

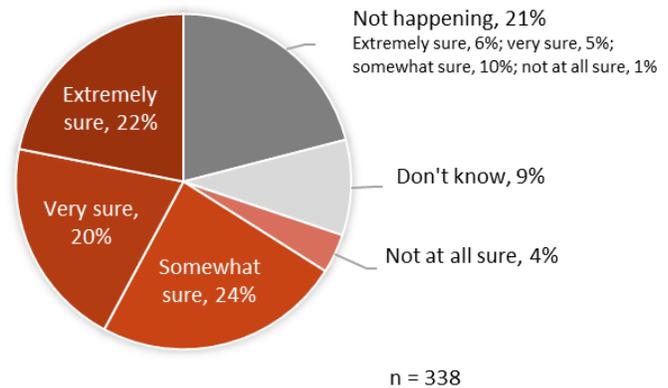
## Maryland's Catholics Say Climate is a Health Risk to their Communities and Support State Climate and Energy Policies

September 21, 2015

On September 22, Pope Francis will fly into Maryland's Andrews Air Force Base for a 3-day visit to Washington, D.C., marked by his address to the U.S. Congress and a public rally in support of his June encyclical on the environment. This week, George Mason University and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health are also releasing the first results of a spring 2015 survey of Marylanders on public health, energy and the environment. A majority of Maryland's Catholics say that climate change is happening, will harm the health of their communities, and support state and local climate and energy policies. Moreover, they say they are already performing many pro-environmental behaviors in their own homes.

- 70% of Maryland's Catholics say climate change is happening.
- More than half report that they themselves (52%), other members of their immediate households (53%), and people in their communities (53%) are moderately or very vulnerable to the health effects of climate change.
- A majority say climate change will make the following health problems more common in Maryland: injuries from storms or other extreme weather (52%), heat stroke (54%), respiratory and breathing problems (57%), and allergies (68%).

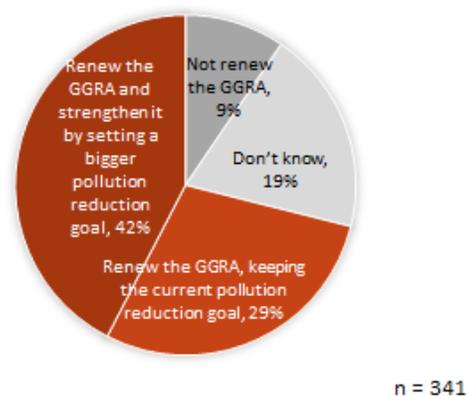
A majority of Catholics in Maryland say climate change is happening



### Support for state and local policies

- More than two-thirds (69%) support local and state governments taking action to protect their communities against harm caused by climate change.
- Half or more of Catholics support seven of nine state climate and energy policies surveyed. They most strongly support the promotion of local agricultural products (84%), energy efficiency rebates (78%), and financial incentives for renewable energy (73%).

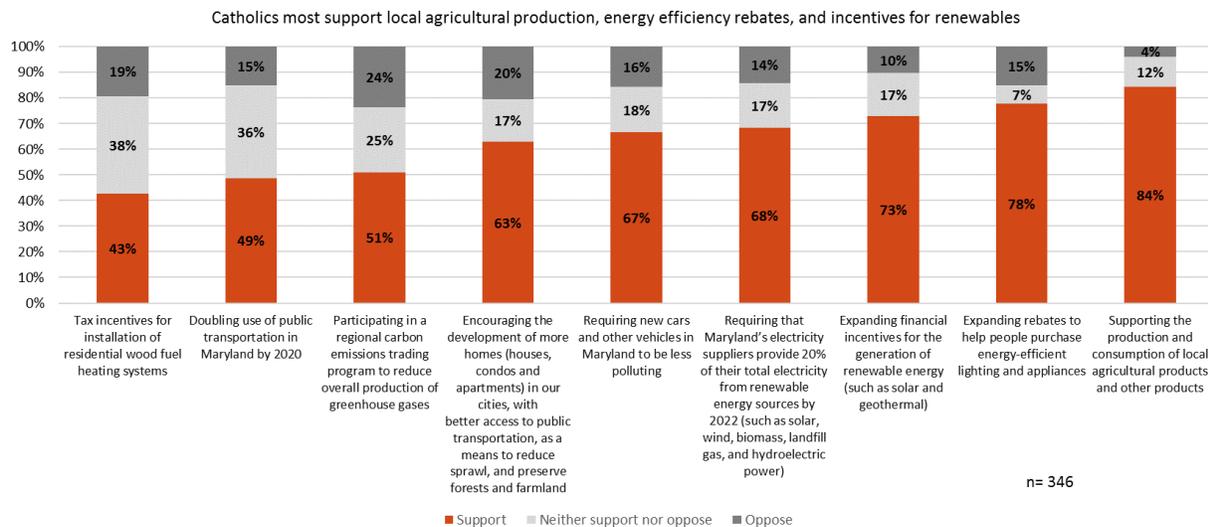
Maryland's Catholics support renewing the state's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases



- The current state mandate for 20% renewable energy generation is supported by 69% of Maryland’s Catholics. More than three-quarters (76%) say that they would like to see it strengthened; 47% say even if it costs them between \$2 and \$10 a month.
- A majority support either strengthening Maryland’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2009 in the 2016 state legislative session by setting a larger pollution reduction goal (42%) or renewing it at current levels (29%).

### Personal actions at home

- Most of Maryland’s Catholics say they already have installed efficient light bulbs (87%), sealed air leaks in their home (60%), and bought energy efficient appliances (68%).
- They also report doing the following pro-environmental activities most of the time: recycling (87%), moving the thermostat up in summer and down in winter (93%), and turning off lights (99%).



*About the survey:* The study was fielded from April 11 to June 24, 2015 by George Mason University and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health on behalf of the Climate Communication Consortium of Maryland. The response rate to the mail survey of a random selection of state households was 27% with a total sample of 1,547 respondents, including 346 who described themselves as Roman Catholic. The unweighted sample margin of error for Catholics is +/- 5.27 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval. The state data is weighted in accordance with U.S. Census population distributions for regional distribution, gender, age and education. The study was funded by the Town Creek Foundation of Easton, MD.

**Please note, some of the percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding error.**

Appendix | Catholic responses to Maryland public health, energy, and climate change measures

**Climate change and public health impacts**

Table 1

<b>Climate change certainty:</b>	
<b>Do you think that climate change is currently happening? If you answered either yes or no, how sure are you?</b>	
Extremely sure climate change is not happening	5.6%
Very sure climate change is not happening	4.8%
Somewhat sure climate change is not happening	9.7%
Not at all sure climate change is not happening	.9%
Don't know	9.2%
Not at all sure climate change is happening	3.8%
Somewhat sure climate change is happening	23.9%
Very sure climate change is happening	20.3%
Extremely sure climate change is happening	21.9%
Unweighted n	338

Table 2

<b>How vulnerable — if at all — are the following people to potential health impacts of climate change?</b>		
a. You personally	Not at all vulnerable	18.2%
	Only a little vulnerable	19.5%
	Moderately vulnerable	28.9%
	Very vulnerable	22.7%
	There are no health impacts	1.4%
	Don't know	9.3%
	Unweighted n	341
b. Other people in your immediate household	Not at all vulnerable	15.1%
	Only a little vulnerable	17.6%
	Moderately vulnerable	31.6%
	Very vulnerable	21.3%
	There are no health impacts	1.4%
	Don't know	13.0%
	Unweighted n	325
c. People in your community	Not at all vulnerable	14.0%
	Only a little vulnerable	15.9%
	Moderately vulnerable	30.7%
	Very vulnerable	22.4%
	There are no health impacts	.9%
	Don't know	16.1%
	Unweighted n	342

Table 3

<b>Do you think that the following health problems will likely become more or less common in Maryland in the future because of climate</b>		
a. Respiratory and breathing problems	Less common	.7%
	Stay about the same	35.0%
	More common	57.1%
	Don't know	7.2%
	Unweighted n	340
b. Infectious diseases	Less common	4.0%
	Stay about the same	52.0%
	More common	31.0%
	Don't know	13.0%
	Unweighted n	339
c. Osteoarthritis	Less common	10.3%
	Stay about the same	48.8%
	More common	14.7%
	Don't know	26.2%
	Unweighted n	336
d. Heat stroke	Less common	4.6%
	Stay about the same	31.6%
	More common	54.4%
	Don't know	9.4%
	Unweighted n	340
e. Injuries from storms or other extreme weather	Less common	6.8%
	Stay about the same	32.7%
	More common	52.2%
	Don't know	8.3%
	Unweighted n	339
f. Food- and water-borne illness	Less common	4.3%
	Stay about the same	41.4%
	More common	40.0%
	Don't know	14.4%
	Unweighted n	339
g. Wrist pain from carpal tunnel syndrome	Less common	17.2%
	Stay about the same	44.9%
	More common	8.9%
	Don't know	28.9%
	Unweighted n	336
h. Mental health disorders	Less common	10.8%
	Stay about the same	50.2%
	More common	17.2%
	Don't know	21.8%
	Unweighted n	340
i. Allergies	Less common	2.3%
	Stay about the same	23.3%
	More common	67.6%
	Don't know	6.9%
	Unweighted n	340
j. Impairment of blood clotting	Less common	12.8%
	Stay about the same	43.5%
	More common	9.1%
	Don't know	34.7%
	Unweighted n	339

## Support for state and local policies

Table 4

<b>How much do you support or oppose state and local governments taking action to protect your community against harm caused by climate change (if any)?</b>	
Strongly oppose	7.5%
Somewhat oppose	9.0%
Somewhat support	27.0%
Strongly support	41.5%
Don't know	15.0%
Unweighted n	338

Table 5

<b>The goal of Maryland's current Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2009 is to reduce the pollution that causes climate change 25% by 2020. In 2016, the State's General Assembly will consider whether to renew or makes changes to the GGRA. What should Maryland's General Assembly do?</b>	
Renew the GGRA and strengthen it by setting a bigger pollution reduction goal	42.4%
Renew the GGRA, keeping the current pollution reduction goal	28.7%
Not renew the GGRA	9.5%
Don't know	19.4%
Unweighted n	341

Table 6

<b>Maryland currently gets most of its electricity from the burning of fossil fuels like coal and natural gas. The state currently requires electricity suppliers to provide 20% of their electricity from renewable energy sources like wind and solar by 2022, but some Marylanders support legislation to increase the percentage to 40% by 2025. Do you support or oppose strengthening the current requirement for renewable energy?</b>	
I support requiring 40% renewable energy by 2025, even if it increases my electric bill by \$10/month	20.1%
I support requiring 40% renewable energy by 2025, even if it increases my electric bill by \$5/month	14.9%
I support requiring 40% renewable energy by 2025, even if it increases my electric bill by \$2/month	12.1%
I support requiring 40% renewable energy by 2025, but only if it doesn't cost me money	29.0%
I oppose requiring 40% renewable energy by 2025	9.0%
Don't know	15.0%
Unweighted n	341

Table 7

<b>How much do you support or oppose this policy?</b>		
a. Requiring new cars and other vehicles in Maryland to be less polluting	Strongly oppose	2.8%
	Somewhat oppose	12.9%
	Neither support nor oppose	17.8%
	Somewhat support	24.8%
	Strongly support	41.8%
	Unweighted n	312
b. Expanding rebates to help people purchase energy-efficient lighting and appliances	Strongly oppose	2.1%
	Somewhat oppose	13.1%
	Neither support nor oppose	7.0%
	Somewhat support	24.6%
	Strongly support	53.3%
	Unweighted n	312
c. Doubling use of public transportation in Maryland by 2020	Strongly oppose	9.5%
	Somewhat oppose	5.5%
	Neither support nor oppose	36.2%
	Somewhat support	25.3%
	Strongly support	23.5%
	Unweighted n	278
d. Participating in a regional carbon emissions trading program to reduce overall production of greenhouse gases	Strongly oppose	10.2%
	Somewhat oppose	13.4%
	Neither support nor oppose	25.2%
	Somewhat support	24.8%
	Strongly support	26.3%
	Unweighted n	258
e. Encouraging the development of more homes (houses, condos and apartments) in our cities, with better access to public transportation, as a means to reduce sprawl, and preserve forests and farmland	Strongly oppose	6.1%
	Somewhat oppose	14.4%
	Neither support nor oppose	16.6%
	Somewhat support	25.8%
	Strongly support	37.1%
	Unweighted n	274
f. Supporting the production and consumption of local agricultural products and other products	Strongly oppose	.1%
	Somewhat oppose	3.8%
	Neither support nor oppose	11.8%
	Somewhat support	24.5%
	Strongly support	59.8%
	Unweighted n	304
g. Tax incentives for installation of residential wood fuel heating systems	Strongly oppose	7.5%
	Somewhat oppose	11.8%
	Neither support nor oppose	38.1%
	Somewhat support	19.7%
	Strongly support	22.9%
	Unweighted n	256
h. Requiring that Maryland's electricity suppliers provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2022 (such as solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, and hydroelectric power)	Strongly oppose	6.8%
	Somewhat oppose	7.5%
	Neither support nor oppose	17.3%
	Somewhat support	19.1%
	Strongly support	49.4%
	Unweighted n	294
i. Expanding financial incentives for the generation of renewable energy (such as solar and geothermal)	Strongly oppose	2.5%
	Somewhat oppose	7.8%
	Neither support nor oppose	16.7%
	Somewhat support	23.2%
	Strongly support	49.8%
	Unweighted n	294

## Personal actions at home

Table 8

<b>For each of the following behaviors, please answer two questions: Do you do the following most of the time? (Yes or no)</b>		
a. Recycle	Yes	86.9%
	No	13.1%
	Unweighted n	333
b. Set the thermostat down in winter and up in summer	Yes	93.2%
	No	6.8%
	Unweighted n	327
c. Take public transportation	Yes	17.7%
	No	82.3%
	Unweighted n	331
d. Turn off lights	Yes	99.0%
	No	1.0%
	Unweighted n	335
e. Walk or bike instead of driving	Yes	19.8%
	No	80.2%
	Unweighted n	331

Table 9

<b>For each of the following actions, please answer two questions: Have you taken any of the following actions? (Yes or no)</b>		
a. Upgrade home insulation and ventilation	Yes	34.9%
	No	65.1%
	Unweighted n	332
b. Install efficient home heating/cooling systems(s)	Yes	49.5%
	No	50.5%
	Unweighted n	328
c. Install efficient light bulbs	Yes	87.3%
	No	12.7%
	Unweighted n	329
d. Seal air leaks in your home	Yes	59.5%
	No	40.5%
	Unweighted n	326
e. Buy efficient home appliances	Yes	67.8%
	No	32.2%
	Unweighted n	330
f. Conduct a home energy audit	Yes	15.2%
	No	84.8%
	Unweighted n	332
g. Install a programmable thermostat	Yes	53.1%
	No	46.9%
	Unweighted n	330
h. Purchase a fuel-efficient car	Yes	26.9%
	No	73.1%
	Unweighted n	330