

**TO:** Environmental Defense Action Fund  
**FR:** Morning Consult  
**DT:** February 25, 2021  
**RE:** Results: Respondents' Opinions on Recent Extreme Cold



People across the country are concerned about extreme cold weather and the resulting power outages it has caused. A majority of people hope to see legislation addressing climate change come out of the ongoing crisis.

**AROUND TWO THIRDS OF PEOPLE SAY THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT EXTREME COLD (66%), AND POWER OUTAGES CAUSED BY WEATHER EVENTS (71%).**

- Concern about extreme cold spans community types, with 74% of urban respondents, 62% of suburban respondents, and 61% of rural respondents saying they're concerned.
- Power outages caused by extreme weather events cause concern across community types as well. 79% of urban respondents, 69% of suburban respondents, and 66% of rural respondents say they're concerned about outages.

**WHEN THINKING ABOUT RECENT COLD WEATHER AFFECTING LARGE PARTS OF THE U.S., NEARLY THREE QUARTERS OF PEOPLE (72%) SAY IT SHOULD BE A PRIORITY FOR THE U.S. TO PASS LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Percentage of People Who Believe it is a Priority for the U.S. to...	
% Priority (a top priority + an important, but not top priority)	Pass Legislation to Address Climate Change
People	72%
Democrats	91%
Independents	68%
Republicans	48%
Urban respondents	80%
Suburban respondents	73%
Rural respondents	60%

Methodology: This poll was conducted between February 18-February 21, 2021 among a national sample of 2200 respondents. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of respondents based on age, gender, educational attainment, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

## PEOPLE SUPPORT A WIDE RANGE OF LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT FUTURE POWER OUTAGES.

In fact, majorities of people across political parties as well as community types support each of the tested options to help prevent future power outages. Over two thirds of independents (70%) and suburban respondents (72%) support increasing use of clean energy, and over three quarters of each key demographic highlighted below support modernizing the U.S. power grid more broadly.

Percentage of People Who Support...					
% Support (strongly support + somewhat support)	Increasing use of clean energy, such as solar and wind	Improving energy efficiency	Increasing existing energy storage capabilities	Making power sources more resilient to extreme weather	Modernizing the U.S. power grid more broadly
<b>People</b>	71%	86%	81%	87%	82%
<b>Democrats</b>	87%	91%	86%	90%	87%
<b>Independents</b>	70%	84%	78%	85%	80%
<b>Republicans</b>	52%	79%	78%	83%	76%
<b>Urban respondents</b>	78%	85%	83%	87%	86%
<b>Suburban respondents</b>	72%	88%	82%	88%	83%
<b>Rural respondents</b>	63%	81%	78%	83%	76%

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