

Communicating Climate Change to People of Faith

February 20th, 2018

CatholicClimateCovenant.org



Catholic Climate CovenantSM

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Control Panel >>>>

Your Participation

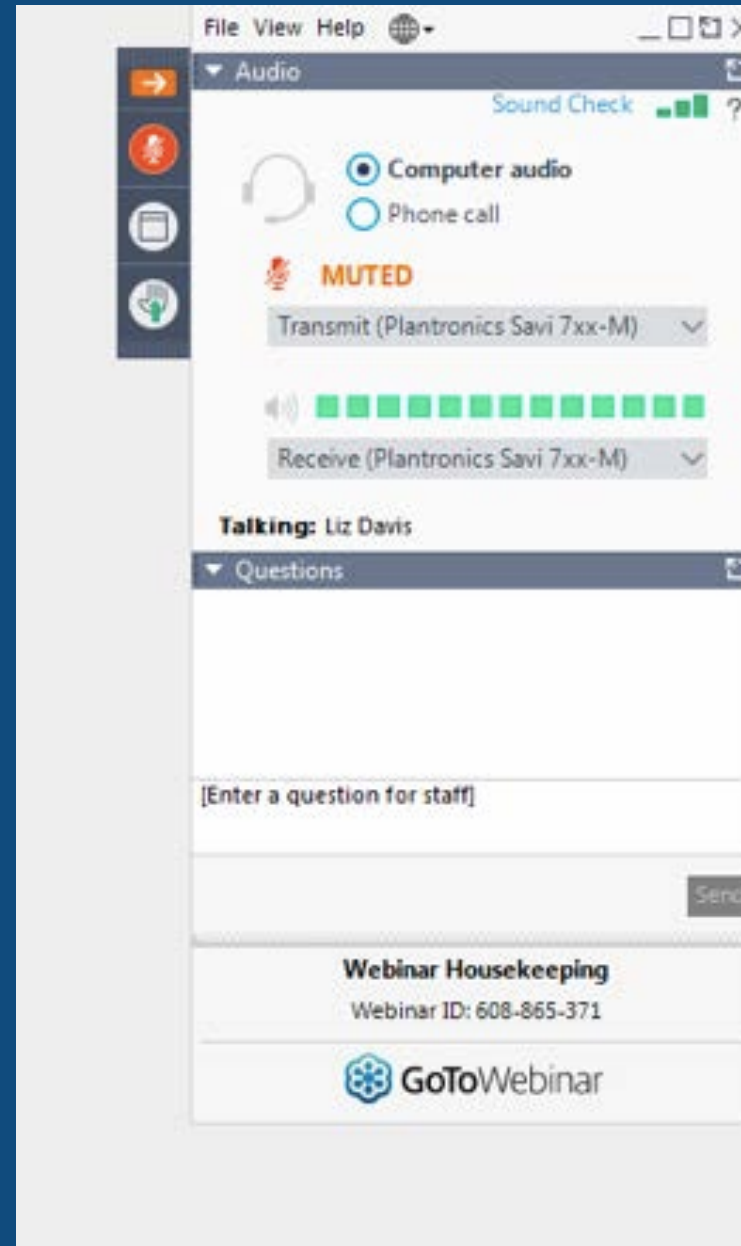
Open and close your control panel

Join audio:

- Choose **Mic & Speakers** to use VoIP
- Choose **Telephone** and dial using the information provided

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

Note: Today's presentation is being recorded and will be provided within 48 hours.



Communicating Climate Change to People of Faith



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Assistant Professor,
College of Arts and Sciences, Creighton University



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Director, Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University

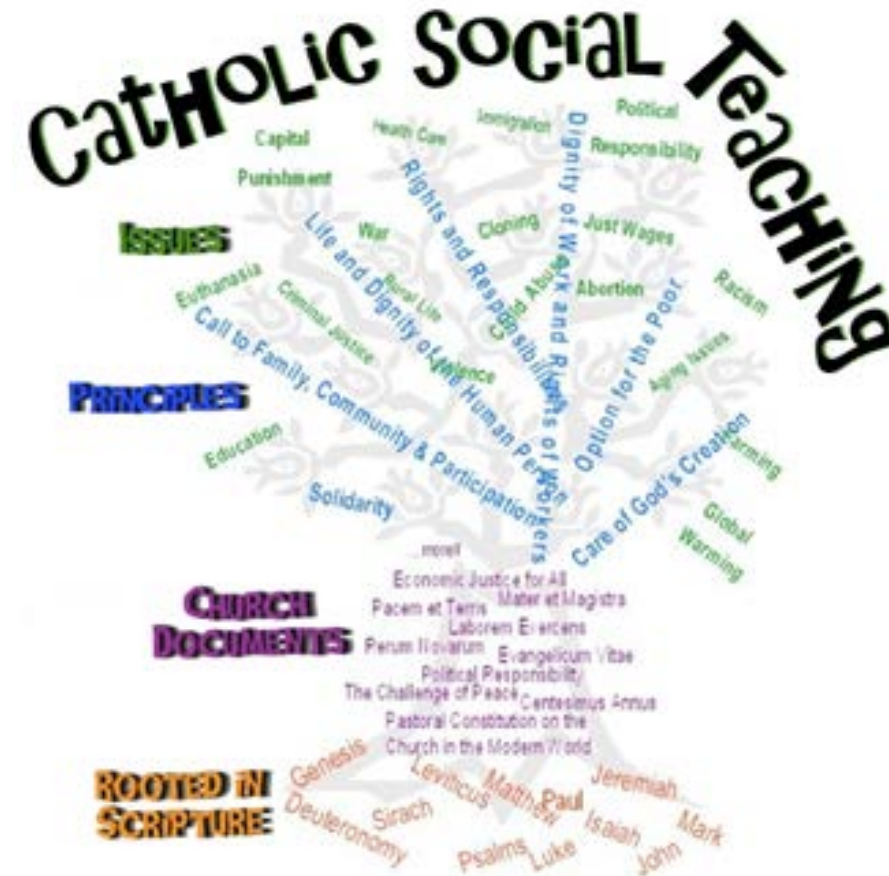
Moderator: Jose Aguto, Catholic Climate Covenant



Catholic Climate CovenantSM

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Communications Framing



Human Life



- “How can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life?”

Pope Benedict XVI
2010 Message to Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Human Dignity, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable



- “It is the poor and the powerless who most directly bear the brunt of environmental degradation. Unable to do otherwise, they live in polluted lands, near toxic waste dumps, or squat in public lands and other people’s properties without any access to basic services.”

Archbishop Celestino Migliore
Holy See Permanent Observer to the U.N.
October 29, 2007

TALKING CLIMATE

KATHARINE HAYHOE

Climate change
is not science.
It's religion.

**Senator Ted Cruz
R-TX, 2015**





“The problem is Al Gore has turned this thing into a religion”

Sen. Lindsey Graham (2014)



God's still up there. The arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what He is doing in the climate is to me outrageous.

**Senator James Inhofe
R-OK, 2012**

Let's get the pope to
set them straight!



Now faith is the substance of
things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJ21)

SCIENCE

Now ~~faith~~ is the substance of
things ~~hoped for~~, **HERE AND NOW**
the evidence of things ~~not seen~~.

WE CAN OBSERVE

Hebrews 11:1 (KJ21)

Destructive impacts of Hurricane Harvey remain

Aerial and on-the-ground views show enduring destruction from Hurricane Harvey flooding in Texas.



By [Daniel Grossman](#)

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

TOPICS

[Sustainability](#)

Recent Posts

- [Talanoa: 'Straight talk' to break climate impasses](#)
- [Saltier seas warn of floods to come](#)
- [Scientists learning from](#)



Three Months After Maria, Roughly Half of Puerto Ricans Still Without Power

By FRANCES ROBLES and JESS BIDGOOD DEC. 29, 2017



RELATED COVERAGE



Parts of Puerto Rico Won't Have Power for 8 Months. What's the Holdup? DEC. 23, 2017



Official Toll in Puerto Rico: 64. Actual Deaths May Be 1,052. DEC. 8, 2017

Coral reefs are bleaching way more frequently because of global warming

It 'is mind-boggling and very frightening when you consider what that means for the future of coral reefs'

By [Alessandra Potenza](#) | [@ale_potenza](#) | Jan 4, 2018, 2:00pm EST

2017 was the hottest year on record without an El Niño, thanks to global warming

Thomas Fire on course to become California's largest-ever wildfire



By [Euan McKirdy](#), CNN

🕒 Updated 1:27 AM ET, Tue December 19, 2017

'To deny climate change is to deny a truth we have just lived' says Prime Minister of storm-hit Dominica



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit of the Commonwealth of Dominica addresses the general debate of the General Assembly's seventy-second session. UN Photo/Cia Pak

Their own eyes
should set them
straight!





The [global] warming caused by the enormous consumption of some wealthy nations has repercussions in the poorest places on the planet.

Evangelical Scientists Issue Faith-Based Call For Congress To Address Climate Change

KATIE VALENTINE JUL 15, 2013, 8:54 PM



All of God's Creation - humans and our environment - is groaning under the weight of our uncontrolled use of fossil fuels, bringing on a warming planet, melting ice, and rising seas. The negative consequences and burdens of a changing climate will fall disproportionately on those whom Jesus called "the least of these": the poor, vulnerable, and oppressed

God spoke:

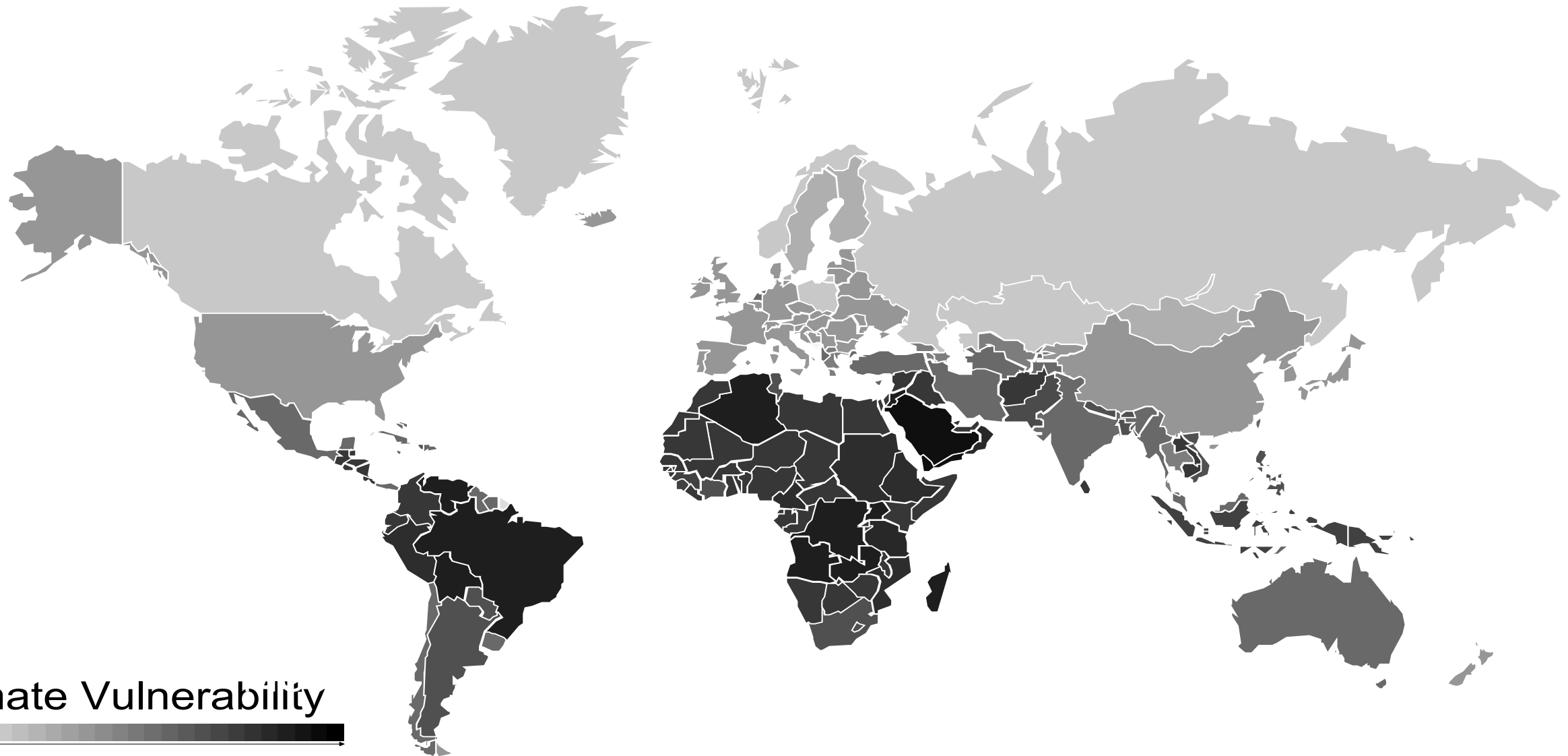
“Let us make human beings in our image,
make them reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for ...
**every living thing that moves on the face of
Earth.”**

GENESIS 1 (MESSAGE)





Who's most vulnerable?



Climate Vulnerability

low high





If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.


1 JOHN 3:17-18

Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you
and gave Himself up for us.

EPHESIANS 5:2

Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you
and gave Himself up for us.

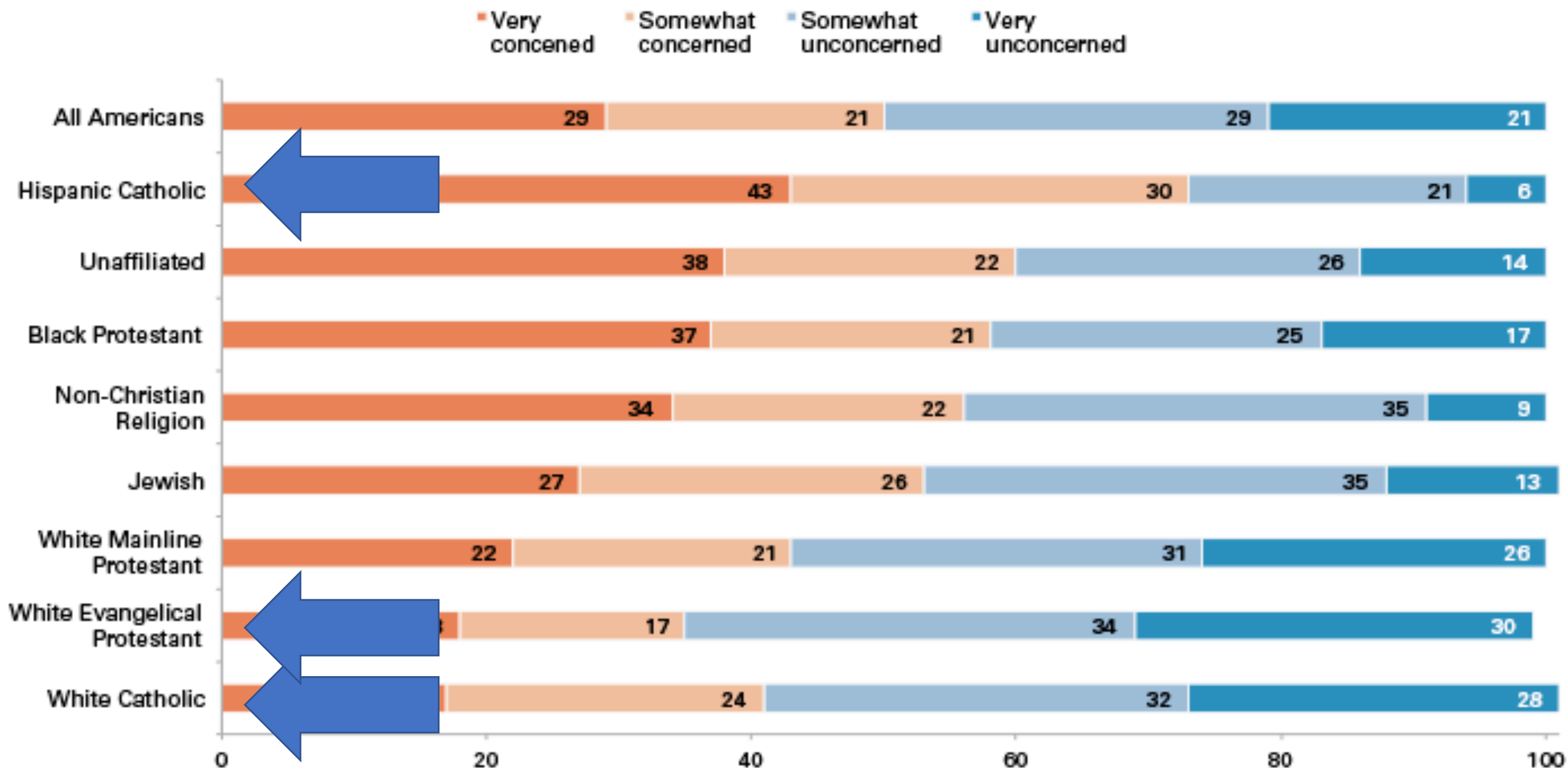
EPHESIANS 5:2



That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing...
I meant that.

- God

Climate Change Concern Index by Religious Affiliation



Source: PRR/VAAR, Religion, Values, and Climate Change Survey, November 2014

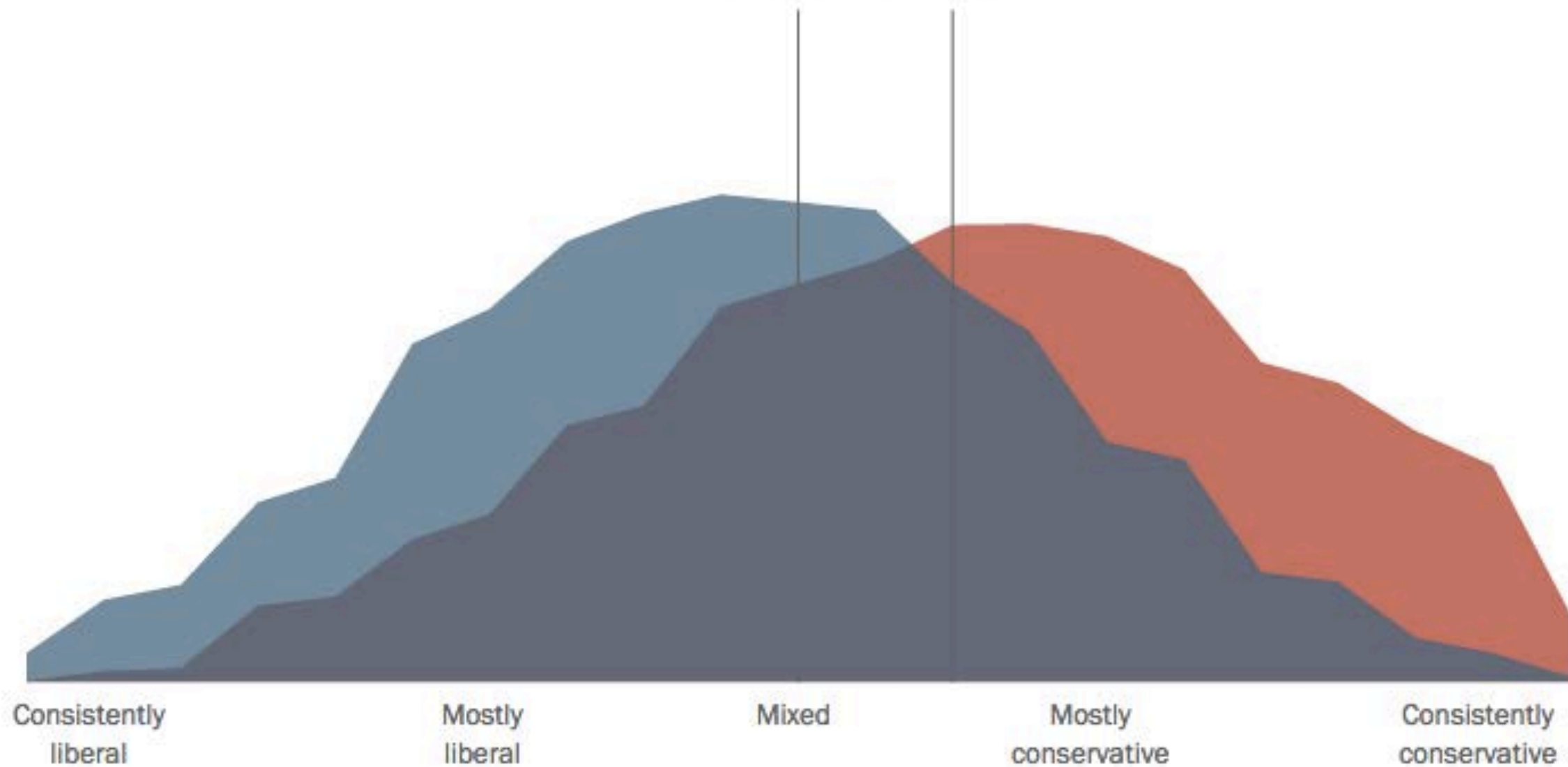
Confront the Real Problems

TWO

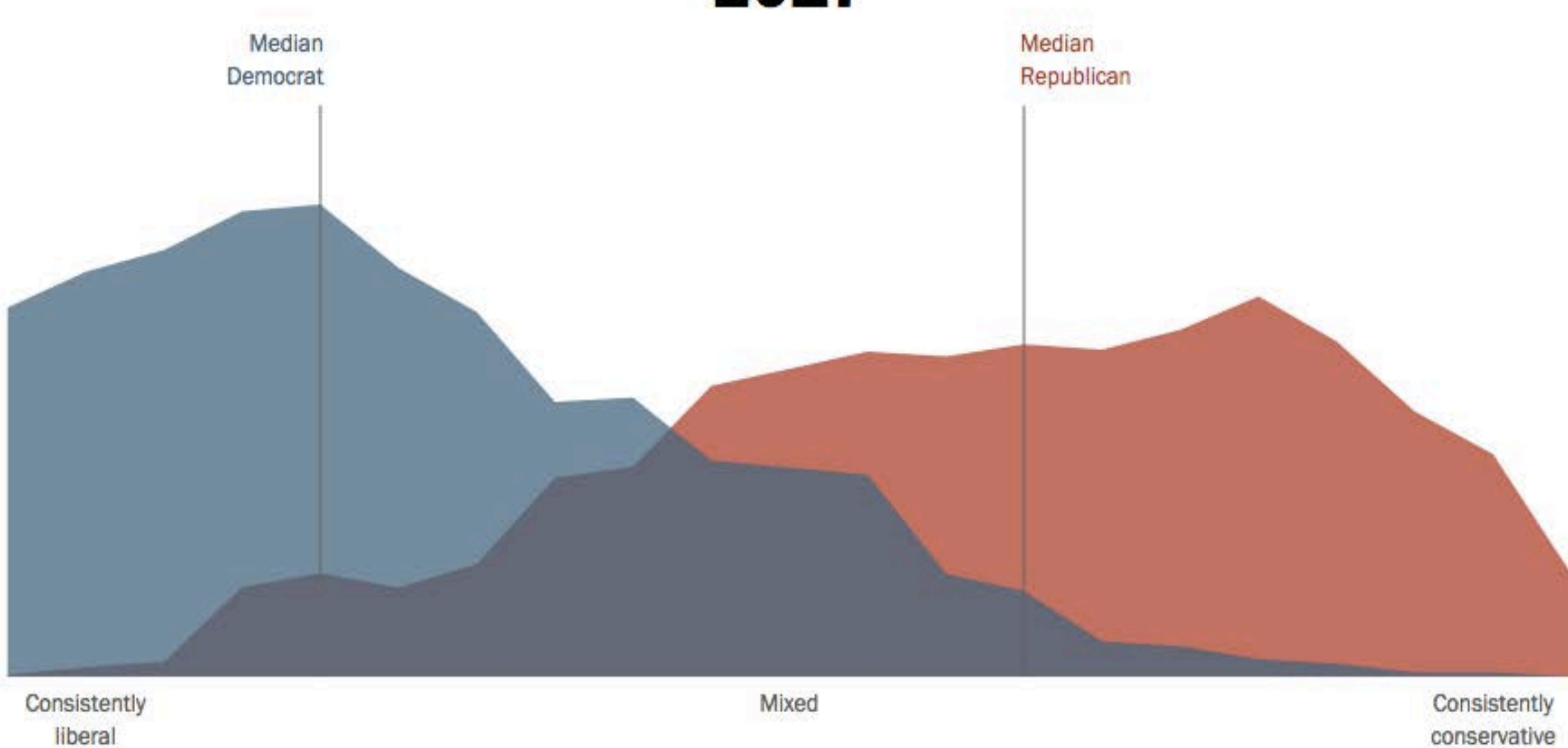
1994

Median
Democrat

Median
Republican

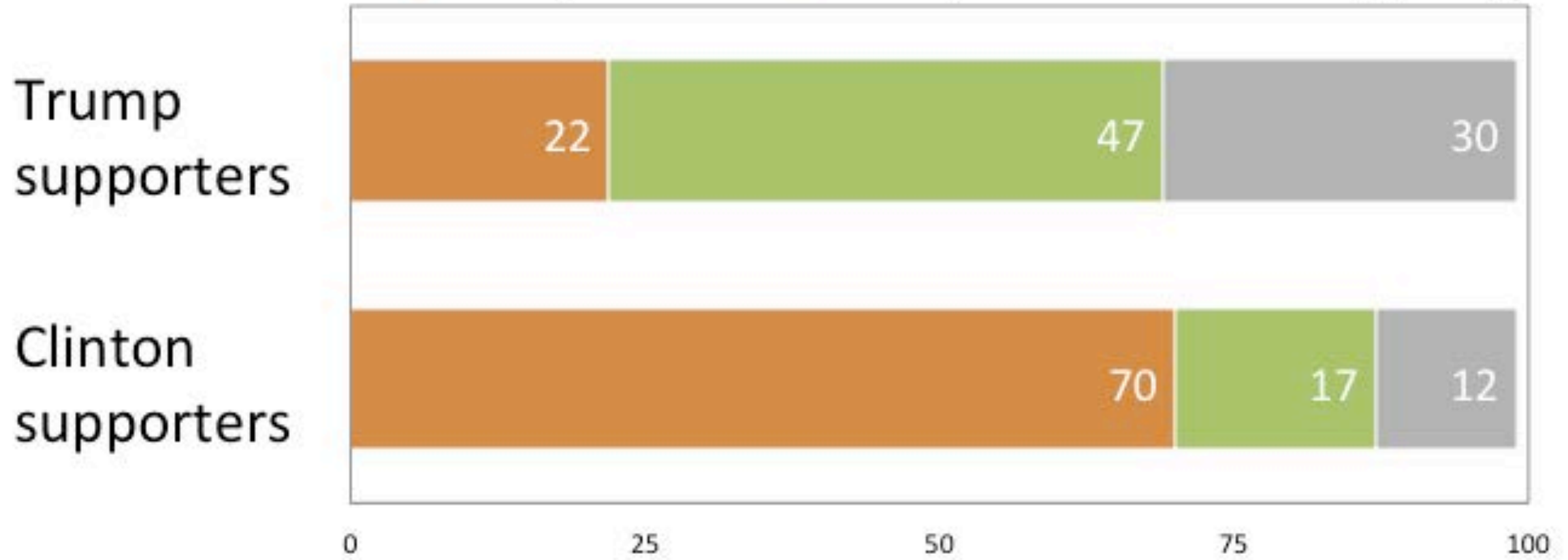


2017



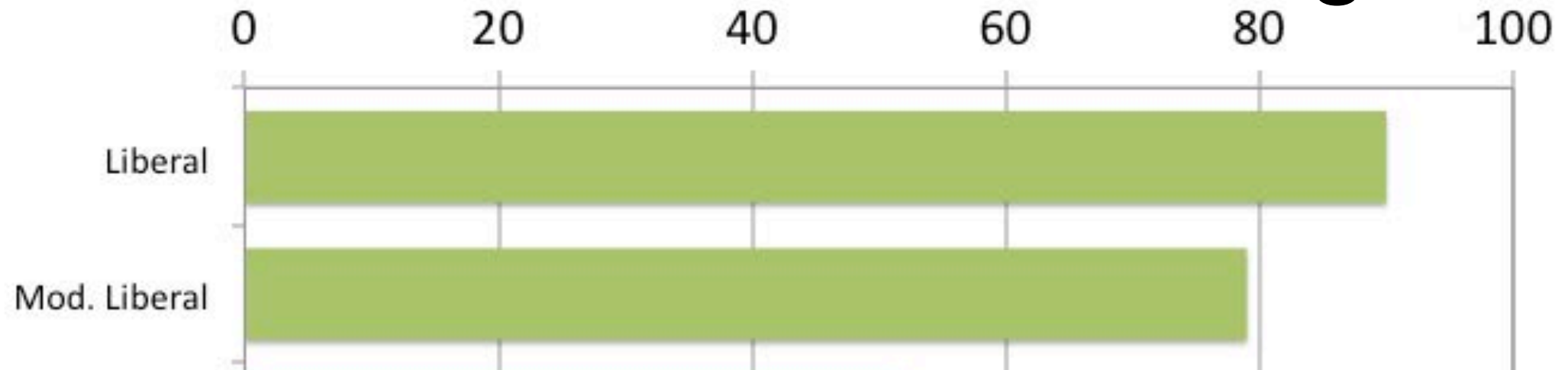
Is climate change ...

■ Mostly human ■ Mostly natural ■ Not happening

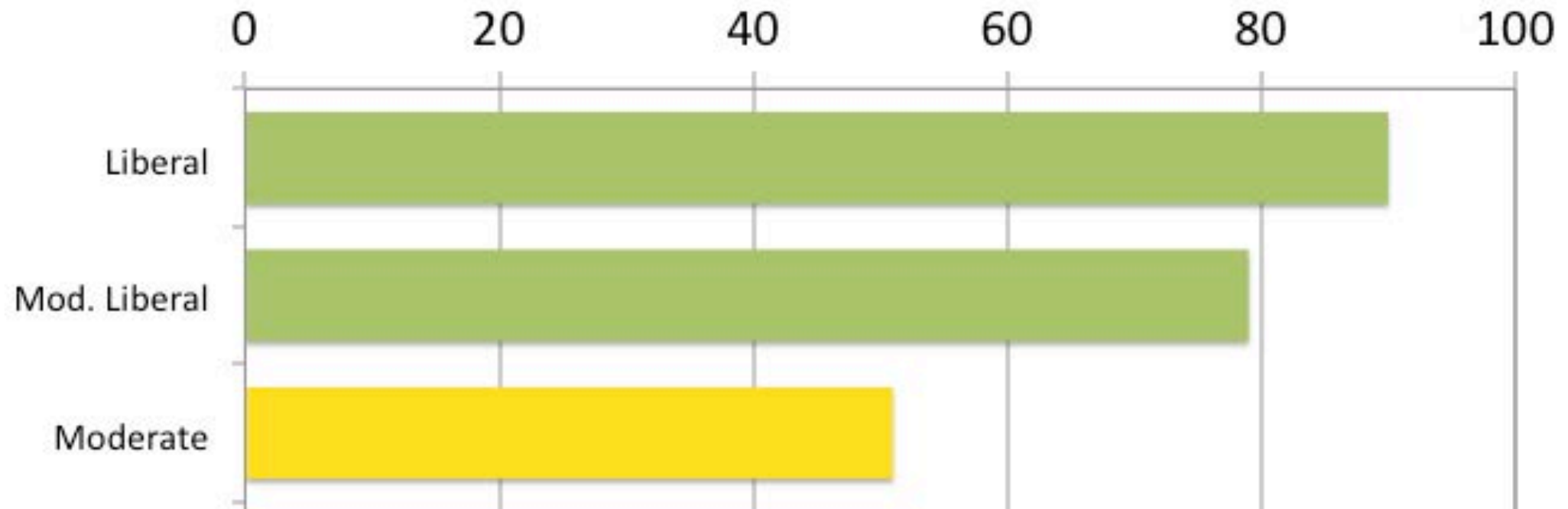


2016

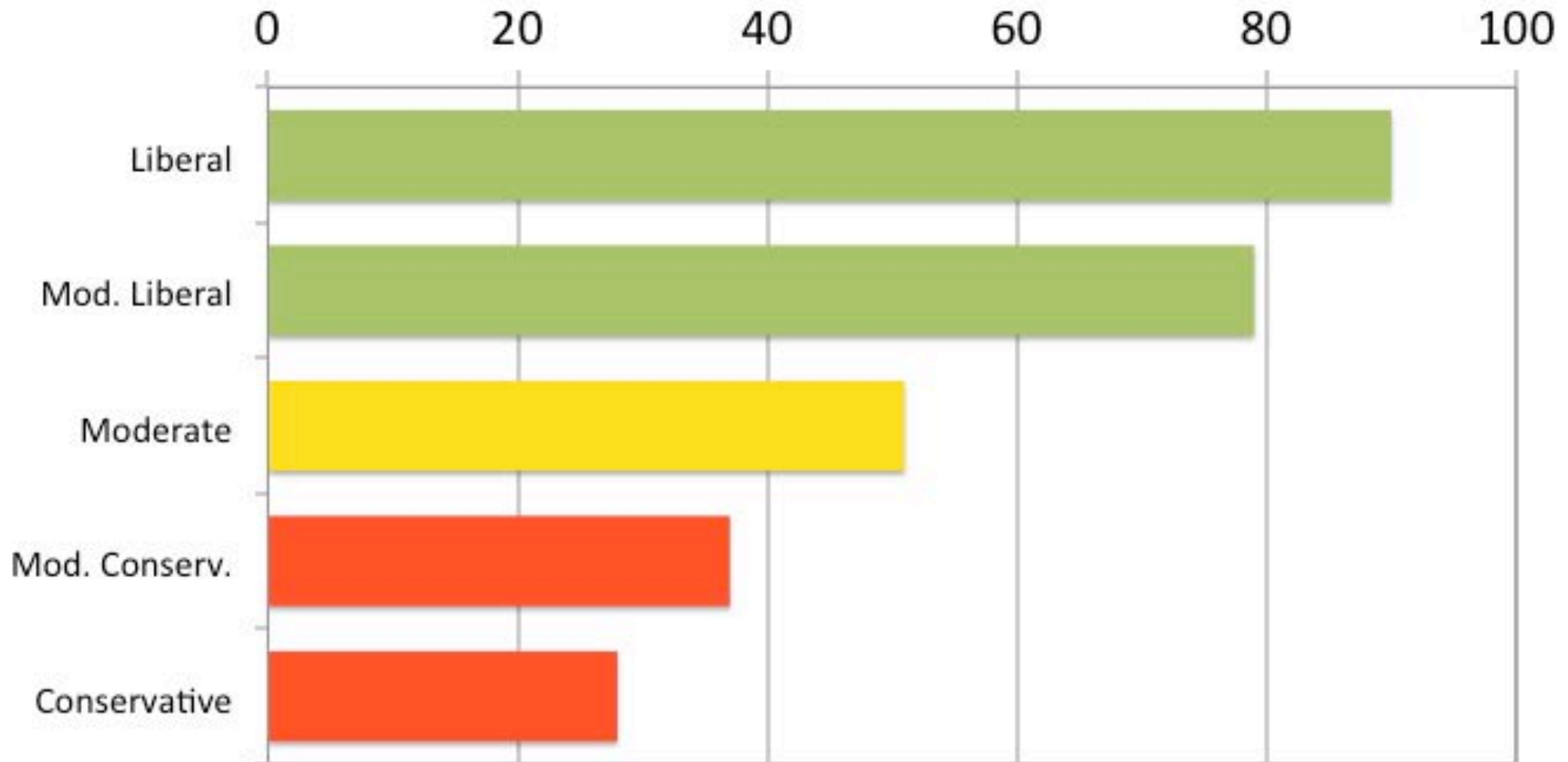
Does recent extreme weather add to the evidence of climate change?



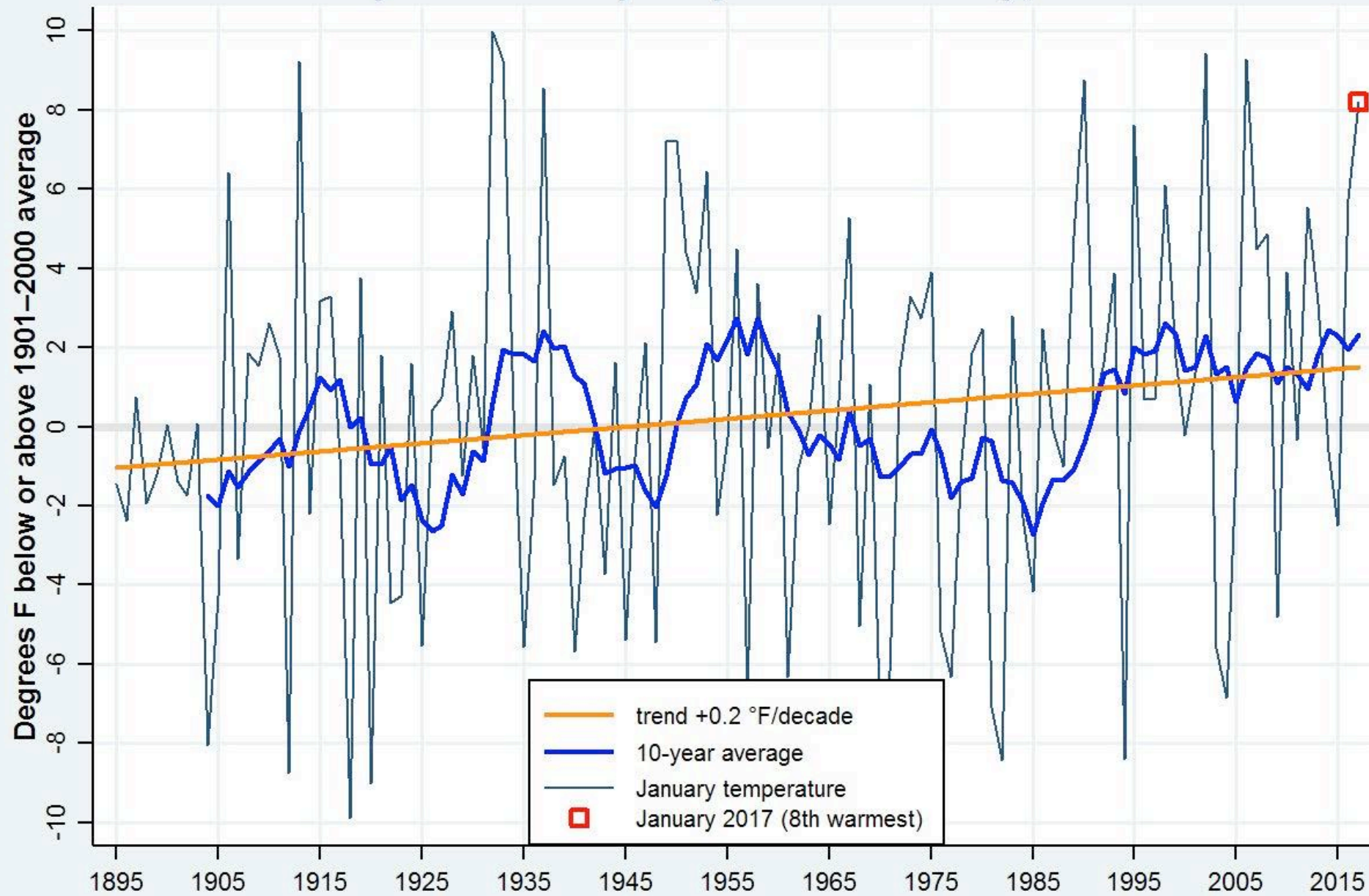
Does recent extreme weather add to the evidence of climate change?



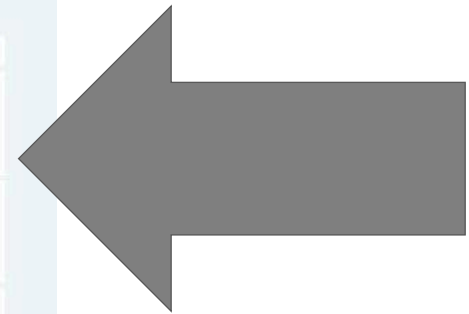
Does recent extreme weather add to the evidence of climate change?



New Hampshire January temperature anomaly, 1895 to 2017



data: NOAA climate divisions graph: L Hamilton



THE FIRST MOST DANGEROUS MYTH
WE'VE BOUGHT INTO IS ...

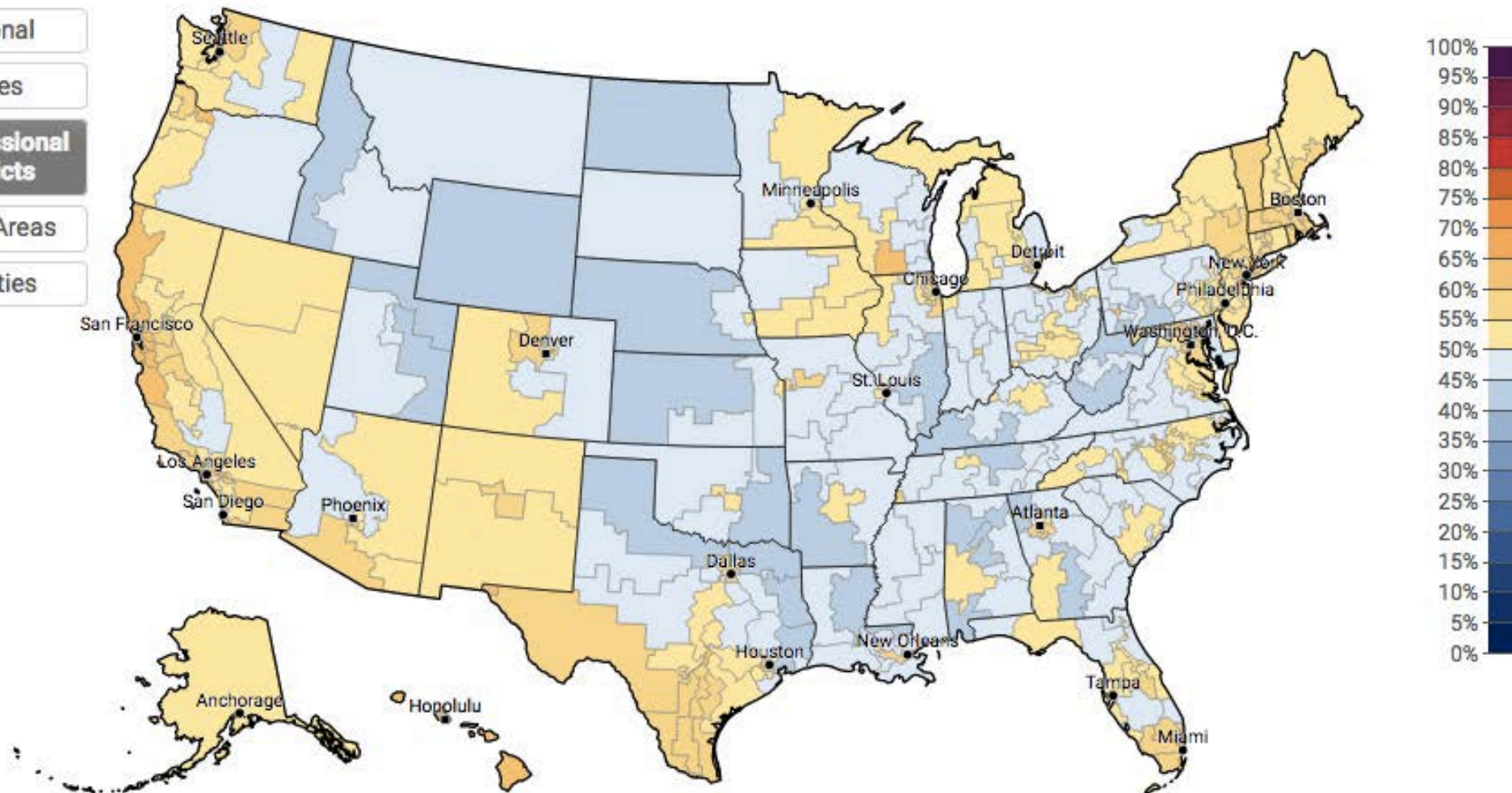
I HAVE TO BE A CERTAIN TYPE OF PERSON TO
CARE ABOUT A CHANGING CLIMATE – AND
I'M NOT.

Estimated % of adults who think global warming is mostly caused by human activities, 2016

Display model output:

Click on map to select geography, or:

- National
- States
- Congressional Districts**
- Metro Areas
- Counties



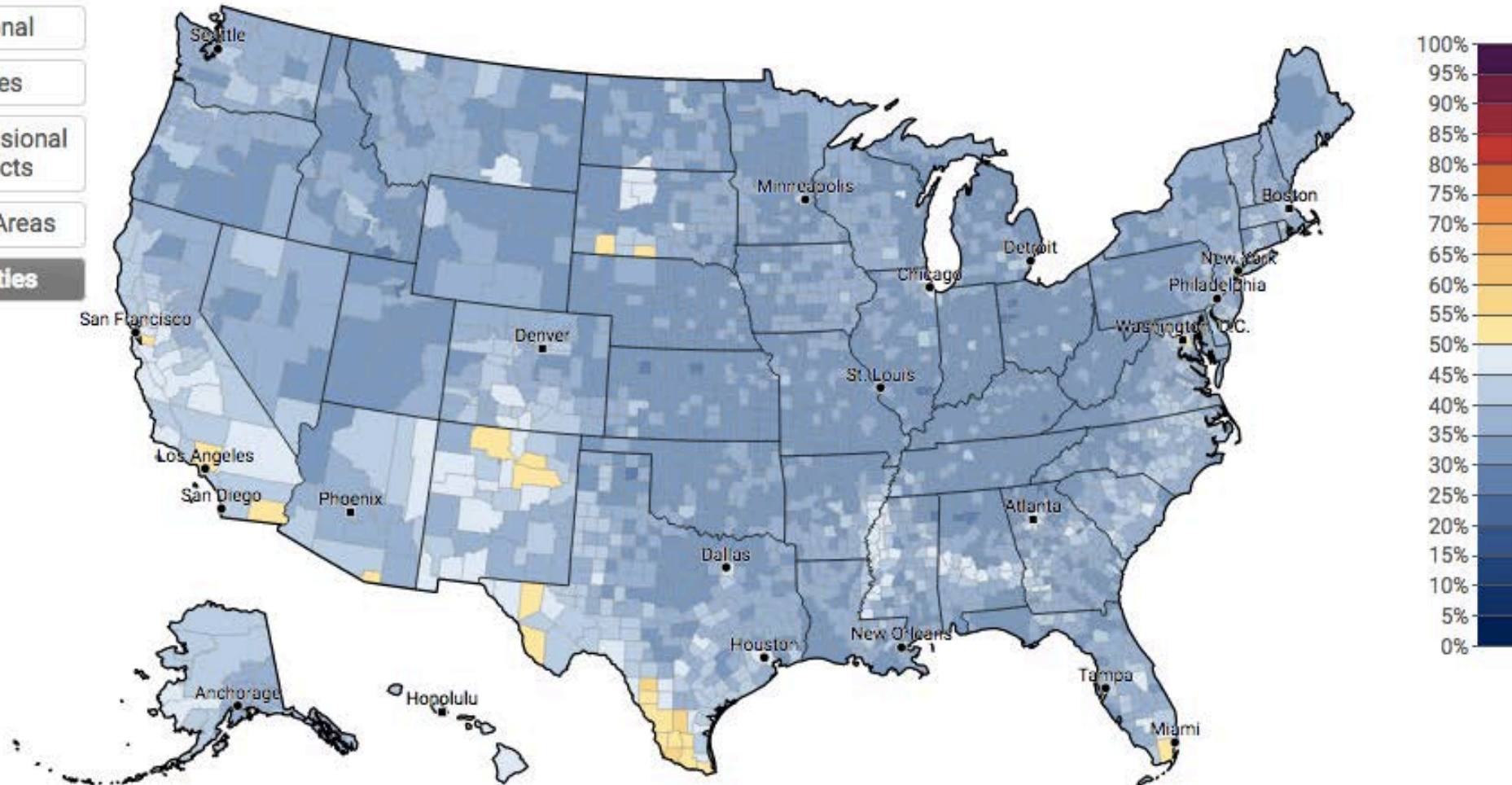
Estimated % of adults who think global warming will harm them personally, 2016

Display model output:

[Permalink](#)

Click on map to select geography, or:

- National
- States
- Congressional Districts
- Metro Areas
- Counties**



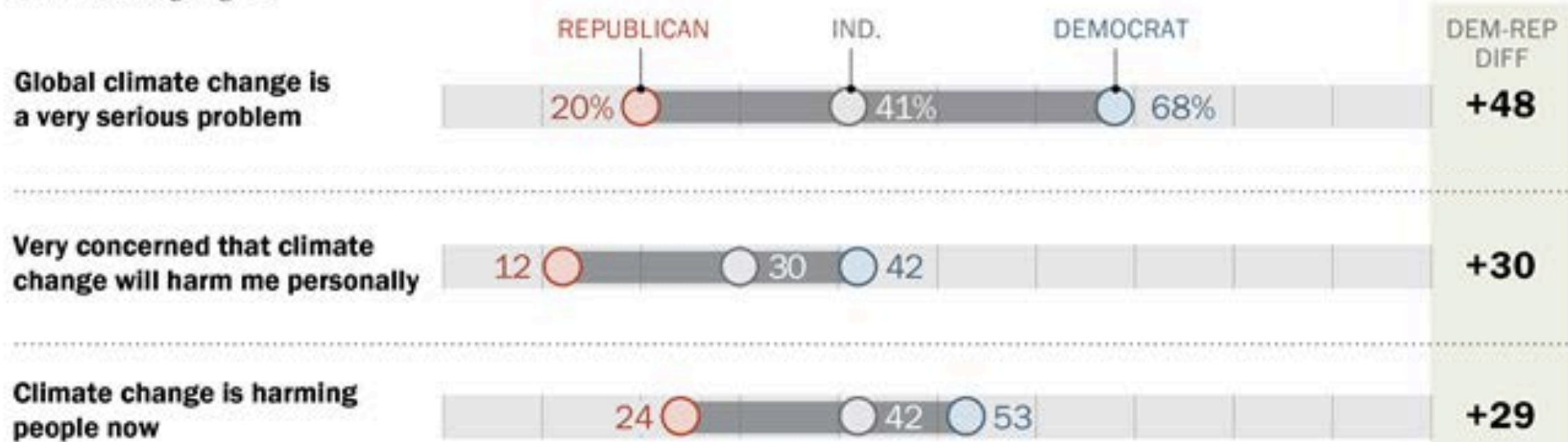




EXTRA HIGH TIDE FLOODS ROAD, FUNAFUTI, TUVALU (PACIFIC OCEAN) © 2005 GARY BRAASCH
RISING SEA LEVEL DOCUMENTED BY WORLD VIEW OF GLOBAL WARMING

U.S. Has Stark Partisan Differences on Climate Change

Percent saying ...



Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q32, Q40, Q41 & Q42.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

THE OTHER MOST DANGEROUS MYTH
WE'VE BOUGHT INTO IS ...

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A DISTANT ISSUE, ONLY
AFFECTING FUTURE GENERATIONS +
PLACES THAT ARE FAR AWAY.

The Way In

THREE

How *can* we talk about polarized issues?

BONDING and CONNECTING

What do we have in common, that we both already care about and is affected by climate change?

EXPLAINING

Why is this happening? Why might we [both] care?

INSPIRING

How can we work together to tackle this problem in a way that is compatible with our values?

BONDING: What values do we share?

Nearly every human on the planet already has the values they need to care about climate change.



EXPLAINING THE 90% WE KNOW

It's real

It's us

Scientists agree

EXPLAINING why it matters... in the East



EXPLAINING why it matters... in the West



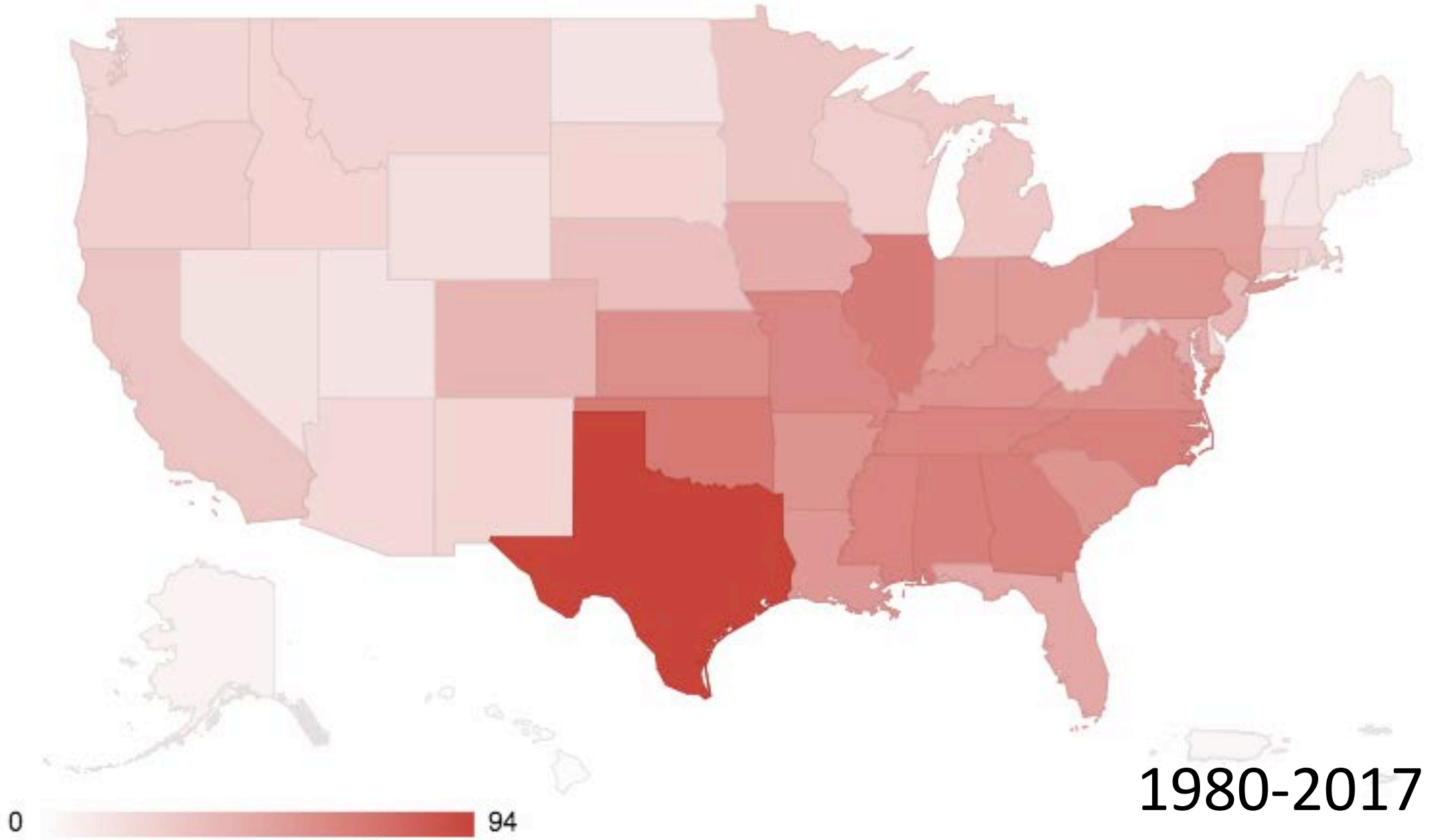
EXPLAINING why it matters... in the North



EXPLAINING why it matters... in the South



Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters By State (CPI-Adjusted)



INSPIRING

**Are there positive
solutions compatible
with our values?**

For God has not given us the spirit of **fear**;

For God has not given us the spirit of **fear**;
but of **power**,
and of **love**,
and of a **sound mind**.

2 Timothy 1:7

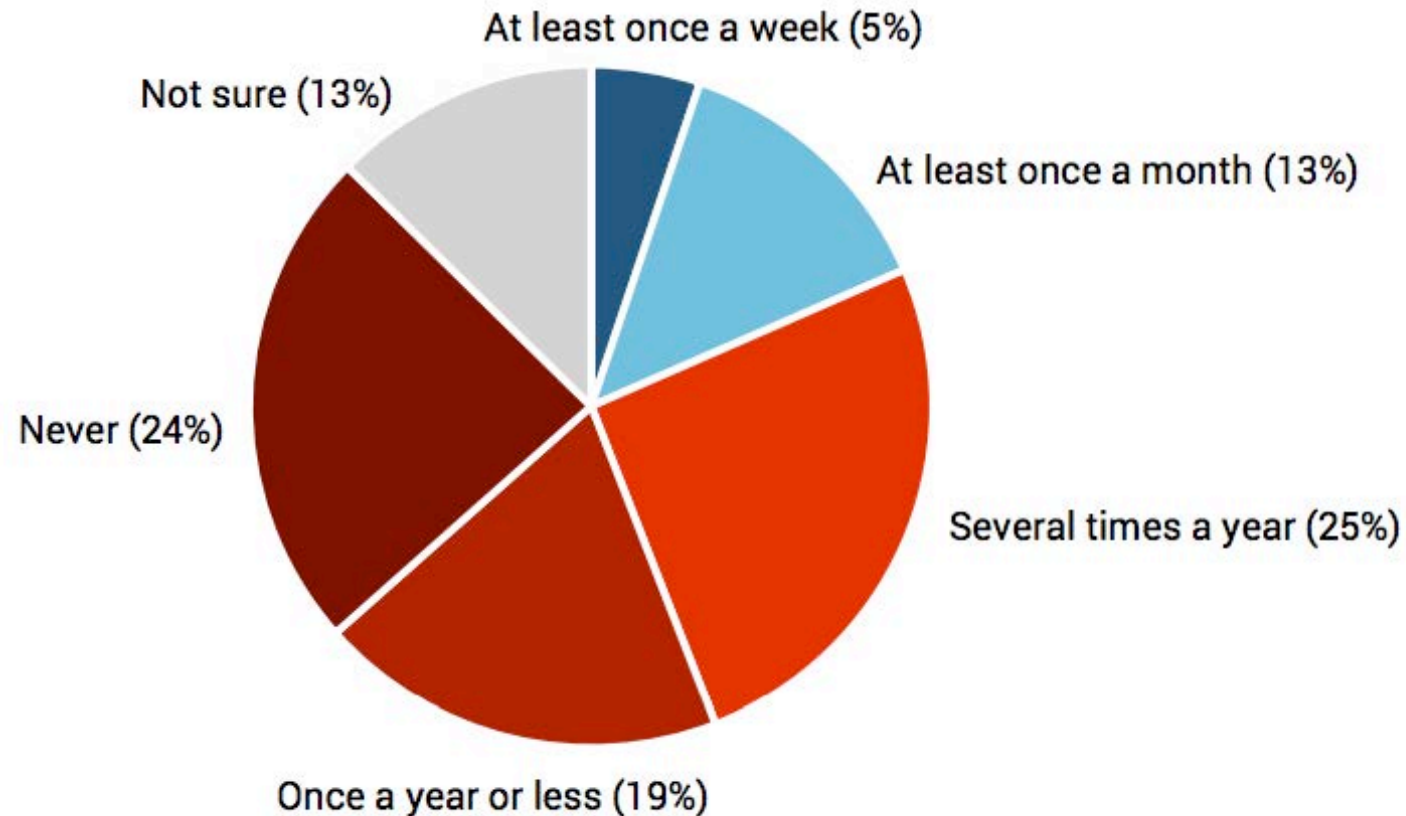
God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.

! CORINTHIANS 12 (THE MESSAGE)

Talk about it!

Only One in Five Americans Hear People They Know Talk About Global Warming At Least Once a Month

- One in Four Never Hear it Discussed -



Sensible steps to prepare for a changing climate





Texas Wind Power Breaks Another Record

MARCH 28, 2014 | 11:29 AM

BY **TERRENCE HENRY**

 1 Comment

 Email

 Tweet



MOSE BUCHELE/STATEIMPACT TEXAS

Wind turbines in West Texas help produce record amounts of electricity for the state.

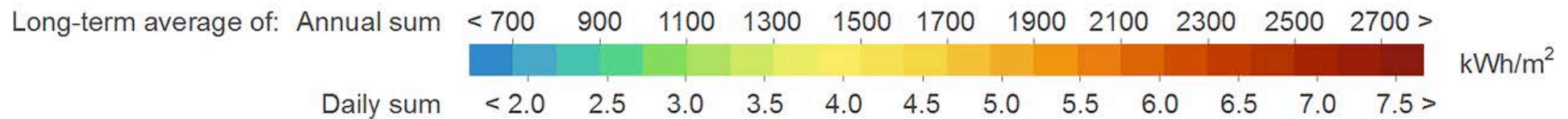
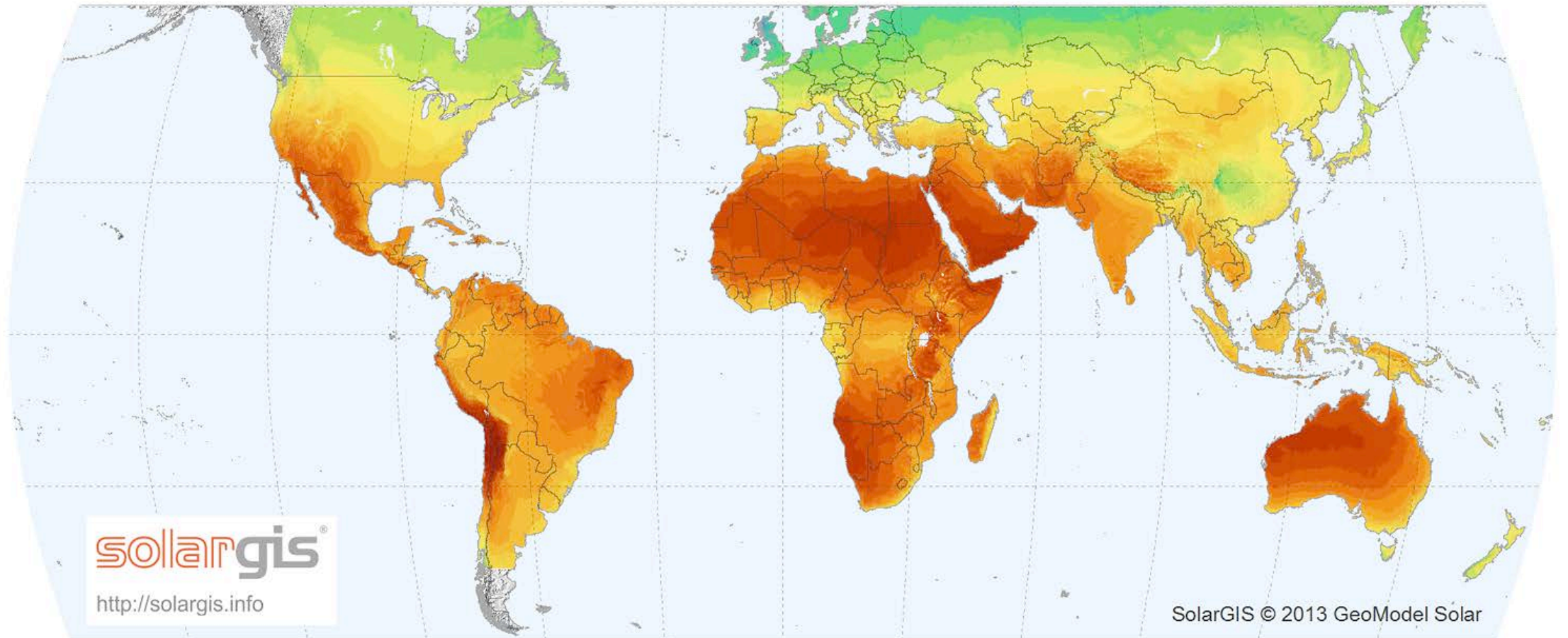
MEET THE TEXAS TOWN
GOING **100% GREEN ENERGY.**



Work to end energy poverty



... in ways that will last.



MEASURE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Get Started

Home Energy

Driving & Flying

Food & Diet

Recycling & Waste

Results

What's My Carbon Footprint?

The Nature Conservancy's carbon footprint calculator measures your impact on our climate.

Our carbon footprint calculator estimates how many tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases your choices create each year. [more info](#)

To get started, select the number of people in your home:

There are people in my household.

Then choose whether you want to calculate a carbon footprint for yourself or for your household:



For Me Only



For My Household



Carbon Footprint Calculator

Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

0

Tons of CO₂ eq/year

0

Home Energy

0

Driving & Flying

0

Food & Diet

0

Recycling & Waste

Offset Your Carbon Footprint Now*

Donate Now



0 Short Tons = 0 Metric Tons

*0 Tons x \$15 per Metric Ton = \$ 0 Gift

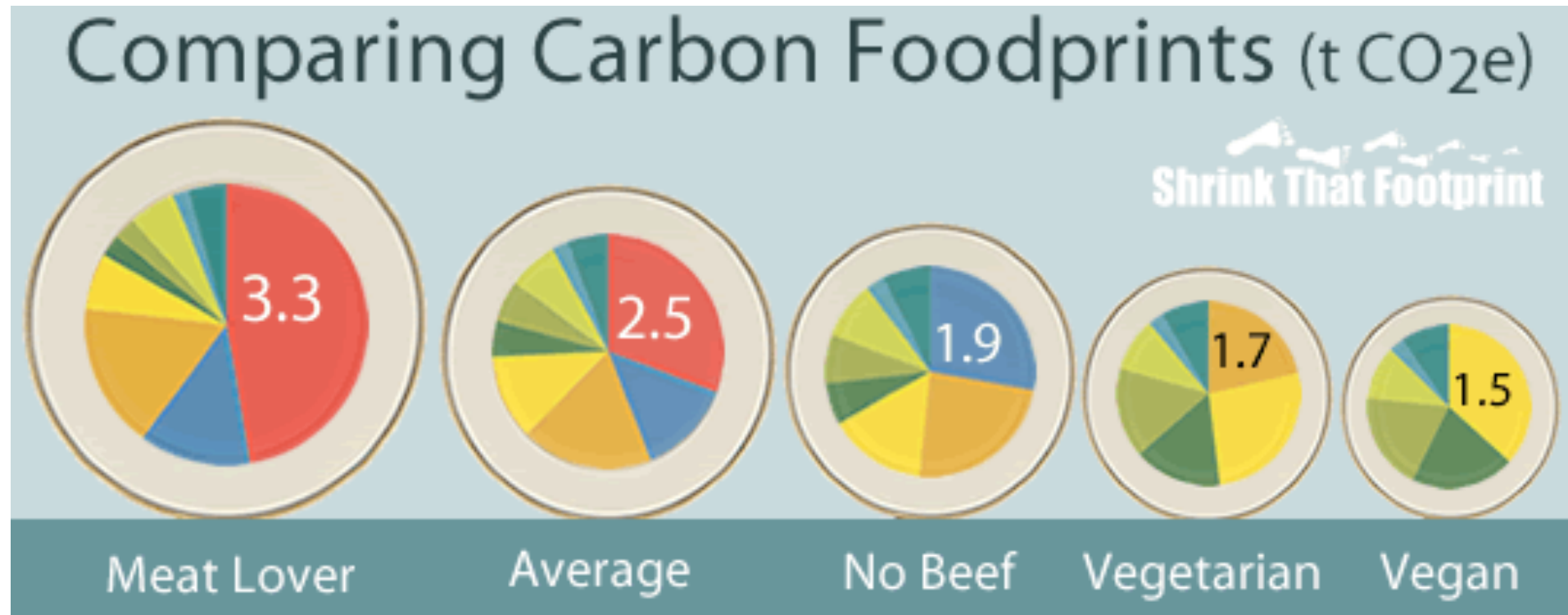
TAKE SMALL, SENSIBLE STEPS



LEDs \$40-135 in energy bills per bulb and last 10-25x longer

Switching to LEDs would save \$250 billion in energy costs across the U.S.

TAKE SMALL, SENSIBLE STEPS



Encourage each other to personal action

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

A christian community committed to action on climate change

Scroll down to become part of the solution

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

INSTAGRAM

climatecaretakers.org

Work together for corporate action



Work together for corporate action



MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD

Current Climate Solutions Caucus Members

Republican Members



Carlos Curbelo
(R-FL-26)



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
(R-FL-27)



Ryan Costello
(R-PA-06)



Patrick Meehan
(R-PA-07)



Lee Zeldin
(R-NY-01)



Mark Amodei
(R-NV-02)

Democratic Members



Ted Deutch
(D-FL-22)



Alan Lowenthal
(D-CA-47)



Brendan Boyle
(D-PA-13)



John Delaney
(D-MD-06)

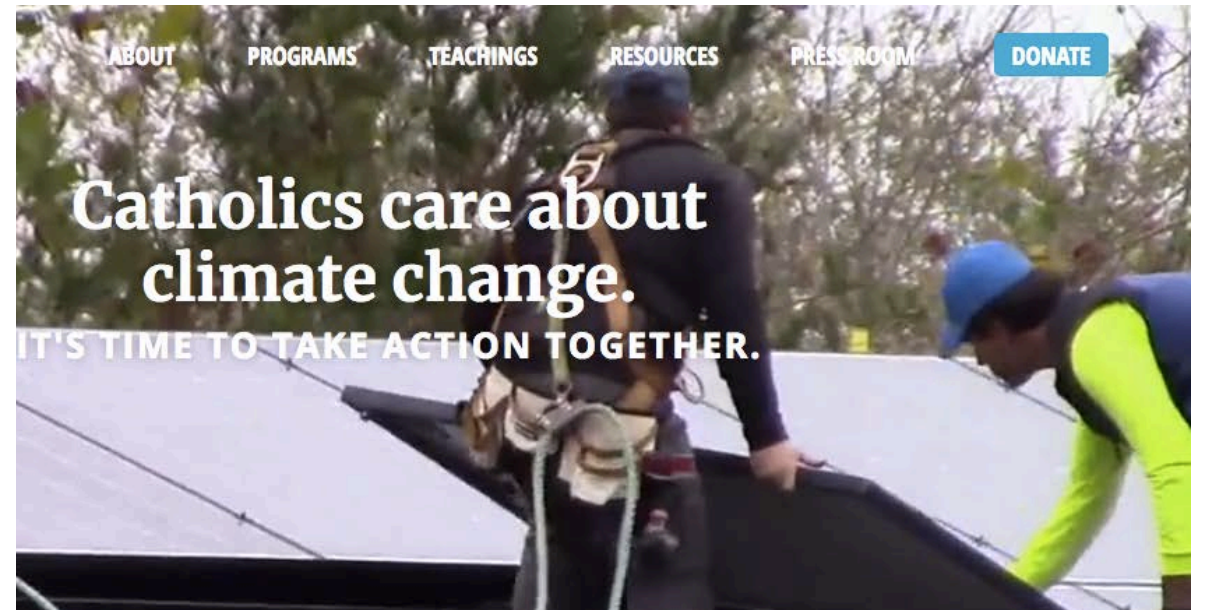


Seth Moulton
(D-MA-06)



Scott Peters
(D-CA-52)

Support organizations that help us to do this



We can talk about climate by...

BONDING OVER SHARED VALUES

EXPLAINING WHY CLIMATE
CHANGE MATTERS

... AND FINDING WAYS WE CAN
WORK TOGETHER TO ACT

The only thing that counts is **FAITH**
expressing itself through **LOVE.**

GALATIANS 5:6



LOVING OUR GLOBAL NEIGHBOUR

WWW.KATHARINEHAYHOE.COM

Questions ?



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

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For more information:

info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

