

The TNS Gallup Climate Barometer 1/10

Press kit



About The TNS Gallup Climate Barometer

The TNS Gallup Climate Barometer is a syndicated study of Norwegian opinions towards climate and energy issues. The survey was first run spring 2009, and this is the third round. The Climate Barometer is initiated, developed and carried out by TNS Gallup. The complete report is for sale to anyone interested. Please contact Project Manager Daniel Rees for further details.

Sample and method:

- 1160 persons have answered the survey by web (CAWI) or post.
- The sample is representative for the Norwegian population, and weighted on gender, age and education in order to reflect the population.
- Fieldwork period: March 12 – April 7, 2010.

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About TNS Gallup

TNS Gallup is the largest market research institute in Norway, providing market data and analysis to customers within both the private and public sector. TNS Gallup is part of TNS, the world's largest provider of interview-based market research.

www.tns-gallup.no

Continued belief that climate change is man-made

The cold winter has not affected the Norwegian population's belief in climate change being man-made. However, numbers from The TNS Gallup Climate Barometer shows that the climate issue has lost some of its urgency.

70% of Norwegians agree that climate change is man-made. This is only a 4-percentage point decline from last year.

– The results show a broad public accept for human in climate change. Even an unusually cold Norwegian winter, scandals surrounding the IPCC, and the failure at the UN climate conference in Copenhagen have not been able to significantly alter this belief, says Daniel Rees, Project Manager for the TNS Gallup Climate Barometer.

Other issues are more important

However, the survey shows that climate change now is considered to be less pressing compared to other issues. Last autumn, climate change was among the three most important issues for SV, Ap, V, KrF and SP-voters [centre and left of centre parties]. This spring, only SV-voters [socialist party] consider it to be among the top three. Expanding roads and railroads is now the most important issue for the public in general.

– We see that what the public considers to be the most important issues is related to what is featured in the media at the time. The relative decline in importance for climate change is probably related to fewer and more critical articles over the last six months, says Rees.

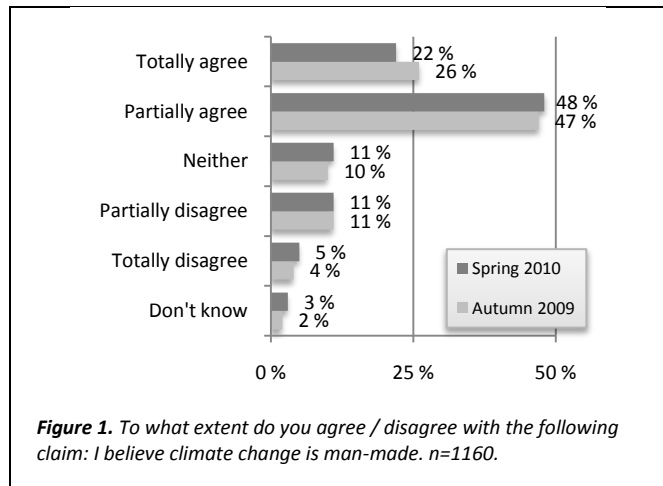
Climate change does not inflict on everyday life

Politicians often talk about climate change being one of the greatest challenges in our time. The Climate Barometer highlights two important reasons as to why the Norwegian population currently do not share this belief.

Firstly, most Norwegians do not believe that climate change will affect Norway as much as the world in general. 50 % of the population think that the effects in Norway will be both positive and negative. Climate change is not considered to be a great threat to this country.

Secondly, the government have implemented few climate measures that most people notice, both with regards to restricting behaviour and rewarding climate-friendly actions. People expect more: 6 out of 10 think that the Norwegian politicians do far too little to reduce the domestic greenhouse gas emissions, and only 32 % think that Norway is a leading country internationally on climate issues.

– When politicians talk about the urgency of the climate issue without people noticing any changes in their everyday lives, it is no surprise that many reach the conclusion that other issues are more urgent than climate change, says Rees.



Place Spring 2010	Changes from Autumn 2009	Place Autumn 2009	Place Spring 2009	Issue	%
1	↑	6	7	Expanding roads and railroads	42 %
2	●	2	2	Health care	39 %
3	●	3	8	Immigration and integration	36 %
4	↓	1	3	Increasing violence and crime	36 %
5	↓	4	1	Schools and education	32 %
6	↓	5	4	Climate change	22 %
7	●	7	9	Poverty and injustice	21 %
8	●	8	6	Unemployment	16 %

Figure 2: What do you consider to be the major challenges facing Norway today? n=1160.

Most people believe that climate change is man-made

Norwegian trust in The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has declined, but as many as seven out of ten still believe that climate change is man-made.

These figures are taken from The TNS Gallups Climate Barometer, which is published today. The survey is co-financed by the Climate and Pollution Agency (Klif) in Norway.

– Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our time. Although some minor errors were found in one of the reports published by the IPCC last year, it has not affected people’s belief in the IPCC’s main conclusion: that climate change is happening largely because of man-made greenhouse gas emissions. This helps the effort to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years, says Ellen Hambro, Director of the Climate and Pollution Agency.

Climate change is man-made

According to The TNS Gallup Climate Barometer, 70 percent of the population state that climate change is man-made. This is only a slight decline from the last survey, when the share was 74 percent

However, according to the survey, the population’s trust in the IPCC has been severely impaired. 39 percent of the respondents state that their trust in the IPCC has been weakened. Only 29 percent state that they have high or very high trust in the IPCC. 24 percent state that their trust is low or very low.

– It is worrying that the trust in the IPCC has been weakened. The panel’s reports forms the scientific foundation for international climate negotiations. We are entirely dependant on a high level of trust in climate science, says Ellen Hambro

She points out that the Secretary-General of the UN has appointed an independent expert committee to evaluate the procedures and routines of the IPCC. The target is to strengthen the quality assurance of the upcoming reports.

Thinks the trust will be strengthened

Ellen Hambro is convinced that the trust will rise again, as more research and more reports are published. The Climate and Pollution Agency coordinates the Norwegian contribution to the IPCC.

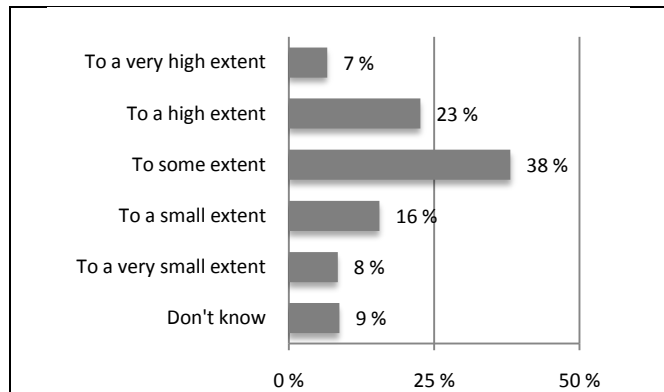


Figure 3: To what extent do you trust the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)? n=1160.

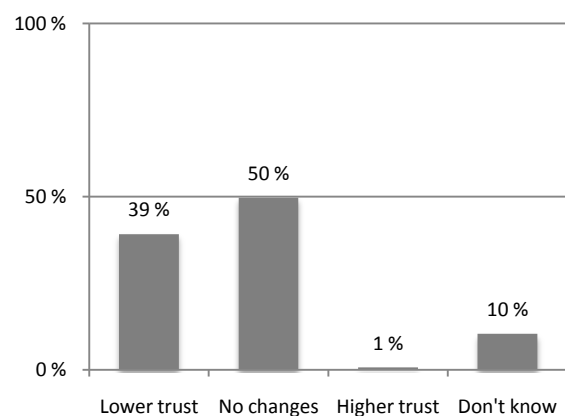


Figure 4: Recently, the media has reported some errors in reports published by the IPCC. How has this affected your trust in the panel? n=1160

Fact box: **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

- Established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988.
- Reviews already existing research. Does not produce any independent research.
- Provides academic assessments and summaries of recent climate research, including climate change, ecological and socio-economical effects, as well as possible measure to reduce the cause and effects of climate change.
- One of the main reports has contributions from a large share of the world's climate scientists. They are important for the negotiation of a new climate treaty during the UN's climate convention.
- Scientists who do not directly contribute to the report are still indirectly contributing through the reviews of their research.

Read more:

- TNS Gallup: <http://www.tns-gallup.no/default.aspx?aid=9083168>
- About the IPCC:
<http://www.klif.no/no/Tema/Klima-og-ozon/FNs-klimapanel-IPCC/>

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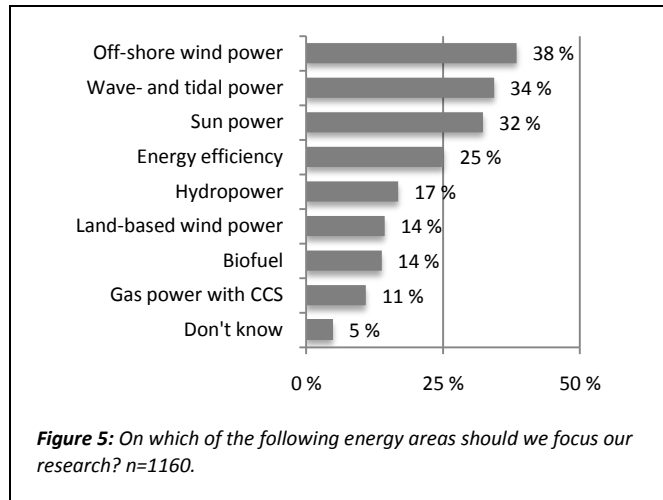
Supports environmental-friendly energy research

Offshore wind power is the most popular area of research with the respondents in a survey carried out by TNS Gallup. 38 percent think Norway should prioritise this kind of research. Only 11 percent say they would prioritise research into gas power with CCS.

– These figures reflect the media coverage of the two technologies, says Arvid Hallén, director of the Research Council of Norway. He thinks Norway should direct its efforts towards several lines of research.

– In order to solve the climate crisis, we have to establish a sustainable energy system, and not rely as much on fossil energy sources as before. This means more wind-, sun-, and bio energy. However, we need to recognize that oil, gas and coal will be the main energy sources over the next decades. This means we need to find a

secure way to make this energy production cleaner. Norway has strong academic communities, with the potential to achieve good results on both offshore wind power and CCS. Over the past few years, we have considerably strengthened our research on environmental-friendly energy, says Hallén.



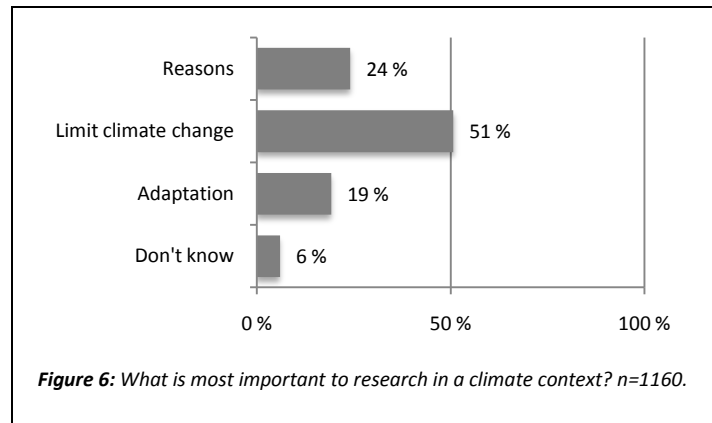
The survey further indicates that the population supports research into cleaner energy. 73% percent state that Norway does not commit enough to the development of renewable energy – a significant increase from the spring of 2009, when the share was 59%.

The TNS Gallup Climate Barometer also shows that a significant share, 39 percent, has lost trust in the IPCC over the last year. One out of three Norwegians has high or very high trust in the panel, while one out of four has low or no trust. The survey was carried in the wake of several revelations of errors in the panel's reports, and these scandals have received massive media coverage. Still, 70 percent believe that climate change is man-made, indicating that the low trust in the IPCC does not affect the population's belief in the main scientific conclusions.

– As expected, the controversy concerning the IPCC has led to the increased scepticism reflected in the survey, says Hallén. – From a scientific perspective, scientific objections to the panel's conclusions are very healthy. However, I would like to emphasise that so far, none of these objections has challenged the main conclusions, and that there is a strong consensus among climate scientists worldwide that we are facing serious changes to the climate.

A majority of the respondents, 51 percent, wants to prioritise research on how to limit climate change. 24 percent wants to prioritise research on the reasons for climate change, while 19 percent think research to focus on how we should adapt to the changes.

– Everyone is right, says Arvid Hallén - We need a better understanding of why the changes are occurring, we need to try to limit the changes, but we also have to realise that we need to learn how to adapt to the changes that will come in the future. .



Questions may be directed to:

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- Director of department Kirsten Broch Mathisen, The Norwegian Research Council;, Phone 93 21 01 09, e-mail kbm@forskningsradet.no

Growing impatience with expansion of renewable energy

Norway does not commit enough to expand renewable energy production. Three out of four Norwegians agree with this in a new survey carried out by TNS Gallup.

73% of the respondents in The TNS Gallup Climate Barometer agree that Norway does not commit enough to the expansion of renewable energy. The share agreeing with this has increased throughout 2009, and increases with additionally 7 percentage points in this survey.

– This is a very significant change in just one year, says Daniel Rees, project manager for the Climate Barometer at TNS Gallup

Furthermore, The Climate Barometer shows that the popular impression of wind power has improved. In this survey, 74 % of the Norwegian population states that they have a positive or very positive impression of land-based wind power. This is a 4-percentage point increase since October 2009. Wind power is perceived as a very symbolic climate measure, and is therefore regarded as positive by many people. In general, renewable energy is far more popular than gas power with cleansing technology, which reputation is dwindling to most people.

– 70 percent of Norwegian greenhouse gas emissions are due to use of fossil energy. The climate challenge demands a move from fossil to renewable energy, says Steinar Bysveen, CEO of Energy Norway.

– In Norway, this process is going too slowly, and it is obvious that most people have noticed this.

The survey also shows that despite the high energy prices during the past winter, 60 percent of the Norwegian population are still willing to pay at least 500 NOK more a year for electricity if a system with green certificates was established. The share willing to pay declines with 5 percentage points compared to the Climate Barometer 2/09. Still, this shows that the arrangement has widespread support in the population, and that it has not been significantly affected by the high energy prices this winter.

New renewable energy production has to be connected to the power grid, and the Climate Barometer shows an increasing accept to expand power lines, where this leads to more renewable energy usage. 70 percent of the population now states that they accept an expansion under these conditions. Several planned power lines in western Norway have faced opposition, but the results show that 70 percent in Hordaland County and 76 percent in Sogn- and Fjordane County support the expansion of power lines in order to increase the use of renewable energy.

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