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CRRC GEORGIA | CAUCASUS RESEARCH RESOURCE CENTER

ATTITUDES TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE IN GEORGIA

2024

ABOUT CRRC-GEORGIA

CRRC-Georgia is a non-profit research organization which provides good data for public good. The organization's mission is to promote evidence-based discussions on pressing societal issues by producing reliable, up-to-date, and accessible data and analysis.

DISLCAIMER

This research is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. The results do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Endowment for Democracy.

RIGHTS AND PERMISSIONS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is an issue of growing concern, with its impacts on the rise around the world, as exemplified by increased rates of natural disasters and higher temperatures. Climate change has been a recent subject of discussion in Georgia due to tragedies such as the Shovi, Guria, Adjara, and Imereti landslides that took place in 2023 and 2024.

In this context, CRRC Georgia conducted a survey of the public on their attitudes towards climate change and related issues. The study posed the following research questions:

- What are the relative levels of salience and sympathy of and for climate change in Georgia?
- What are views on the impacts of climate change?
- What are views on policy around climate change?
- How does Georgia compare to other countries in terms of climate attitude segments?

To address these research questions, CRRC Georgia conducted a survey of 1299 respondents in December of 2023 using computer assisted telephone interviewing and random digit dialing. The survey has a margin of error of 2.7% and a response rate of 17%.

The study leads to a range of conclusions.

While Georgians do not believe climate change is a top issue in the country, they do believe that it is an important issue. A large majority of the public is also worried about climate change. However, only a third believe that climate change is primarily caused by humans.

People also tend to have positive attitudes towards clean energy, and negative attitudes towards hydrocarbons. This is reflected in people's attitudes towards both the energy sources in general as well as their attitudes towards infrastructure being built near their homes.

Georgians are concerned about the impacts that climate change is and will have. Deforestation, air pollution, and extreme weather are the top three environment and climate related issues according to the public. Most people are noticing changes to their local environment, and most have had experiences of weather they take as proof of climate change. Very large majorities believe that climate change will affect them personally, the country, their community, the world, and future generations.

A large majority of the public also views recent natural disasters as having been made more likely by climate change. Three quarters or more of the public report that the landslides in Shovi and

Guria, as well as the June 2015 floods and Borjomi wildfires were made more probable due to climate change.

Given the above it is perhaps unsurprising that there is widespread public support for the government to take more action on climate change, that substantial shares of the public believe that taking action on climate will support economic growth, and that half the public reports a willingness to pay extra taxes to support effective climate action. This general support is also reflected in the public's support for a wide range of policies aimed at combatting climate change such as improved insulation and banning gas connections from new construction.

When comparing Georgia to others internationally, the country stands out for having a relatively high share of the public which is alarmed about climate change, placing the country in the top quarter of countries with public's that are alarmed generally.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a global issue, which is increasingly being felt locally in Georgia. Given that the world is not currently on track to prevent global temperatures from rising above the 1.5 degree line that would prevent the worst potential impacts of climate change, Georgia is likely to encounter increasing numbers of natural disasters as well as other climate impacts as a result. Already, climate change made events such as the Shovi landslides, the Borjomi Fires, and the 2015 Tbilisi floods were all made more likely. Yet, conversations on climate change in Georgia have only recently entered the mainstream, following the tragic Shovi Landslides.

In this context, CRRC Georgia conducted a survey on attitudes towards climate change in Georgia. The survey specifically aimed to address the following research questions:

- What are the relative levels of salience and sympathy of and for climate change in Georgia?
- What are views on the impacts of climate change?
- What are views on policy around climate change?
- How does Georgia compare to other countries in terms of climate attitude segments?

To address these research questions, the study makes use of a nationally representative telephone survey with 1,299 respondents. The data was collected between December 7 and 13, has a theoretical margin of error of 2.7%, and a response rate of 17%.

This report proceeds as follows. In the following section, the study's methodology as relates data collection and analysis is provided in detail. The following section provides the study's findings, with subsections focused on general salience and sympathy towards climate issues, the impacts of climate change, views on climate change policy, and a segmentation of the Georgian public on climate change, in a comparative perspective.

METHODOLOGY

This section of the report provides the study's detailed methodology, first describing data analysis including survey design, sample, and other data characteristics. It then goes on to describe the data analysis approach to the research questions.

Data collection

The survey questionnaire included questions aimed at measuring a wide range of concepts on climate change as well as social and demographic characteristics to understand which portions of the population hold different attitudes towards climate change. Most questions were drawn from other surveys to enable international comparison. The survey also contained the short version of the Six Americas Super Short Survey (SASSY) segmentation questionnaire to enable a segmentation of the population and make international comparisons of how the Georgian population breaks down in terms of the six segments.[1]

The survey was conducted using computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A simple random sample was taken using random digit dialing. The survey has 1299 completed responses, with a theoretical margin of error or 2.7%. Survey fieldwork was completed between December 7 and 13, 2023. The data is weighted to ensure it is representative nationally as well as of Tbilisi, other urban areas, and rural areas independently. The survey was conducted in Georgian.

Data analysis

The survey's data analysis was conducted using a mixture of descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics including frequencies and means are used to describe the general public's views. Inferential statistics are used to explore whether different groups within the population have different attitudes from each other. In general, the main inferential statistical tool used within this report is regression analysis. The type of regression varies based on what type of outcome is being explored. Unless otherwise specified, the data makes use of the following variables:

- Sex (Male or female);
- Settlement type (Tbilisi, other urban, or rural);
- Wealth (A simple additive index of ownership of durable goods);
- Employment (Working or not);

[1] See Verner, M., Marlon, J., Carman, J., Rosenthal, S., Ballew, M., Leiserowitz, A., Buttermore, N., & Mulcahy, K. (2023). Global Warming's Six Audiences: A cross-national comparison in nearly 200 countries and territories worldwide. Yale University. New Haven, CT: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

- Ethnicity (Ethnic Georgian or ethnic minority);
- Education (Bachelor's degree or higher versus lower levels of education);
- Age (18-34, 35-54, 55+);
- IDP status (IDP or not);
- Partisanship (Georgian Dream, Opposition, Don't know/no party, refuse to answer).[2]

Aside from regression analysis, this report carries out a segmentation of the public based on their attitudes towards climate change. To do so, it uses Yale's Six Americas allocation model together with the SASSY survey questions noted above. Although originally developed for use in the United States, the model has been used in over 100 countries, and enables international comparisons of where different populations stand in terms of their climate attitudes.[3]

[2] Partisanship, though an attitude, is included in the model as it is generally informative to informing policy and political debates about the issues discussed within this report.

[3] See Verner, M., Marlon, J., Carman, J., Rosenthal, S., Ballew, M., Leiserowitz, A., Buttermore, N., & Mulcahy, K. (2023). Global Warming's Six Audiences: A cross-national comparison in nearly 200 countries and territories worldwide. Yale University. New Haven, CT: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

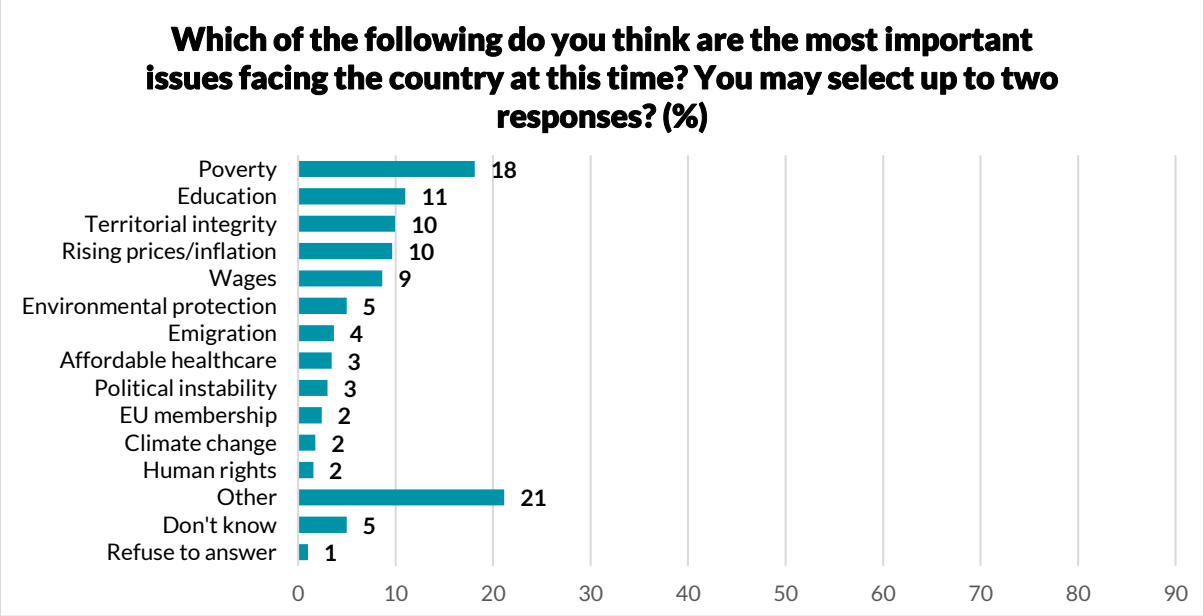
FINDINGS

This section of the report provides the findings of the study. It first describes general attitudes towards climate change. Next it describes awareness and attitudes towards climate impacts. It then describes the public's views on climate policy and abatement actions. Finally, the study compares the Georgian public to other countries in terms of attitudes.

General attitudes towards climate change

A common way to measure how important climate change is to the public is through asking what the top issues facing the country are to understand how salient the issue is. Overall, the data suggest that climate change has almost no salience in Georgia, with 2% of the public naming climate change as among the top issues facing the country, and 5% naming environmental protection. Some respondents named both issues, resulting in the total share of the public naming either issue being 6%.

Figure 1: Top issues in the country



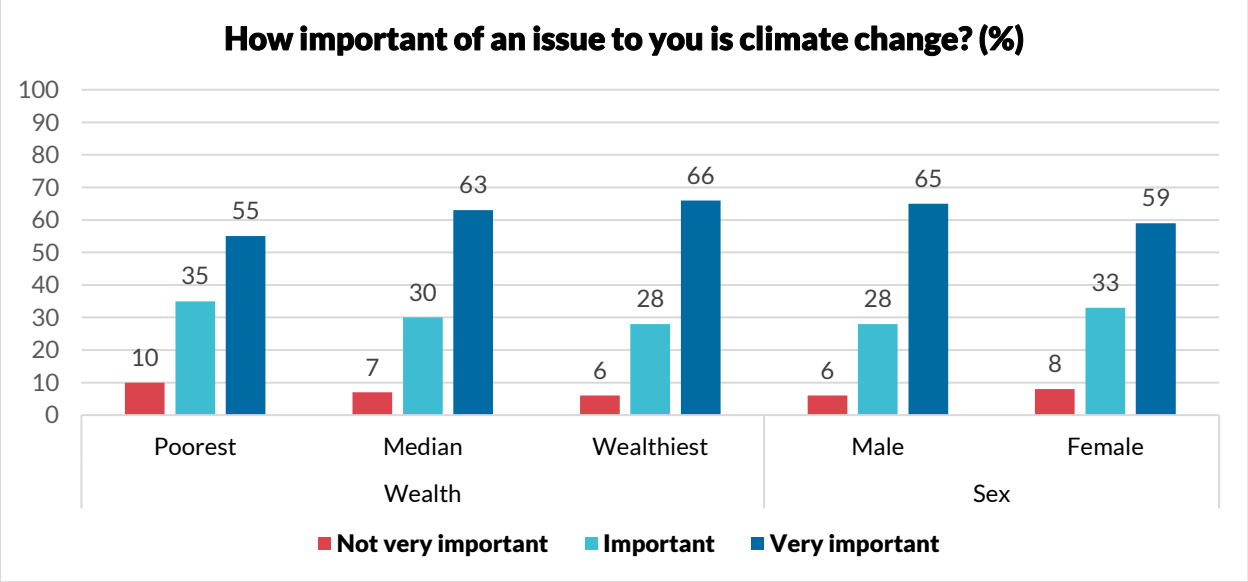
The probability that someone names either climate change or the environment varies with education level and wealth. Someone without higher education has a 3% chance of naming climate change or the environment, while something with a BA or higher level of education has a 7% chance of naming climate change. A person with the lowest level of wealth measured on the survey has a 1% chance of naming climate change or the environment, while someone with the highest level of wealth has an 8% chance of naming one of these issues. A person in a median wealth household has a 5% chance of naming climate change or the environment as a top issue within the country.

The consensus within the scientific literature is that human action is the primary cause of climate change. The data suggest that only a minority of Georgians clearly hold this belief, with 32% reporting that climate change is primarily driven by human action. In contrast, 42% report that climate change is driven by a mixture of natural causes and humans, 21% primarily by natural causes, and 1% believe that climate change is not happening at all. A further 3% were uncertain. The data suggests that belief in anthropogenic climate change is more common among women. Controlling for other factors, women have a 38% chance of reporting a belief in anthropogenic climate change, while men have a 30% chance of reporting the same.

While the public does not view climate change as a top issue, they do believe it is an important one. Respondents were asked how important or unimportant of an issue climate change was to them. The data indicates that climate change is an important (31%) or very important (59%) issue for a large majority of respondents (90%). Only (9%) responded that it was somewhat important (5%), not very important (2%), or not important at all (1%) to them. The remaining 1% were uncertain.

Given the above distribution, the data was split into three categories – very important, important, and the remaining categories except uncertain. A regression with this variable suggests that wealth and sex predict the importance of climate change in Georgia. Relatively wealthy Georgians are more likely to report that climate change is very important relative to those with lower levels of wealth. Men are more likely to say that climate change is very important than women.

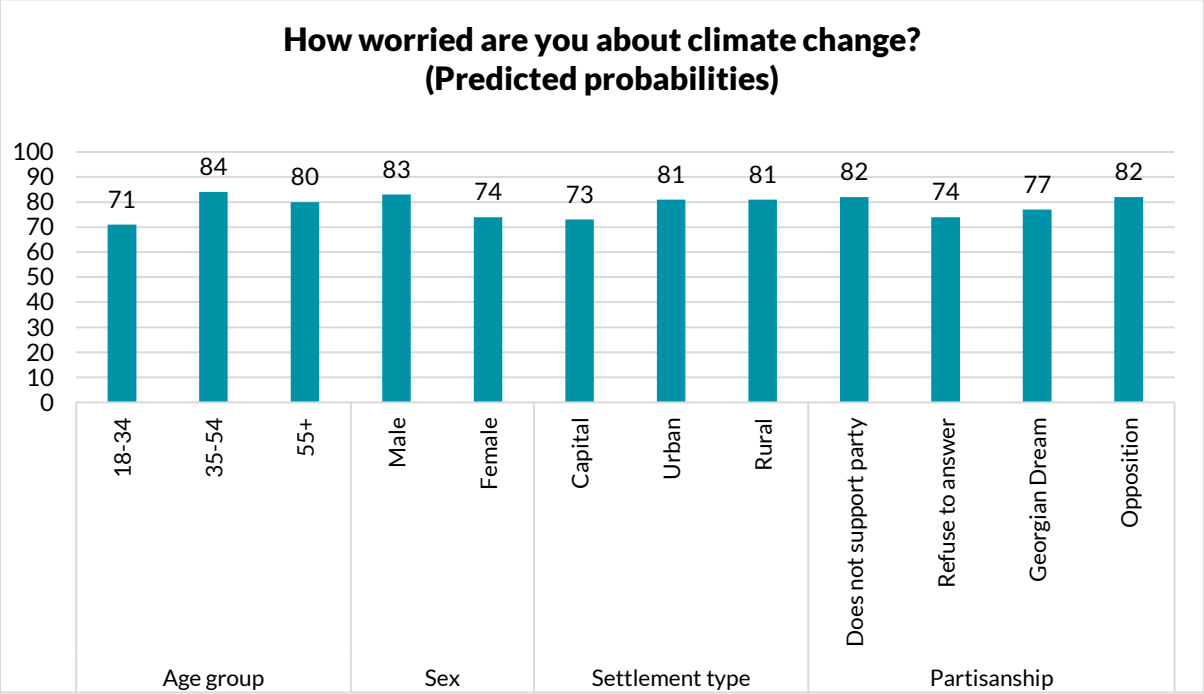
Figure 2: Importance of climate change



The survey asked how concerned the public was about climate change. The data indicate that people are moderately concerned about climate change, with 80% reporting they are very worried (38%) or somewhat worried (42%). In contrast, 20% reported they were not very worried (13%) or not worried at all (7%). Less than 1% reported uncertainty on this issue.

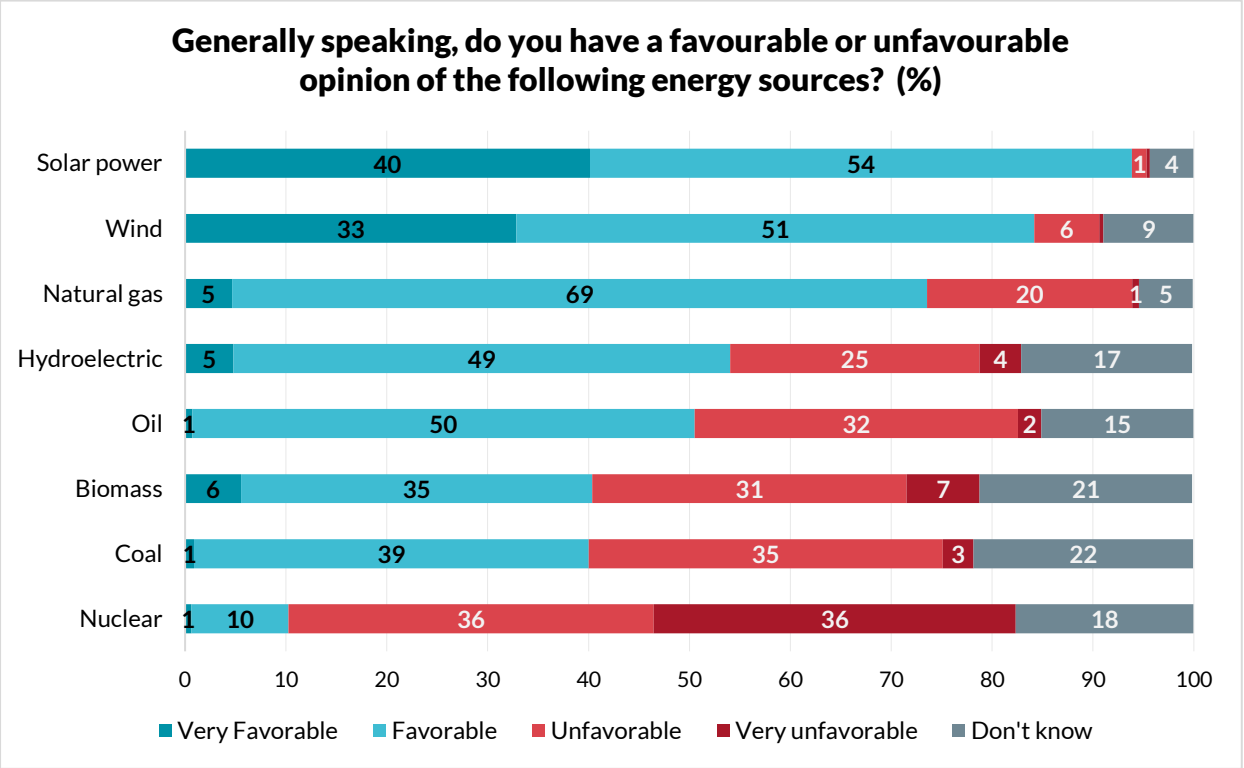
Concern for climate change varies by a number of social and demographic variables. Being worried is more common among people 35 and over, women, people outside Tbilisi, those who do not support any party, and opposition supporters. Young people (18-34), women, people in Tbilisi, and those who refuse to answer what party they support are less likely to be worried about climate change. Georgian Dream supporters are neither more nor less likely to be worried about climate change relative to other groups.

Figure 3: Worry about climate change



The public was also asked about how they feel about a number of different energy sources. The data indicate that the public is most negative about nuclear power, and most positive about solar power. The public also has relatively positive attitudes towards wind power. Hydroelectric, an energy source which makes up the largest share of Georgia's electricity supply, but which is also controversial given its land impacts, is also viewed relatively positively, with 54% of the public holding a positive view of the energy source and 34% holding a negative view. Natural gas is viewed most positively among the hydrocarbon energy sources, while coal is viewed most negatively among hydrocarbons.

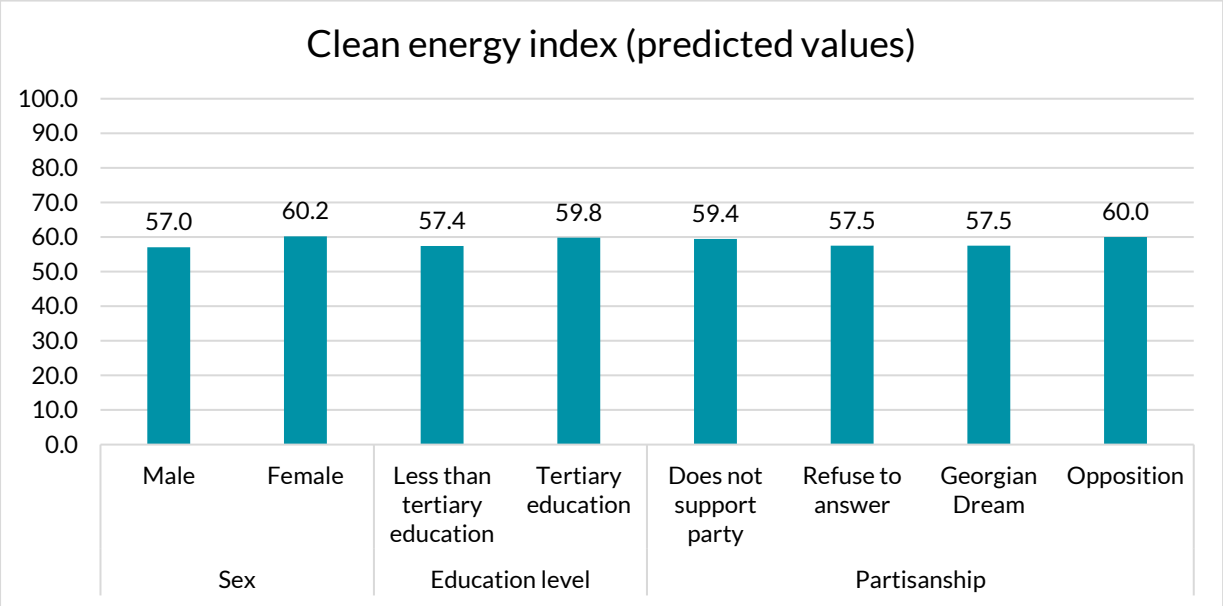
Figure 4: Attitudes towards different energy sources



The above data were merged to create a clean energy attitude index that included attitudes towards coal, oil, gas, wind, and solar power. The index was constructed first by 1) reverse coding the favorability of coal, oil, and gas, 2) summing respondents answers together, 3) subtracting five from each response (as the minimum score was 1), and 4) multiplying by five to create a scale that runs from 0 to 100. On the resulting scale, 0 means the respondent had fully positive attitudes towards hydrocarbons and fully negative attitudes towards renewable energy and 100 means the opposite. The mean of the index was 59 and the median 55.

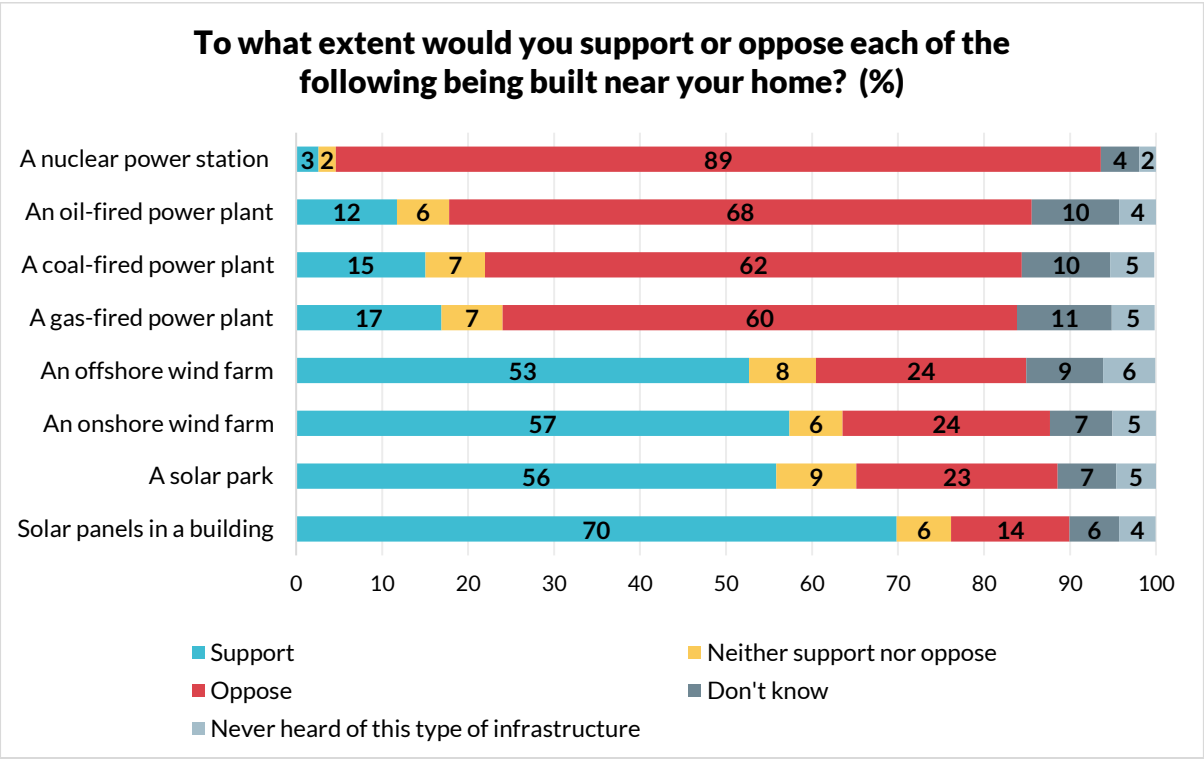
When the data is broken down by social and demographic variables, it indicates that women, people with higher education, opposition supporters and those that support no party tend to have more positive views of clean energy, in contrast to men, people without higher education, people who refused to identify which party they support, and Georgian Dream supporters.

Figure 5: Attitudes towards clean energy index



Respondents were also asked how they would feel about having a variety of types of energy infrastructure in their community. The data indicate that people would least want a nuclear power station in their community, while they would be most positive about having solar panels on a building. This was followed by similar shares reporting a solar park, and wind power infrastructure. Hydrocarbon facilities were opposed by clear majorities with only 12%-17% supporting these types of infrastructure near their home.

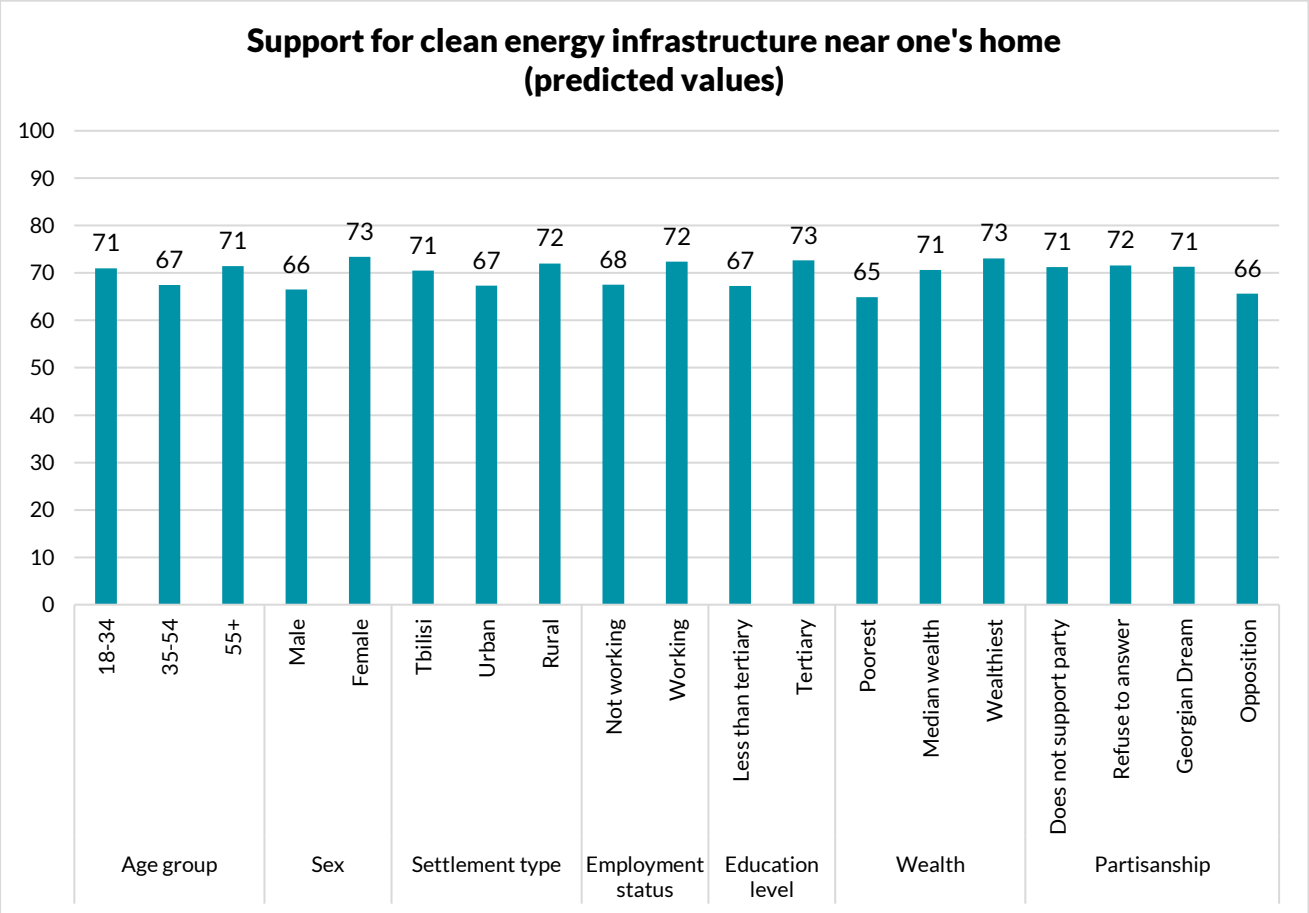
Figure 6: Attitudes towards energy infrastructure



The above data were merged to create an attitudes towards clean energy infrastructure index that included attitudes towards coal, oil, gas, wind, and solar power. The index was constructed so that 0 means the respondent had fully positive attitudes towards hydrocarbon infrastructure and fully negative attitudes towards renewable energy infrastructure and 100 means the opposite. The mean of the index was 72 and the median 71.

When the data is broken down by social and demographic variables, it indicates that people between the ages of 35-54, men, people in urban areas outside Tbilisi, those who are not working, without higher education, live in relatively poor households, and opposition supporters score lower on the above index, controlling for other factors.

Figure 7: Clean energy infrastructure index



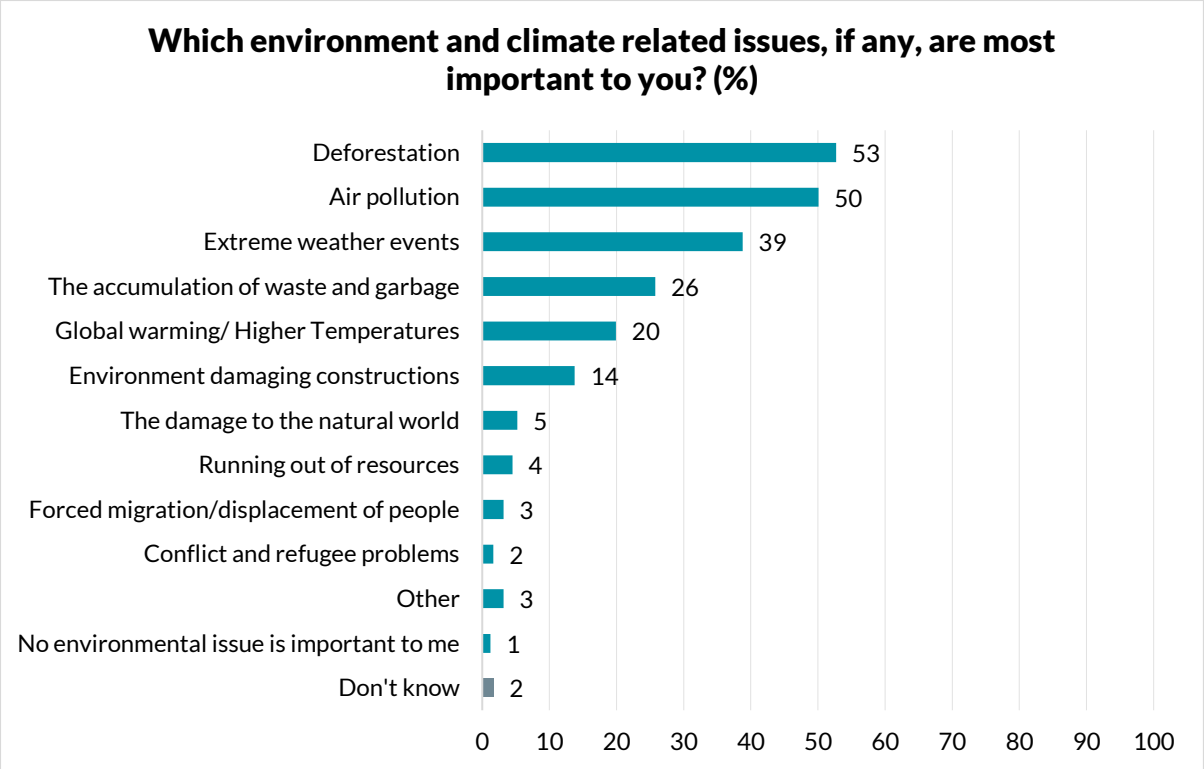
The above data indicates that although climate change and the environment are not top issues in the public's eye, they are important issues that the public is worried about. The public tends to favor renewable and clean energy sources over hydrocarbons both in general terms as well as in terms of what type of infrastructure the favor near their homes. However, the public's support for clean energy infrastructure is lower than the general favorability of energy sources, suggesting a degree of "not in my back yard" syndrome around energy infrastructure.

Climate impacts

Climate change is having and expected to have a wide range of impacts, from worse crop yields to increased natural disaster risk. To understand whether the public was aware of various impacts as well as their concern over these impacts, the survey asked a number of questions around these issue.

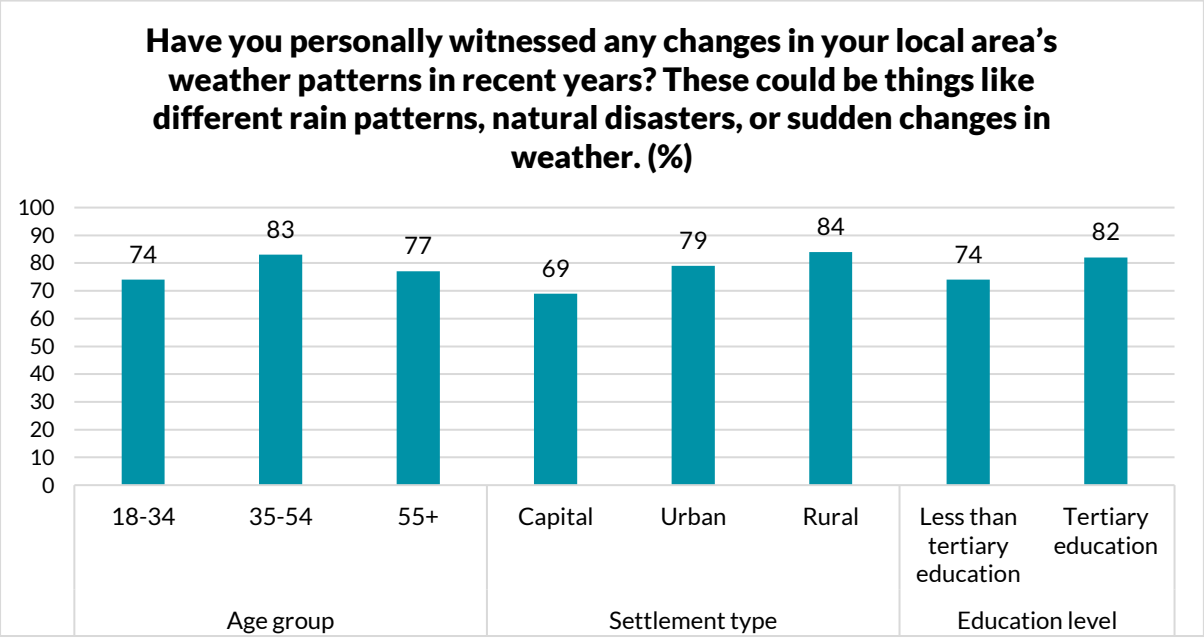
Respondents were asked which climate and environment related issues were most important to them. The data indicate that deforestation (53%) and air pollution (50%) were the most important to the most respondents. Five percent or fewer respondents were concerned with conflict and refugee related issues, forced migration, running out of resources, or damage to the natural world.

Figure 8: Top climate related issues



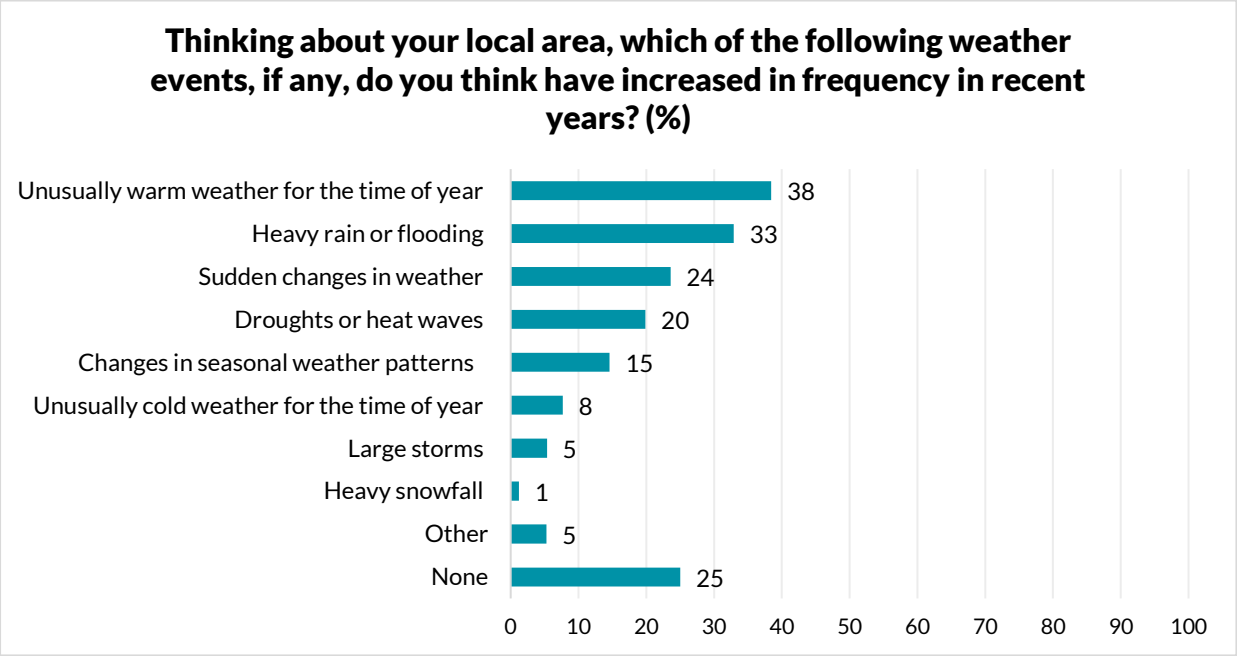
Respondents were also asked about whether they had noticed any specific changes in weather in their local communities. Overall, 75% of the public reports that there have been changes in their local weather patterns. The data indicate that people between the ages of 35 and 54 were more likely than people in other age groups to notice changes. People with higher education were also more likely than people without to report seeing changes in their local area's weather patterns. Those in rural areas and urban areas outside Tbilisi were more likely than those in the capital to notice changing weather in their communities.

Figure 9: Share of public noticing changes in the climate



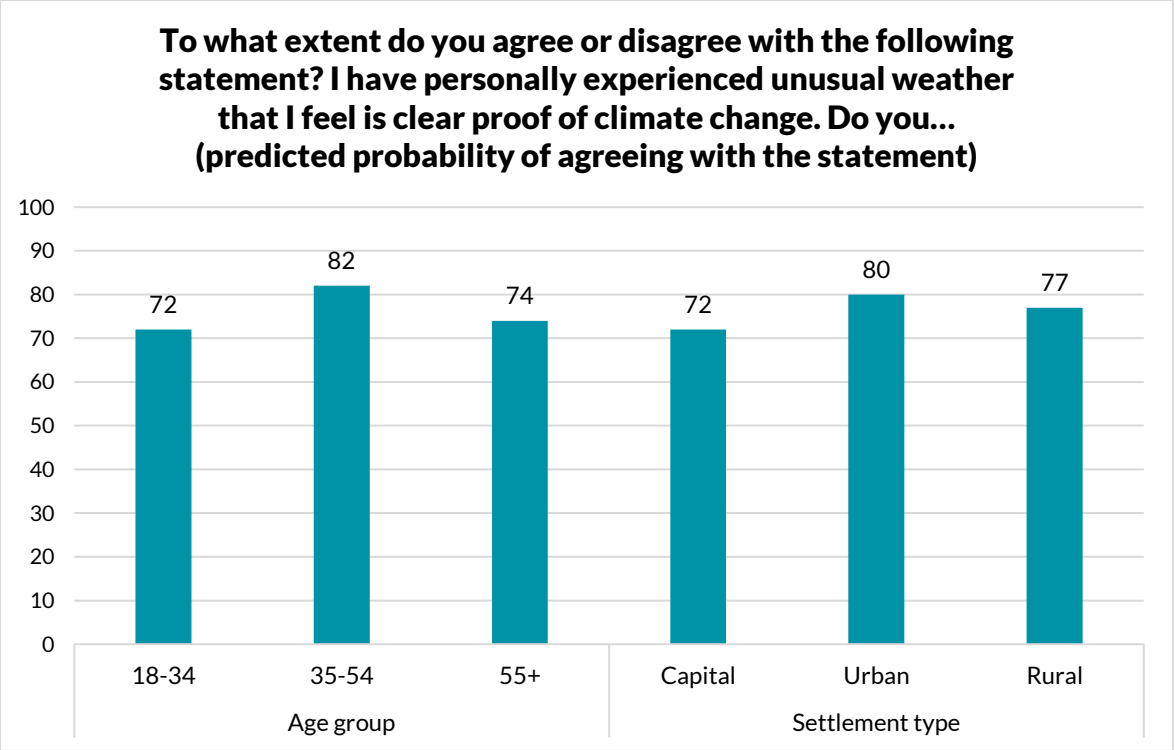
Respondents which reported changes were asked about which specific weather patterns they believe to have changed. The most common was unusually warm weather for the time of the year (38%), followed by heavy rain or flooding (33%). The next most common responses included sudden changes in weather (24%), droughts or heat waves (20%), and changes in seasonal weather patterns (15%). Heavy snowfall, large storms, and unusually cold weather were named relatively rarely.

Figure 10: Changes in local weather patterns



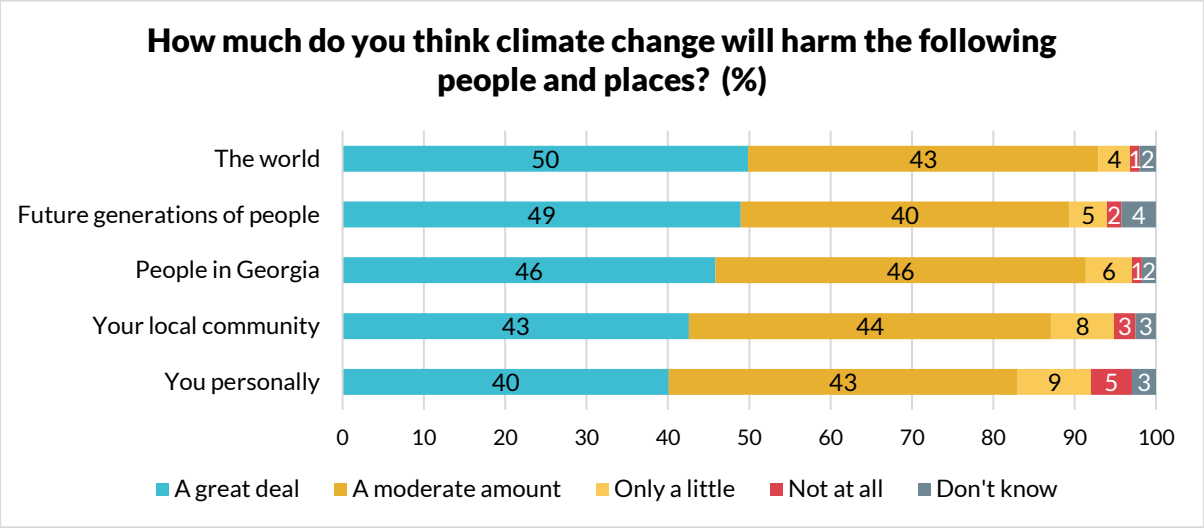
Most of the public have noted significant changes in their communities' weather patterns, and the data indicate that this corresponds to the belief that they have experienced unusual weather which they take as proof of climate change, with 74% of the public agreeing with this sentiment. In contrast, 4% are uncertain, and 34% do not believe they have experienced unusual weather that they take as proof of climate change. This belief varies by age and settlement type. People between the ages of 35 and 54 are more likely to report they have experienced unusual weather they take as proof of climate change relative to other age groups. People in urban areas aside from Tbilisi are also more likely than those in Tbilisi to report that they have experienced unusual weather they take as proof of climate change. People in rural areas have attitudes between these two groups.

Figure 11: Changing weather patterns are associated with climate change by social and demographic variables



The survey also asked respondents how much they thought climate change would impact future generations, the world, people in their country, people in their community, and them personally. Overall, large majorities believe that all groups asked about will be impacted either a great deal or a moderate amount. The data indicate, as is common globally, that people are more likely to report that future generations and the world are likely to be impacted relative to their community and them personally.

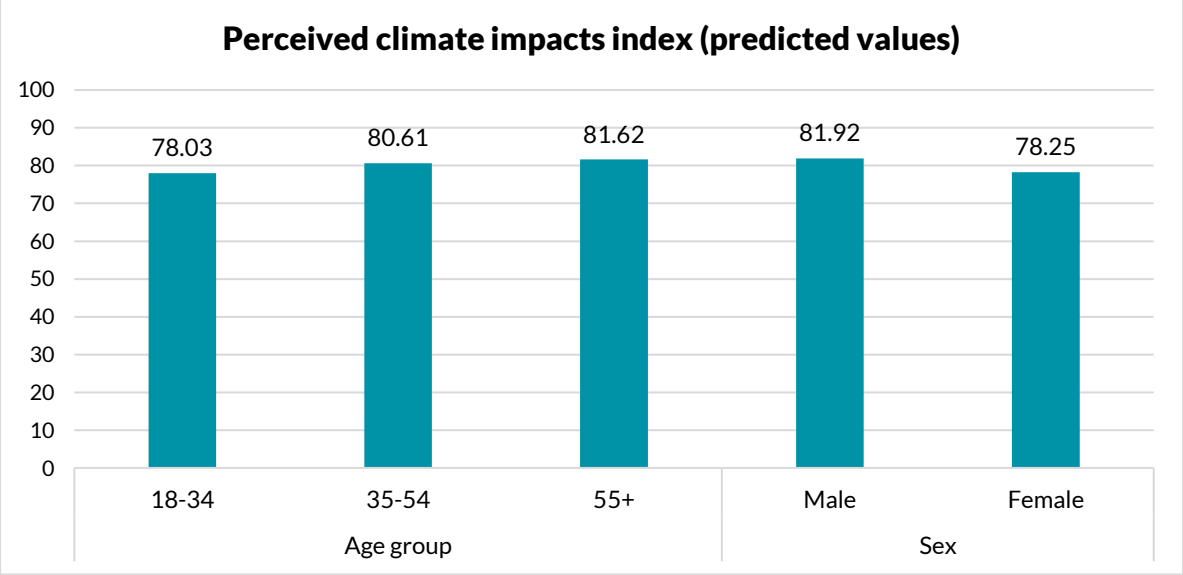
Figure 12: Impacts of climate change on different groups



To explore who was more or less likely to believe that climate change will affect the above groups, a simple additive index was created. The index was then scaled to go from 0 to 100 with 0 meaning that the respondent sees no climate impacts, while 100 means that they think all groups will be heavily impacted by climate change. The mean of the index was 79 points, and the median was 73 points. Notably, 38% of respondents reported that climate change would impact all of these groups a great deal.

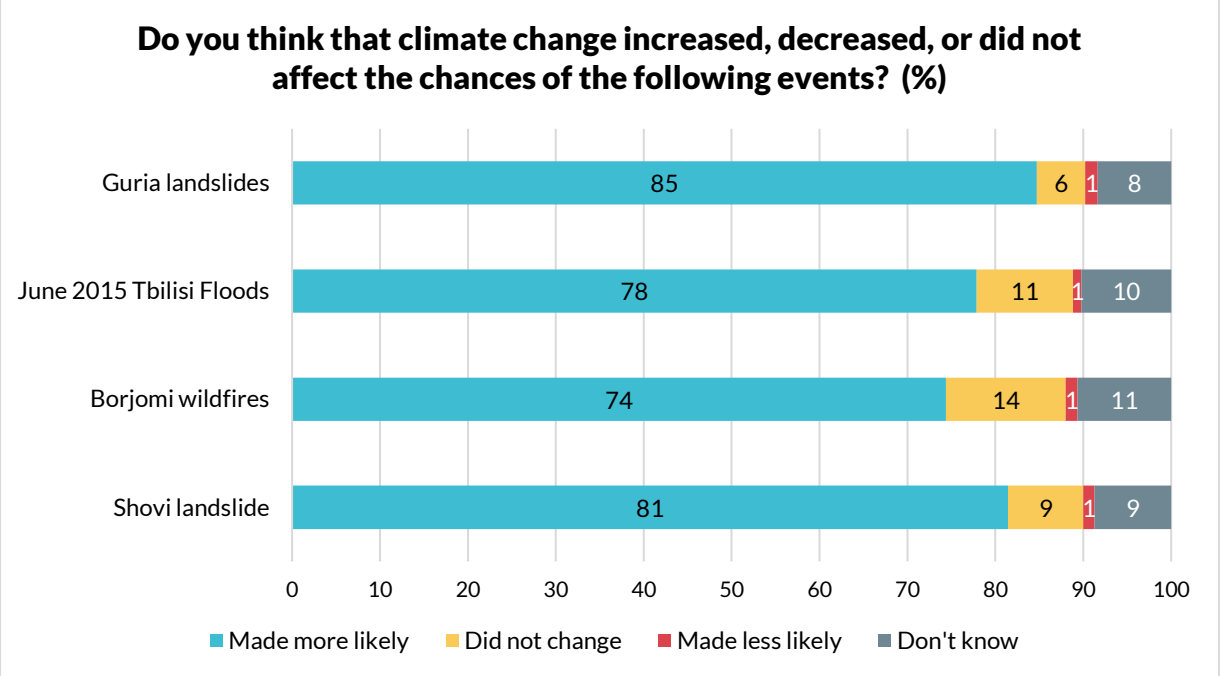
When the above index is analyzed, the data indicates that women perceive relatively weaker impacts compared to men, and that younger people (18-34) perceive slightly less intense impacts than people aged 55+ perceive.

Figure 13: Climate change impacts index



The public was asked whether they believed that the Shovi Landslide, the Borjomi Wildfires, the 2015 Tbilisi floods, and Guria's landslides were more or less likely due to climate change. The data suggests that the public tended to believe that all of these events were caused by climate change, with 74% and 85% reporting that climate change increased the probability of these events. The public was most likely to agree with the idea that the Guria landslides were more likely, because of climate change, and least likely to report that the Borjomi wildfires became more likely due to climate change.

Figure 14: Whether natural disasters in Georgia were more or less likely due to climate change



To understand which groups believe that climate change made these events more or less likely, an analysis was conducted to understand how many events respondents reported were made more likely by climate change. Overall, 79% of the public believed that all of these events were made more likely by climate change, 14% that three of four events were made more likely, 5% that two of the events were made more likely, and 2% that only one of the events were made more likely. The only statistically significant predictor of belief that more of these events were made more likely by climate change was sex, with women reporting an average of 3 events compared to 3.24 for men, controlling for other factors.

The above data shows that the Georgian public is concerned about climate change's impacts, that the public sees the climate changing, and that the more prominent natural disasters Georgia has faced in recent years were made more common by climate change.

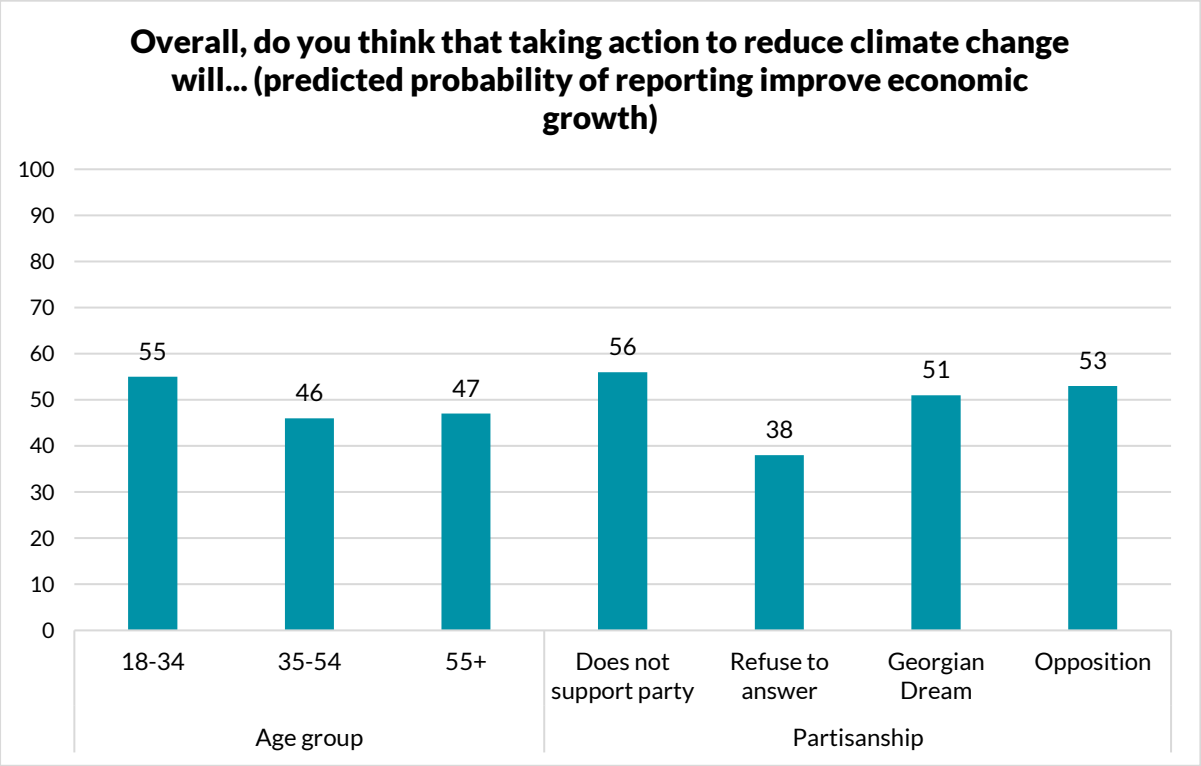
What are views on policy around climate change?

To abate climate change policy is a necessary implement. What policies are ultimately adopted depend on whether the public supports them. In turn, this section of the report explores the public's attitudes towards policy on climate change in addition to a number of individual actions which could help reduce an individual's own contributions to climate change.

Within this domain, the first questions respondents were asked was whether they think that climate change related policies would help or hurt the economy. The data indicate that respondents are more optimistic than not on this issue. While 52% believe that it will help the economy, 8% believe that it will hurt the economy. A further 16% report they do not think it will affect the economy and 24% are uncertain.

When the data is broken down by social and demographic variables, it indicates that younger people (18-34) are more likely to believe that taking action on climate change will increase economic growth. People who refused to answer which party they support are also less likely to report that they believe taking action on climate change will improve economic growth.

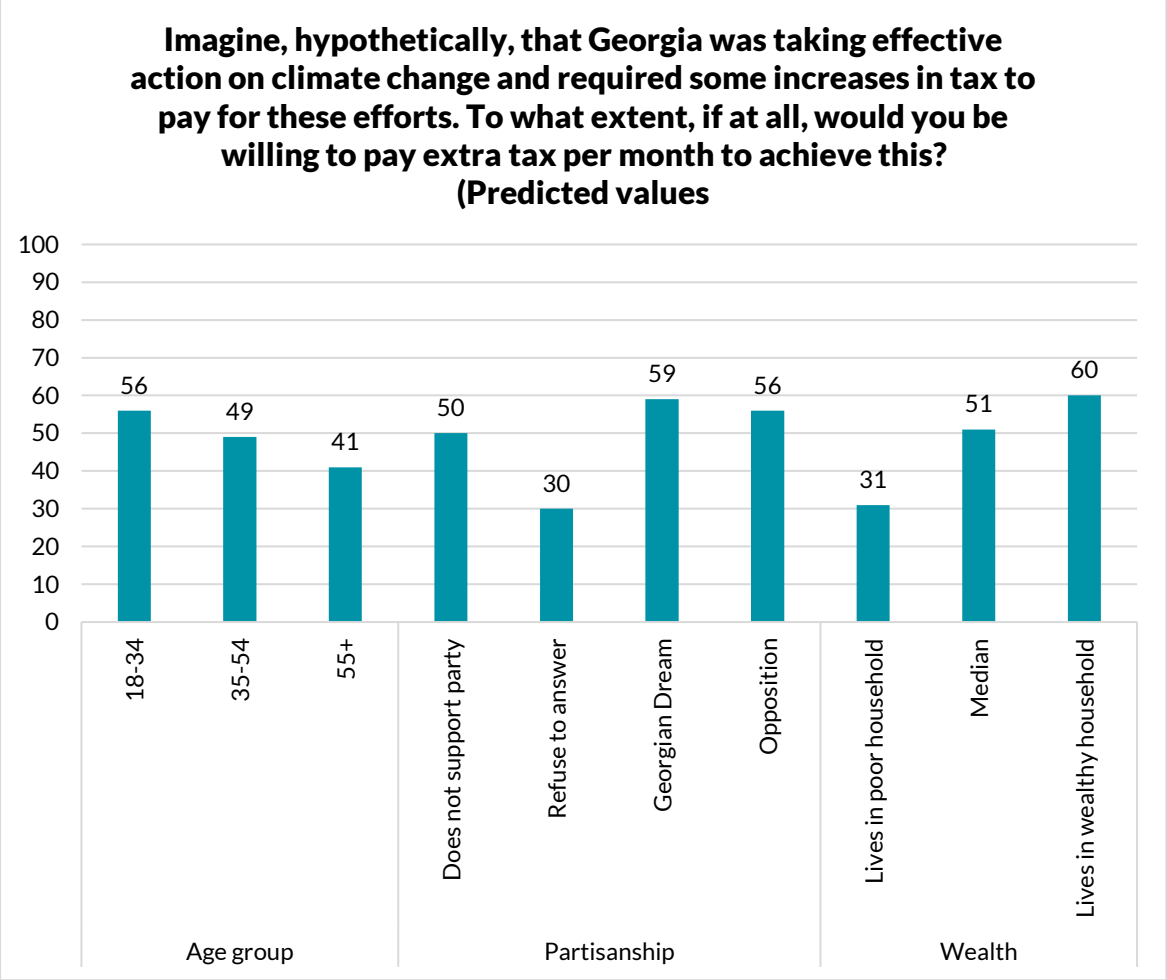
Figure 15: Attitudes towards climate policy and the economy by social and demographic variables



Respondents were also asked about their willingness to pay increased taxes to carry out climate related policies, if the government was taking effective action on the issue. The data indicate that 48% were willing to pay something for effective climate policy. A further 42% were not

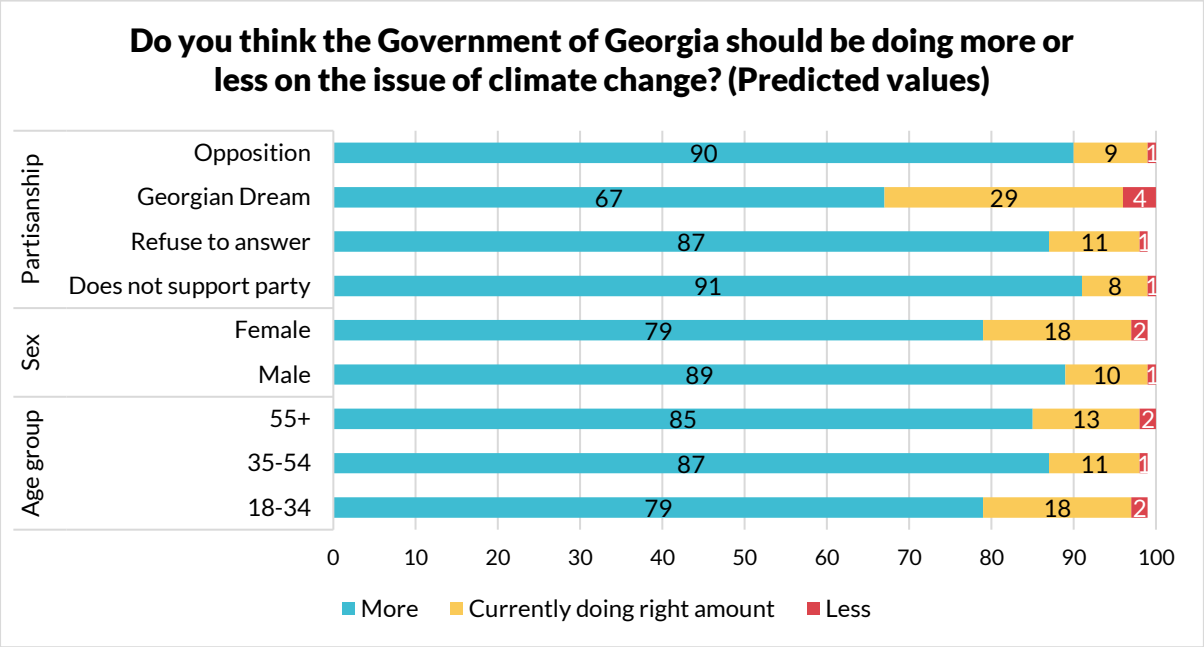
willing to pay, and 10% were uncertain. An analysis of which groups are more or less likely to report a willingness to pay for climate related policies suggests that people under the age of 55, people living in relatively wealthy households, and those who support a political party are more willing to pay, than people age 55 and older, people who refuse to answer what party they support and people in less wealthy households.

Figure 16: Willingness to pay for increased climate spending



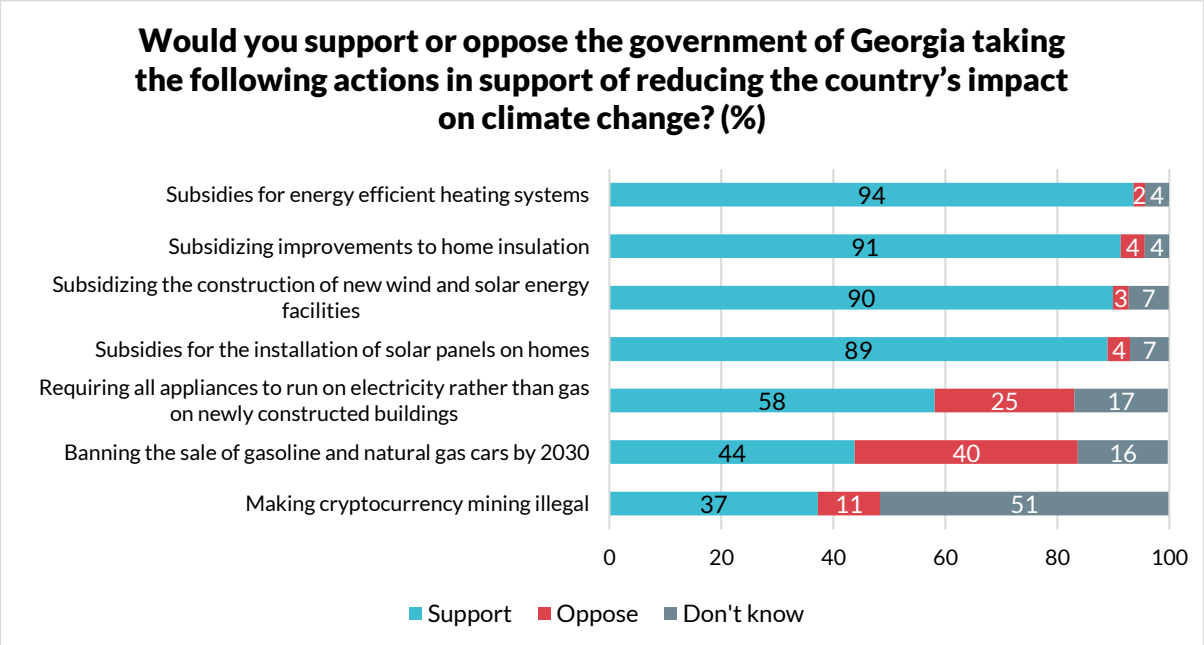
Respondents were also asked whether the government was doing enough on climate change policy. The data indicate that the public is split, with 14% reporting the government is doing about the right amount, 75% reporting the government is not doing enough, and 2% reporting that the government should do less. A further 9% were uncertain and 1% refused to answer the question. When the data is broken down by social and demographic variables, it suggests that women, Georgian Dream supporters, and young people are more likely to believe that the government is doing the right amount, and less likely to believe that the government should do more, controlling for other factors. In contrast, men, people 35 and older, and those that do not support Georgian Dream are more likely to report that the government should do more.

Figure 17: Is the government doing enough to address climate change?



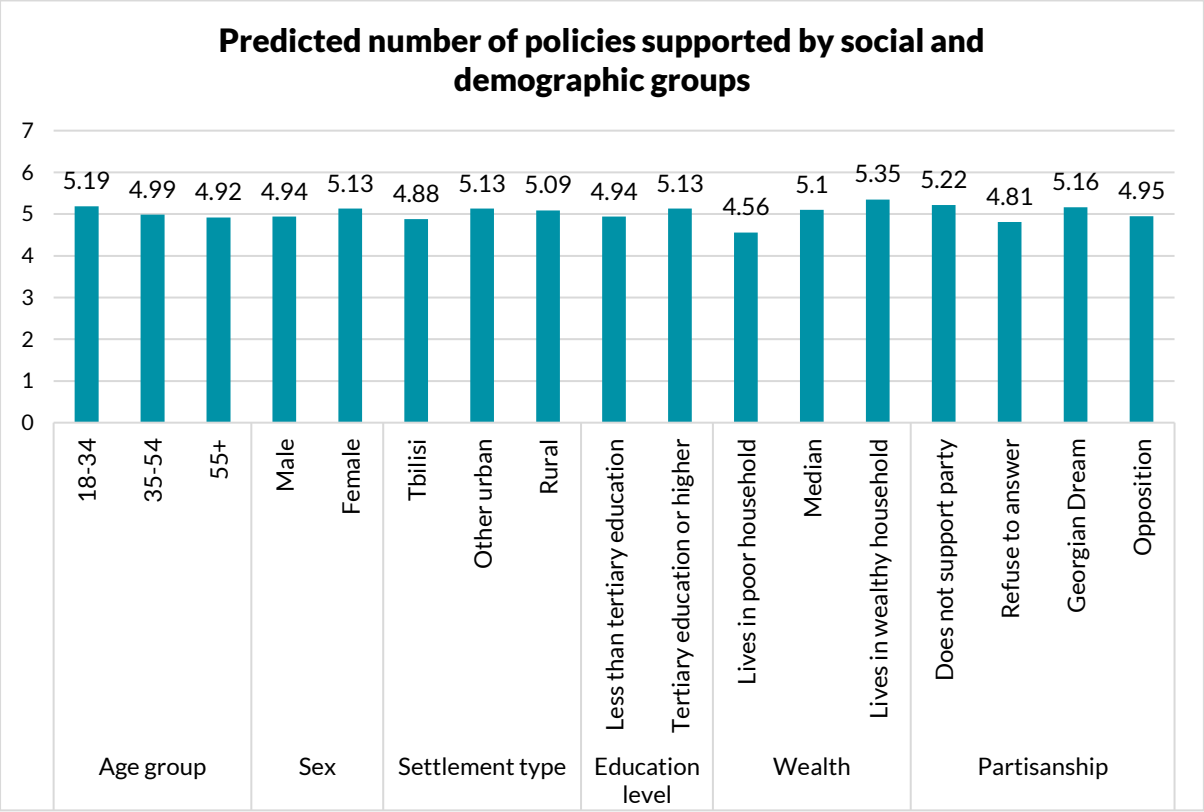
The public was asked about a number of specific policies which would reduce green house gas emissions. The data indicate that the public is most supportive of subsidies for energy efficient heating systems, improvements to home insulation, and solar panels on homes. They were less supportive of requiring all new construction to run on electricity rather than gas, though a majority still supported the policy idea. The public was divided over banning the sale of gasoline and natural gas vehicles from 2030. The public was largely uncertain about the idea of banning crypto mining.

Figure 18: Attitudes towards climate related policies



The average Georgian supports five of the above seven policies. The number of the above policies which the public supports varies with social and demographic characteristics. Young people support more policies than others, controlling for other factors. Women support more policies than men. People in Tbilisi support fewer policies than those outside it. People with higher education support more policies than those without. Those in poorer households support fewer policies than others. People who support the opposition and refuse to answer which party they support report support fewer policies than GD supporters and those that do not express partisanship.

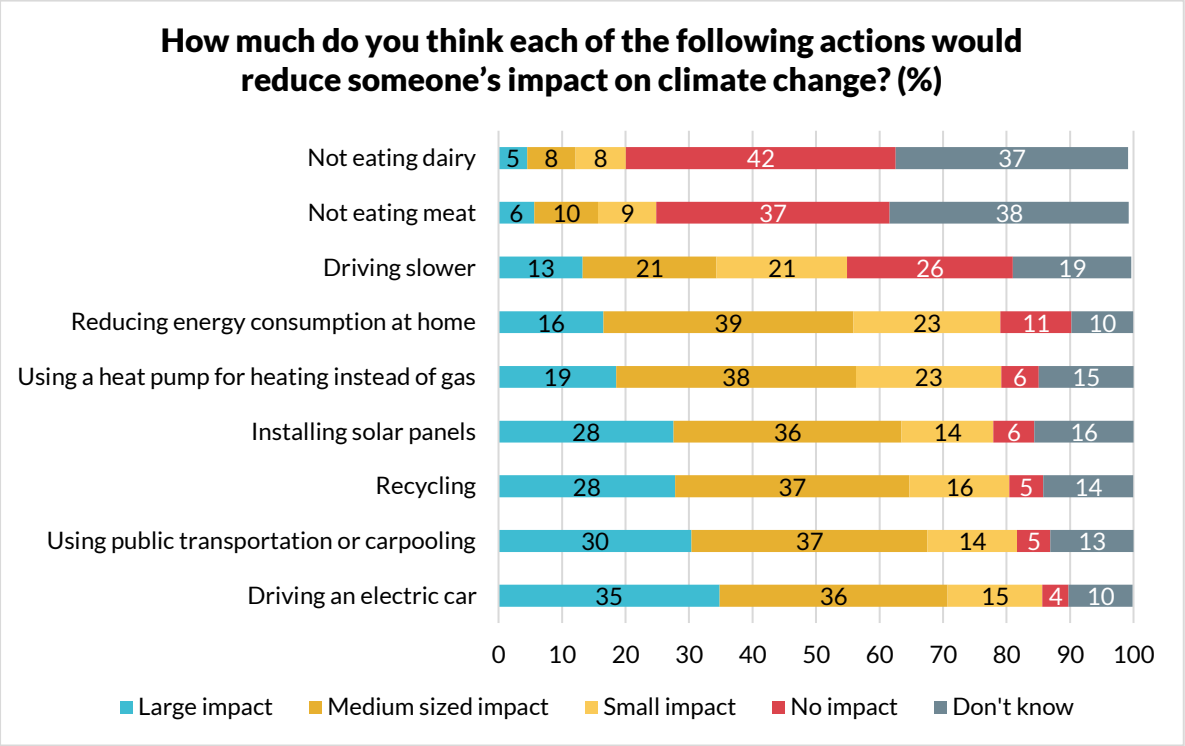
Figure 19: Number of climate related policies which the public supports by social and demographic variables



The public was also asked what impact they thought different types of actions would have on individuals' climate impacts. The data indicate that people are more likely to believe that driving an electric car, using public transportation, and recycling would have large impacts compared with not eating dairy or meat. However, scientists tend to agree that not eating dairy and not eating meat are among the best steps people can take to reduce the carbon emissions they respond, along with flying less. In contrast, recycling has a relatively small positive impact on reducing emissions.[4]

[4] See Seleg and Gustin, 2023, available here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/08/28/climate-action-poll/

Figure 20: Individual actions' impact on climate change abatement



The above data suggests that most Georgians think their government should be doing more on climate change, that many policies to combat it would be widely supported, and that the public tends to believe that taking climate action would lead to positive economic outcomes. At the same time, the public is less aware of the relative impacts of individual choices on climate change.

How does Georgia compare to other countries in terms of climate attitude segments?

Segmentation is an approach of dividing up a population into different groups based on various characteristics such as their values or views on an issue. The most prominent segmentation approach among those that study climate change is Yale's Six America's segmentation which divides the public into the alarmed, concerned, cautious, disengaged, doubtful, and dismissive. These segments can be described as follows:

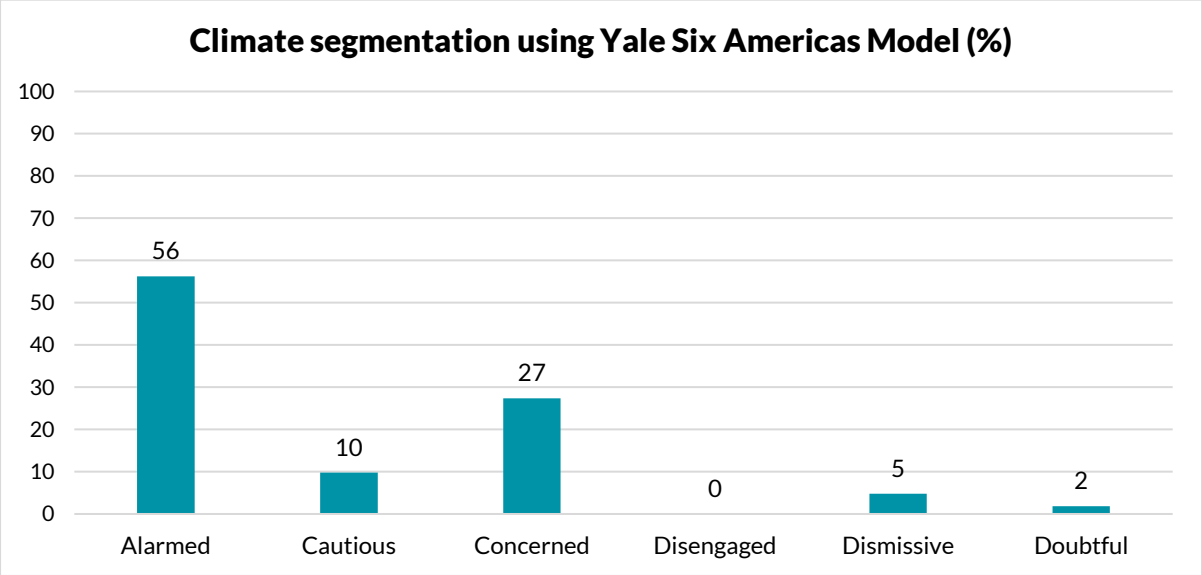
- The alarmed believe climate change is a present and severe problem.
- The concerned believe in climate change is a severe problem, yet believe its consequences lay in the future.
- The cautious are aware of climate change but uncertain what to think about it.
- The disengaged lack information about climate change.

- The doubtful believe that climate change is the result of a natural cycle or not happening, and do not believe it is a problem.
- The dismissive believe climate change is a conspiracy.[5]

To identify these segments, an allocation model[6] was used in combination with responses to the following four survey questions:

- How important is the issue of climate change to you?
- How worried are you about climate change?
- How much do you think climate change will harm you personally?
- How much do you think climate change will harm future generations?

The allocation model suggests that 56% of Georgians are alarmed, 27% concerned, 10% cautious, 0% disengage, 2% doubtful, and 5% dismissive.

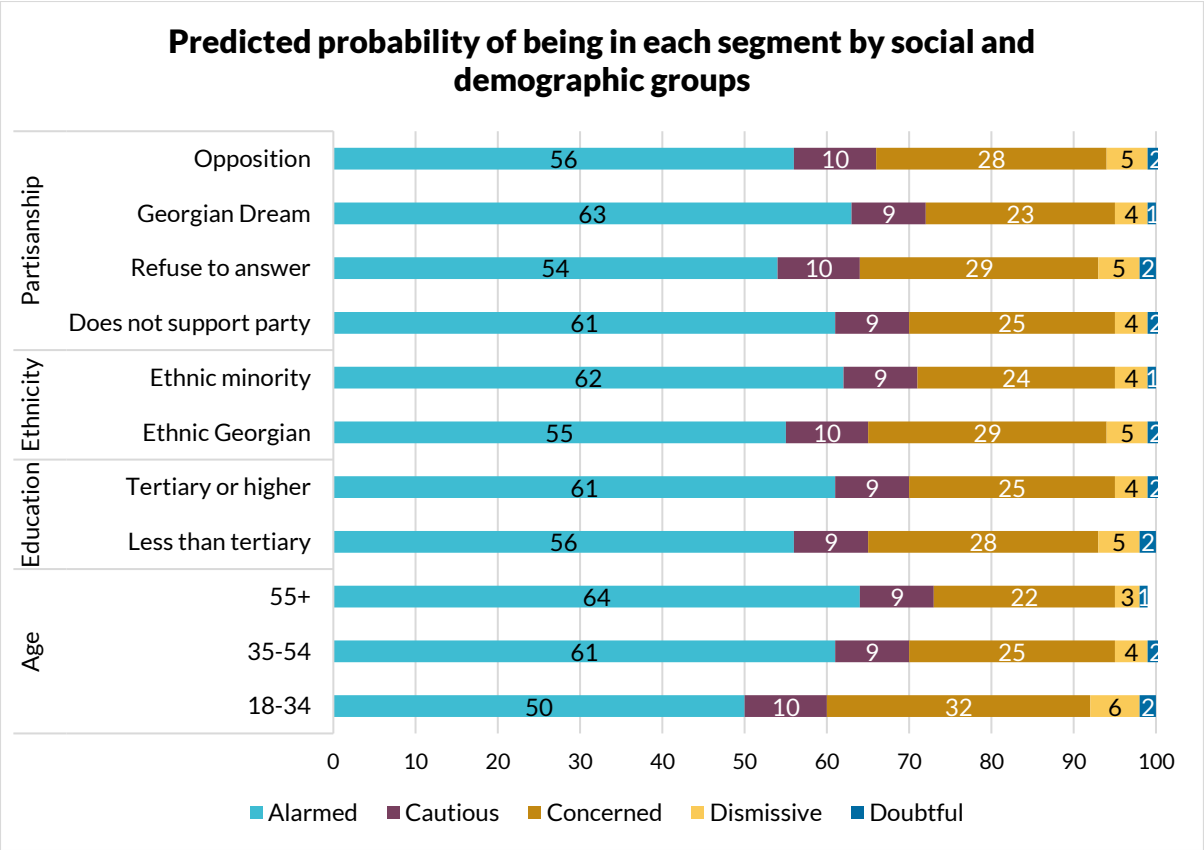


Membership in each segment is predicted by a number of different factors. Young people are more likely to be concerned and less likely to be alarmed than older people in Georgia. Georgian Dream supporters and those who do not support any party are also more likely to be alarmed relative to opposition supporters and those who refuse to answer which party they support.

[5] These descriptions are drawn from Yale's Program on Climate Change Communication. Fuller descriptions are available here: https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/about/projects/global-warmings-six-americas/

[6] The allocation model was retrieved from Yale's Program on Climate Change Communication's website, available to the general public here: https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/sassy/. For the academic basis of this model, see Breanne Chryst, Jennifer Marlon, Sander van der Linden, Anthony Leiserowitz, Edward Maibach & Connie Roser-Renouf (2018): Global Warming's "Six Americas Short Survey": Audience Segmentation of Climate Change Views Using a Four Question Instrument, Environmental Communication, DOI: 10.1080/17524032.2018.150804.

Ethnic minorities are also more likely to be alarmed relative to ethnic Georgians. Those with higher education are also more likely to be alarmed than those without.



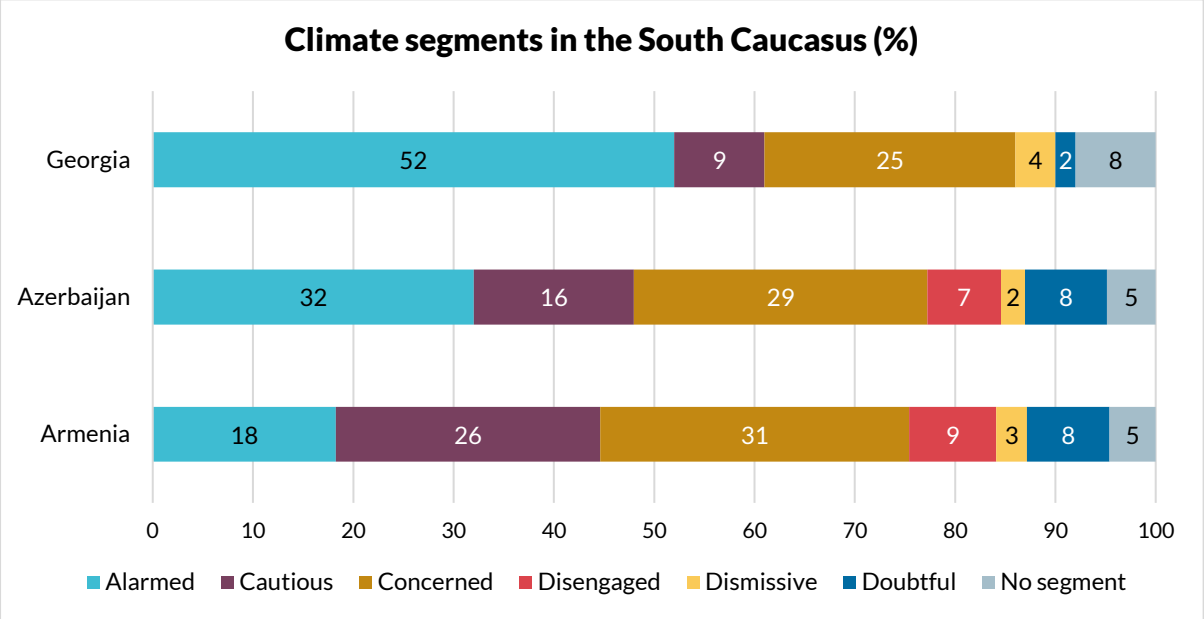
When comparing Georgia to other countries internationally, this segmentation places Georgia as a relatively alarmed country globally, in 26th of 111 countries for which data is available from Yale. Georgia has the most similar segment composition as the Philippines, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, and the most different segment composition to Norway, Czechia, and Yemen. For a full description of all segments across countries, see Appendix 1.

Figure 21: Climate segmentations in countries that are most similar and different to Georgia by share in each segment

Country	Alarmed	Cautious	Concerned	Disengaged	Dismissive	Doubtful	No segment
Czechia	9	34	29	7	3	14	3
Georgia	52	9	25	0	4	2	8
Guatemala	54	9	21	4	2	4	7
Nicaragua	57	9	21	2	2	0	8
Norway	13	29	29	4	8	15	2
Philippines	54	8	23	5	1	2	7
Yemen	9	14	17	16	8	25	11

Compared to its neighbors in the South Caucasus – Armenia and Azerbaijan – Georgia is by far more alarmed about climate change, with more respondents being cautious in Azerbaijan and Armenia relative to Georgia.

Figure 22: Climate segments in the South Caucasus



The above data suggests that Georgia is relatively alarmed about climate change compared to most countries in the world, for which data is available, and more alarmed about climate change than its neighbors Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Please note that not all figures sum to 100% due to rounding error in the methodology.

CONCLUSIONS

The above data and analysis lead to a range of findings about attitudes towards climate change in Georgia. This section of the report provides an overview of these findings as relates sympathy and salience towards the issue, views of climate impacts, policy on climate change, and how Georgia compares to other countries with regard to climate attitudes.

The data shows that while climate change is not a top priority for Georgians, it is an important issue in their view. Georgians also tend to be worried about the issue. However, only a third believe that climate change is primarily caused by humans.

Attitudes towards clean energy are more positive than attitudes towards hydrocarbons in the country. This shows up in both how favorable to public views these energy sources as well as in a willingness to have this type of infrastructure near one's home.

The public is also concerned about the impact of climate change and environmental issues more broadly. Deforestation, air pollution, and extreme weather events are the top three environment and climate issues which the public worries about. Notably, most people have noticed changes to their local climate in recent years. They have also experienced a weather event they take as proof of climate change more generally. Large majorities also tends to believe that climate change will affect them, the country, their community, the world, and future generations.

Reflecting the above views, large majorities of the public believe that climate change has made prominent natural disasters in the country more likely, with three quarters or more of the public reporting that the landslides in Shovi and Guria, as well as the June 2015 floods and Borjomi wildfires were made more probable due to climate change.

Given the above it is perhaps unsurprising that there is widespread public support for the government to take more action on climate change, that substantial shares of the public believe that taking action on climate will support economic growth, and that half the public reports a willingness to pay extra taxes to support effective climate action. This general support is also reflected in the public's support for a wide range of policies aimed at combatting climate change such as improved insulation and banning gas connections from new construction.

When comparing Georgia to others internationally, the country stands out for having a relatively high share of the public which is alarmed about climate change, placing the country in the top quarter of countries with public's that are alarmed generally.

APPENDIX 1: CLIMATE SEGMENTATIONS GLOBALLY

Country	Alarmed	Cautious	Concerned	Disengaged	Dismissive	Doubtful	No segment
Albania	33	12	26	9	2	5	13
Algeria	26	13	22	11	4	10	14
Angola	54	7	16	6	1	7	9
Argentina	47	8	30	4	2	4	5
Armenia	18	26	31	9	3	8	5
Asian and Pacific Islands	53	9	20	5	2	4	7
Australia	35	16	28	3	6	10	2
Austria	37	18	34	3	2	5	2
Azerbaijan	32	16	29	7	2	8	5
Bangladesh	53	12	17	5	2	3	9
Belgium	25	26	34	4	1	8	2
Benin	44	9	19	4	2	11	11
Bolivia	62	9	17	2	1	3	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	34	13	27	12	3	7	4
Botswana	50	11	18	5	1	6	11
Brazil	59	5	21	1	1	4	7
Bulgaria	30	16	34	7	1	7	4
Burkina Faso	47	8	16	5	2	2	20
Cambodia	54	8	18	5	1	4	9
Cameroon	41	10	17	11	1	3	16
Canada	35	17	30	3	5	8	1
Caribbean	41	11	24	8	2	6	7
Chile	65	6	18	3	0	3	5
Colombia	60	7	19	3	0	2	8
Congo	41	10	15	6	5	7	16
Costa Rica	62	8	20	2	1	2	6
Cote d'Ivoire	50	6	17	5	2	5	15
Croatia	39	14	31	7	1	5	4
Cyprus	34	14	29	5	2	10	5
Czechia	9	34	29	7	3	14	3
Denmark	20	29	35	3	3	8	1
Dominican Republic	44	13	20	6	4	3	9
Ecuador	59	10	20	1	1	3	6
Egypt	18	15	23	15	4	17	7
El Salvador	60	8	21	1	2	2	6
Finland	22	26	27	5	4	15	2
France	43	13	32	3	1	4	4
Georgia	52	9	25	0	4	2	8

Germany	34	18	32	3	3	8	2
Ghana	49	9	17	5	3	6	10
Greece	45	12	30	4	2	4	3
Guatemala	54	9	21	4	2	4	7
Haiti	32	12	15	6	3	12	20
Honduras	54	8	19	2	1	4	12
Hong Kong	29	18	31	4	3	8	6
Hungary	42	12	37	3	1	2	2
India	55	9	16	3	2	3	12
Indonesia	27	19	26	9	2	7	10
Iraq	16	23	21	9	5	19	6
Ireland	27	15	40	5	3	7	3
Israel	29	16	31	7	3	10	4
Italy	45	11	31	4	1	4	4
Jamaica	44	7	24	12	1	8	5
Japan	36	18	36	3	2	3	2
Jordan	15	19	21	13	6	22	5
Kenya	55	8	15	3	5	7	7
Kosovo	29	9	21	12	1	18	10
Kuwait	26	13	23	8	2	19	8
Laos	34	18	27	5	0	6	10
Lebanon	15	19	24	13	7	14	8
Libya	17	18	23	13	4	17	9
Lithuania	27	20	37	5	2	6	3
Malawi	63	7	14	1	1	4	9
Malaysia	38	14	30	8	2	5	4
Mexico	64	5	24	2	1	1	4
Morocco	32	10	24	8	4	8	13
Mozambique	50	7	14	7	2	3	16
Nepal	48	9	23	4	2	5	10
Netherlands	14	32	29	5	4	15	2
New Zealand	31	19	32	4	4	9	2
Nicaragua	57	9	21	2	2	0	8
Nigeria	34	12	21	8	3	12	10
North Macedonia	32	17	32	7	3	4	3
Norway	13	29	29	4	8	15	2
Oman	42	11	23	4	4	10	5
Other Sub-Saharan Africa	45	9	18	5	2	6	15
Pakistan	41	12	20	5	1	10	11
Panama	58	8	23	2	0	2	8
Paraguay	45	10	21	5	2	5	12

Peru	59	6	22	3	1	3	6
Philippines	54	8	23	5	1	2	7
Poland	26	19	37	4	2	6	6
Portugal	56	6	29	2	1	2	4
Puerto Rico	60	5	27	3	1	2	2
Qatar	42	11	20	5	5	7	8
Romania	26	16	35	7	2	8	6
Saudi Arabia	29	16	21	7	4	13	10
Senegal	43	8	13	8	2	7	20
Serbia	33	13	34	11	2	6	3
Singapore	34	17	34	6	1	4	4
Slovakia	25	18	45	4	2	4	3
South Africa	49	11	24	5	2	4	5
South Korea	41	17	35	2	0	2	3
Spain	47	9	32	4	1	5	3
Sri Lanka	61	6	23	2	0	3	5
Sweden	27	21	34	3	5	9	2
Switzerland	35	20	34	2	2	7	1
Taiwan	52	10	27	3	1	3	3
Tanzania	41	12	19	6	2	8	13
Thailand	26	21	35	6	1	7	5
Trinidad and Tobago	43	11	26	6	2	7	6
Tunisia	28	13	24	10	2	9	15
Turkey	51	9	19	7	3	5	6
United Arab Emirates	39	11	22	7	4	9	8
United Kingdom	31	18	36	3	4	7	2
United States of America	34	14	25	4	11	11	1
Uruguay	43	11	30	5	3	3	4
Uzbekistan	28	25	29	4	2	6	5
Vietnam	45	10	27	4	1	2	11
Yemen	9	14	17	16	8	25	11
Zambia	56	13	12	3	2	3	10