ontario

Design of the citizen consultation

The format of the citizen consultation was consistent at each site around the world. At each consultation, citizens were provided a standard booklet of background material and took part in a day-long event where they discussed climate change and energy policy, targets and measures. Citizens engaged in five thematic round-table discussions that were introduced with an informational video, moderated for a minimum of 45 minutes, and concluded with a voting round where citizens recorded their individual responses to a set of questions on a private voting slip. At the end of each session, votes were uploaded online to share the results in real-time with other participating countries across the globe.

Themes of citizen discussions

1. Importance of tackling climate change
2. Tools to tackle climate change
3. UN negotiations and national commitments
4. Fairness and distribution of efforts
5. Making and keeping climate promises

The complete set of global results is available at <http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/results/>

Throughout the remainder of 2015, partnering organizations from around the world will be sharing the results with decision-makers in their countries. The overall results of the World Wide Views global citizen engagement have been presented at pre-COP meetings in Bonn and will also be presented at the UNFCCC's 21st Conference of the Parties ("COP 21") in Paris, France in December 2015.

¹ World Wide Views. (2015). The Method. Retrieved from <http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/the-method/>

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