The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) invited their members to participate in an online survey to determine members’ attitudes and behaviors on climate change. Their outreach yielded 277 responses. The survey, fielded September 12-29, 2016, was part of a national survey sponsored by ecoAmerica and Climate for Health. The following report highlights key NEHA member results and comparisons to a representative national sample of U.S. adults. Full findings and data can be found in the accompanying “toplines” report.

Note: NEHA’s member respondents (referred to as NEHA here) self-selected and may not reflect a representative sample of the organization members. Also, the following are notable differences in key demographics of NEHA member respondents vs. the national sample:

- 42% women (vs. 52% nationally)
- 97% registered to vote (vs. 87%)
- 18% from “mountain” region of the United States (vs. 7%)
- 60% have completed post-graduate school (vs. 11%)
- 81% are employed full time (vs. 40%)

Notable climate change sentiments of NEHA members in 2016

1. **BELIEF AND CONCERN:** NEHA believe climate change is happening and are personally concerned at rates on par with national averages.
   a. 83% believe climate change is happening (vs. 83% nationally)
   b. 70% are personally concerned about climate change (vs. 76% nationally)
   c. 65% have noticed more severe weather and changing seasonal weather patterns where they live over the last several years (vs. 78% nationally)

2. **CAUSATION:** NEHA understand the reality that climate change is caused by humans, and at a rate slightly higher than national average. A notably-higher percentage than national, however, believe climate change is from natural causes.
   a. 45% attribute climate change to a combination of human and natural causes (vs. 55% nationally)
   b. 31% attribute climate change mainly to human activities (vs. 26% nationally)
   c. 17% attribute climate change mainly to natural causes (vs. 13% nationally)
3. **IMPACTS:** NEHA claim to be experiencing climate impacts at much lower rates than national averages.
   a. 52% claim to be affected by the increased cost of food (vs. 74% nationally)
   b. 47% claim to be affected by record summer heat waves (vs. 67% nationally)
   c. 35% claim to be affected by increased rates of breathing problems, such as asthma (vs. 48% nationally)

4. **VALUES:** NEHA value clean water and moral responsibility with regards to climate solutions at high rates, and on par with national averages.
   a. 91% believe that we have a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy climate for ourselves and our children (vs. 87% nationally)
   b. 90% believe clean water is a critical right for all (vs. 90% nationally)

5. **SOLUTIONS:** A majority of NEHA favor a proposal that charges companies a fee for the pollution they create, though at slightly lower rates than national average. They believe in investing the money collected in clean energy at higher rates than national.
   a. 71% favor a proposal to reduce climate change pollution by charging large companies a fee for the pollution they create (vs. 77% nationally)
   b. 63% say the money collected should be used to fund research and development of new, clean energy sources (vs. 56% nationally)

6. **ENERGY:** NEHA want the U.S. to produce more clean energy, including nuclear energy, at rates higher than national averages. There are mixed results on which source of energy is perceived as the lowest cost for consumers.
   a. 91% say the U.S. should produce more wind and solar than it is today (vs. 88% nationally)
   b. 43% think the U.S. should be producing much less oil than it is today (vs. 25%)
   c. 48% think the U.S. should be producing more nuclear than it is today (vs. 37%)
   d. 30% think natural gas is the lowest-cost energy source for consumers (vs. 37%)
   e. 21% think wind and solar are the lowest-cost energy source ... (vs. 51%)
   f. 22% are not sure what is the lowest-cost energy source ... (vs. 13%)

7. **BENEFITS:** NEHA would benefit from seeing more clearly the benefits that climate solutions can bring to health, the economy, or jobs. NEHA believe climate solutions would increase the cost of food at rates higher than the national sample.
   a. 65% say if the U.S. took steps to help prevent future climate change, it would improve our health (vs. 67% nationally)
   b. 45% say if the U.S. took steps... it would help our economy (vs. 66% nationally)
   c. 47% say if the U.S. took steps... it would increase jobs (vs. 56% nationally)
   d. 57% say if the U.S. took steps...it would increase the cost of food (vs. 50% nationally)
8. HOPE, AGENCY, URGENCY: NEHA are hopeful, and believe they personally and we collectively can and need to take action now to reduce the pollution that is causing climate change. But they believe the government is too broken to agree on how to do it.
   a. 73% are hopeful we can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change (vs. 81% nationally)
   b. 77% believe we can, and 73% I can reduce the pollution that is causing climate change (vs. 78% and 72% nationally, respectively)
   c. 78% agree that we need to take action now to reduce the pollution that is causing climate change (vs. 80% nationally)
   d. 75% agree we could address climate change effectively, but our government is broken and can’t agree on how to do it (vs. 74% nationally)

9. ENGAGEMENT: Over half of NEHA are aware that health associations are making efforts on climate change, and many others wish they were. Few practices are reported to have climate programs.
   a. 55% say their professional association has a program to engage people and talk about climate change; 16% say their health practice has this
   b. 53% say their professional association has a program to increase environmental sustainability; 29% say their health practice has this
   c. 51% say their professional association is educating others in their association about climate change; 16% say their health practice does this
   d. 31% wish their professional association would educate others in their association about climate change; 23% wish their health practice did this

10. ADVOCACY: NEHA are discussing climate change with friends, family, and colleagues at much higher rates than national averages. They are also much more likely to engage in climate-friendly behaviors and political advocacy than the national average.
   a. 90% have upgraded appliances or lighting to conserve energy at home (vs. 67% nationally)
   b. 89% have discussed climate change with friends or family (vs. 69% nationally)
   c. 82% have discussed climate change at work with colleagues (vs. 38% nationally)
   d. 55% have voted on a candidate based on his or her support for taking action on climate change (vs. 34% nationally)
   e. 48% have shifted toward a more energy-efficient form of transportation like public transport, hybrid cars, bikes, or walking,(vs. 35% nationally)
11. SOURCES: NEHA receive news and information about climate change through a variety of sources and at significantly higher rates than national averages.

   a. 91% have heard about or read anything recently about climate change from the news and media (vs. 65% nationally)
   b. 60% from professors and educators (vs. 21% nationally)
   c. 57% from federal elected officials (vs. 31% nationally)
   d. 55% from health professionals (vs. 18% nationally)

12. TRUST: NEHA trust in scientists, health professionals and colleges/universities as sources of information about climate change is higher than national averages, and much higher than their trust of the news and media, Congress, or local or national elected leaders.

   a. 86% trust scientists as a source of information on climate change (vs. 74% nationally)
   b. 75% trust health professionals (vs. 64% nationally)
   c. 73% trust colleges and universities (vs. 55% nationally)
   d. 27% trust newspapers, TV news, and internet sites (vs. 38% nationally)
   e. 9% trust Congress, 27% trust local elected leaders, and 17% trust federally elected leaders (vs. 16%, 34%, and 20%, nationally respectively)

Methodology

ecoAmerica and Lake Research Partners (LRP) designed and LRP administered a national survey which was conducted online September 12-29, 2016. The survey yielded a total of 800 adults, the sample was drawn from an online panel, and respondents were screened to be over the age of 18. The national sample was weighted slightly by gender, region, age, and race. The survey for the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) was conducted by Lake Research Partners online from September 12-25th, 2016 and reached 277 adults. Respondents to the survey were recruited by outreach efforts from NEHA.

The margin of error for the national sample is +/-3.3%. In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of respondents in a sample of 900 respondents answered, “Yes” to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage will fall within 3.3 points, or from 46.7% to 53.3%.

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