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## Beyond Borders: The Global Response to Climate Change

### Article

Climate change is a global problem that affects us all. Despite the overwhelming scientific evidence supporting human-induced climate change, some individuals still deny its existence. However, a recent study by the University of Groningen challenges the notion that people view climate change as a distant issue that won't affect them directly.

The study, published in *One Earth*, analyzed opinion polls on the global environment that included cohorts of 100,000 people spanning 121 countries. The findings debunked the assumption that people view climate change as a psychological distance problem that won't impact them personally. The polls found that 50 percent of participants believe climate change is happening now or in the near future and will impact their hometowns significantly. The research also examined 26 studies on the relationship between psychological distance and climate action. Results showed that people are more likely to take action when they feel it will affect them directly.

The evidence for human-induced climate change is overwhelming, with multiple lines of research converging to support this conclusion. Studies examining temperature records, ice cores, and tree rings provide a detailed history of the Earth's climate, highlighting that the current warming trend is unusual and likely caused by human activity. Computer models of the climate system consistently predict that the warming trend is caused by human activities.

Despite this evidence, there are still people who deny the existence of climate change. However, the vast majority of scientists agree that human activities are causing the Earth's climate to change. Evidence for human-induced climate change includes temperature records, measurements of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, studies of the Earth's energy balance, and the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels and changing weather patterns.

The political and ethical implications of climate change are complex, with ongoing debates over how best to address the problem and questions about fairness and the rights of people in developing countries. Some advocate for government regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, while others argue for a market-based approach. Ethical questions include whether it is fair to impose costs on present generations to benefit future generations and how to protect the rights of those disproportionately affected by climate change.

In conclusion, the majority of people believe that climate change will impact their hometowns and are more likely to take action when they feel it will affect them personally. The scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the conclusion that human activities are causing climate change, and the political and ethical implications of this issue are complex and ongoing. Therefore, it is essential to



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continue raising awareness about climate change, its likely consequences, and the need for immediate action to prevent further damage to our planet.

## Agenda

### Cohorts

- A group of people who share a common characteristic, typically age or interests.
- *"The study included cohorts of 100,000 people spanning 121 countries."*

### Psychological Distance

- The extent to which an event, object, or circumstance is subjectively experienced as distant or remote from a person's immediate experience.
- *"The polls found that people do not view climate change as a psychological distance problem that won't impact them personally."*

### Induced

- Caused or brought about.
- *"The evidence for human-induced climate change is overwhelming."*

### Converging

- Come from different directions and meet at a point.
- *"Studies examining temperature records, ice cores, and tree rings provide multiple lines of research converging to support human-induced climate change."*

### Imminent

- Likely to happen soon; impending.
- *"Both studies found that climate change was already happening, or at least was imminent."*

### Greenhouse gases

- Gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, causing the greenhouse effect.
- *"Measurements of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere provide evidence for human-induced climate change."*



## Disproportionately

- In a way that is unequal or uneven in relation to something else.
- *"Ethical questions include how to protect the rights of those disproportionately affected by climate change."*

## Fairness

- The quality of being reasonable and unbiased; impartiality.
- *"Questions about fairness and the rights of people in developing countries are ongoing debates in the discussion about climate change."*

## Regulation

- A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.
- *"Some advocate for government regulation of greenhouse gas emissions as a solution to the problem of climate change."*



## Market-based

- Relating to or denoting a system of trade or business where prices are determined by supply and demand.
- *"Some argue for a market-based approach to address the problem of climate change."*

## Discussion

1. What are the most effective ways to engage the public on climate change, and how can we encourage greater action at both a local and global level?
2. Given the ongoing political and ethical debates surrounding climate change, how can we ensure that action to address the issue is fair and equitable, taking into account the rights of people in developing countries and future generations?
3. With so much scientific evidence supporting human-induced climate change, why do some individuals and governments still deny the reality of the problem? What can be done to overcome skepticism and build widespread support for climate action?