

2025 Data for Climate Progress Wrapped

As we close out the year, the Data for Progress Climate Team is taking a moment to reflect on our learnings from the past 12 months of public opinion research. Across surveys, focus groups, community workshops, and interviews, we've seen that, despite federal setbacks, support for climate action remains strong. The specific dynamics of climate policy may have shifted, but the public is unwavering in its support for energy and environmental policies that address the cost-of-living crisis, deliver clean air and water, protect the most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change, and meet the urgency of climate change and climate mitigation needs.

In 2025, Data for Progress' Climate Team published:

- 26 briefs
- 5 reports
- 7 DFP Insights articles
- 3 opinion pieces

Our work was featured in:

- [Heatmap](#)
- [Politico](#)
- [Time Magazine](#)
- [The New Republic](#)
- [Grist](#)
- [Latitude Media](#)

We went all over the map, hosting focus groups and attending convenings in:

- Colorado
- New York City
- San Francisco
- Boston
- Chicago
- D.C.
- Vancouver

We shared plenty of hot takes:

- **Catherine Fraser** penned an op-ed in the [Carbon Herald](#) on why using direct air capture for enhanced oil recovery will doom our chances at a fossil-free future.
- DOE alum **Jake Higdon** [joined](#) **Grace Adcox** and **Catherine Fraser** on DFP's Insights page to defend the Department of Energy's In-House Bank.
- DFP fellow **Betony Jones** [authored](#) an Insights piece on how we can ensure that Biden-era investments in clean energy continue to be the catalysts of a durable clean energy transition, transformative industrial strategy, and a new American economy, despite federal headwinds.
- **Grace Adcox** and **Abby Springs** [argued](#) that Democrats can go on offense on rising energy prices, leveraging their trust on energy and climate issues, on DFP's Insights page.
- **Catherine Fraser** wrote a fiery response to the Council on Foreign Relations' morally bankrupt climate realism initiative in [Common Dreams](#).

We worked on a whole host of issues, including:

- Climate and the rising cost of living
- Home insurance
- Polluter and corporate accountability
- Renewable energy
- Carbon removal and advanced energy technologies
- Extreme heat and disasters

Key takeaways from our 2025 work:

- **Climate change and affordability were top of mind for voters**, with majorities across parties experiencing higher costs tied to energy, groceries, housing, insurance, and extreme weather, and broadly supporting public solutions like utility regulation, affordable housing, transit expansion, and municipal grocery stores.
- **Voters wanted accountability from polluters and corporations**, including requiring oil and gas companies to pay for climate damages and closing loopholes that too often give the industry legal immunity.
- **There was broad public support for renewable energy and climate action**, including support of the Inflation Reduction Act, a transition to 100% clean energy in Michigan, and investments in renewable manufacturing and jobs.
- **Voters were open to advanced climate and energy technologies**, though many didn't know much about them. We found growing support for carbon removal, geothermal and nuclear energy, and transmission infrastructure.
- **Voters strongly supported disaster preparedness, disaster relief, and worker protections**, favoring no-strings-attached disaster aid, increased funding for NOAA and FEMA, and protections against extreme heat for both workers and tenants.

Highlights from our 2025 work on climate and the rising cost of living:

- A majority of voters (58%) [said](#) **climate change will have at least some financial impact on them and their family**, including 2 in 5 Republicans and majorities of Democrats and Independents. Many report personal experience with extreme weather and rising household costs tied to climate-related events, and a majority [thought](#) that **climate change is already impacting the U.S.**
- The cost-of-living crisis is impacting all sectors of the economy, but voters are experiencing higher pressures on grocery costs in particular. In a New York City survey with the [Climate and Community Institute](#), we found that **voters strongly supported Mayor-elect Mamdani's proposal to [create municipal grocery stores](#) in NYC.**
- With [Move Minnesota](#), we [found](#) that Twin Cities residents value access to **reliable and affordable public transit locally**, laying the groundwork for **expanding public transit** in order to improve accessibility, mitigate pollution, and strive for racial equity.
- Voters also supported efforts to bring down the cost of housing, with strong majorities in favor of policies to **build new [sustainable and affordable housing](#) units** and retrofit existing buildings.

Highlights from our 2025 work on the home insurance crisis:

- **Climate change is also [raising the cost of home insurance](#)**, with a majority of the electorate reporting higher home insurance costs in the last year. Voters also expressed strong support for policies like the government providing federally backed home insurance (67%).
- A California [survey](#), fielded in conjunction with the [Center for Climate Integrity](#) shortly after the devastating Los Angeles wildfires, revealed that voters viewed the fossil fuel industry as responsible for climate disaster costs and supported proposals that would **enable insurers and victims to recover the cost of damages** from fossil fuel companies.
- Our research with the [Insurance Fairness Project](#) demonstrated that **voters want to see the federal and their state governments [take action to address](#) the home insurance crisis.**

Highlights from our 2025 work on polluter and corporate accountability:

- Our research with [Fossil Free Media](#) found that 3 in 4 voters, including more than 3 in 5 voters across party, [supported](#) **requiring oil and gas companies to pay a share of climate-related costs** and said they were more likely to support candidates who back these [measures](#). Voters also **opposed legal immunity for oil and gas companies** that would shield them from lawsuits over climate damages.
- Voters strongly supported Biden-era Environmental Protection Agency regulations on pollution from the power sector, with around 3 in 4 voters [saying](#) they were **“somewhat concerned” or “very concerned” about plans to end these pollution limits.**
- **Voters [rejected deregulatory actions that benefit polluters](#)**, opposing policies like administrative “exemptions” that would allow companies to avoid pollution rules.

Highlights from our 2025 work on renewable energy:

- With **Clean Tomorrow**, our survey and in-depth interviews with state policymakers and elected officials [highlighted](#) a need to **align local, state, and federal priorities to reduce barriers to siting renewables and facilitate intergovernmental collaboration on policy.**
- Majorities of voters [supported](#) the **Inflation Reduction Act and its key clean energy provisions**, and 58% said **Congress should keep the IRA in place** rather than repeal it.
- With **Evergreen Action**, we found around 3 in 5 Michigan voters [supported](#) a **transition to a 100% clean energy grid by 2035 through investments in renewable energy sources**, and more than two-thirds of voters across party lines supported the state **investing in policies to create local manufacturing and clean energy jobs.**
- Around 3 in 5 voters [said](#) the **federal government should incorporate an environmental justice analysis** into its review of new infrastructure projects, rather than speed up environmental review processes to make it easier to build such projects (28%).

Highlights from our 2025 work on carbon removal and advanced energy technologies:

- While many voters were still unfamiliar with carbon dioxide removal technologies, after reading about carbon removal, around three-quarters of voters said they would [support building CDR projects](#) in the U.S. and within their own state.
- Three workshops in Colorado coal communities and a survey of likely voters in the state [revealed](#) hesitancy around the state's plans to phase out the use of coal for power, but also a strong desire for **investment from new industries**, including clean energy and carbon removal, as well as **strong support for just transition policies to help workers and communities impacted by the coal phaseout plan.**
- With the **World Resources Institute**, we published a report based on interviews, case studies, surveys of key stakeholders, and focus groups in key regions for transmission deployment, finding that [effective community engagement and benefits strategies are essential](#) to build public support for critical transmission infrastructure, including interregional transmission lines like SOO Green and the North Plains Connector.
- Voters [wanted](#) to **prioritize developing geothermal and nuclear energy over fossil fuels** after reading more about these energy technologies.
- We found that, while a bipartisan majority of voters [supported](#) **increasing domestic critical mineral production**, voters did have concerns about its environmental and human health impacts.
- With **WE ACT for Environmental Justice**, we found a plurality of voters are [not familiar with](#) data centers, and 62% of voters have **heard nothing at all about the construction of** data centers in their state.

Highlights from our 2025 work on extreme heat and disasters:

- After the Los Angeles wildfires, [Rep. Judy Chu](#) joined the Data for Progress Insights page to share new polling showing that voters overwhelmingly [preferred](#) that **disaster relief be provided with no strings attached** (71%), over providing relief only when elected officials in impacted states agree to certain conditions (23%).
- Despite federal actions to reduce the workforces and budgets of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, more than 3 in 4 voters **across party lines** [said](#) **funding for NOAA should stay the same or increase**, and **about as many said the same for funding FEMA**.
- Nearly 9 in 10 voters [supported](#) a **proposed rule** from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to **protect workers from extreme heat** – including 63% who [strongly](#) supported this proposal. Furthermore, voters strongly supported **requirements for landlords to provide indoor cooling** for their tenants.