

SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE & CLEAN ENERGY POLICY AMONG RACIAL & ETHNIC GROUPS



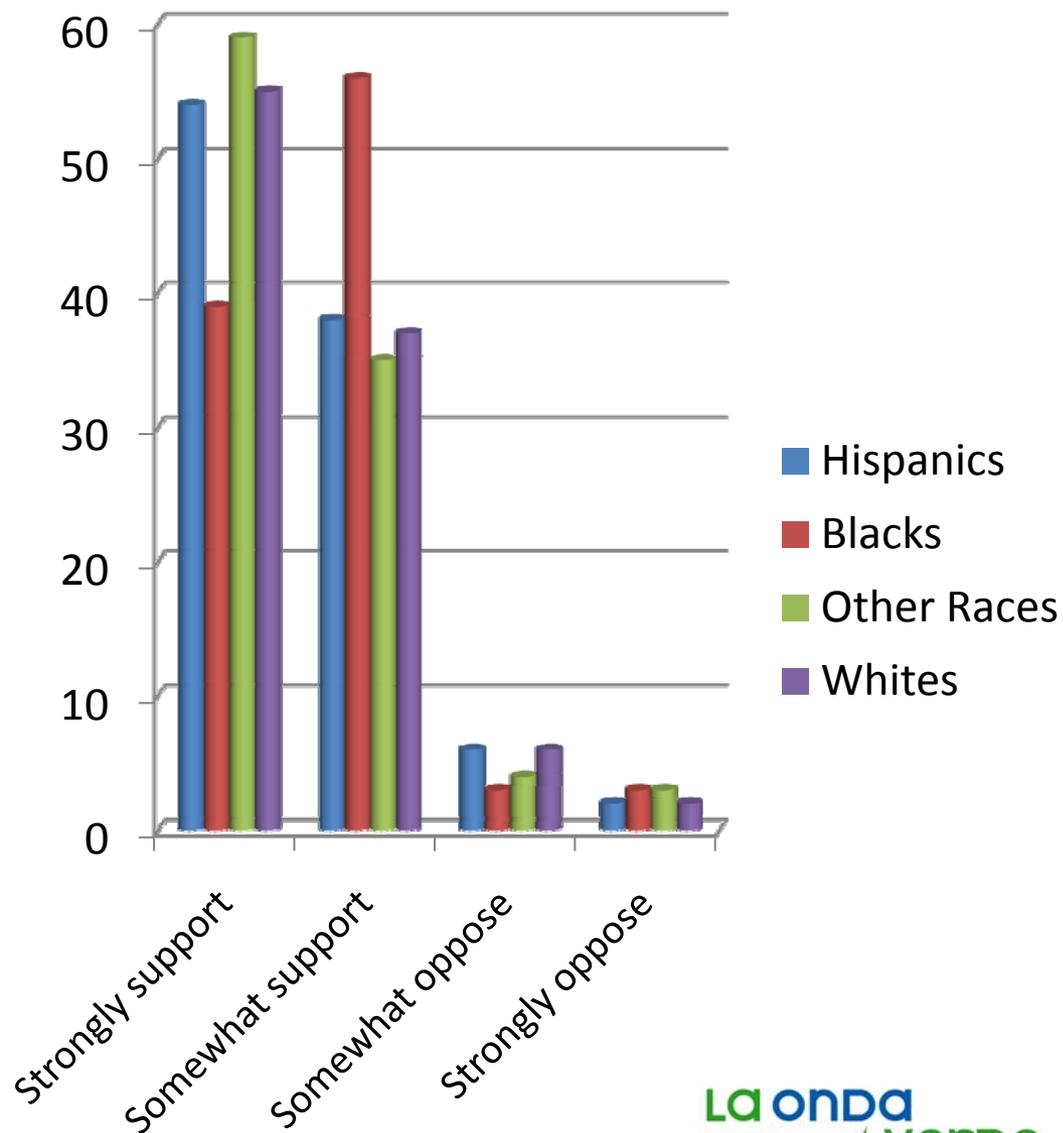
- African-American, Latino and other racial and ethnic communities often bear the brunt of global warming¹ pollution. These groups also stand to gain from strong climate policy that limits carbon emissions and moves us towards clean, renewable energy.²
- A survey conducted by Yale and George Mason Universities in the fall of 2008 and revisited in 2009-2010³ found that despite a serious economic recession, **Americans supported a variety of climate change and energy policies.**
- Hispanics, African-Americans and other minorities were often the **strongest supporters** of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, even where some of these policies would entail individual costs.

Americans Want Investments in Renewables

Americans overwhelmingly supported funding for more research into renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power (91%).

Support was consistent across all racial and ethnic groups, including Hispanics (85%), African Americans (95%), other races and ethnicities (94%) and non-Hispanic whites (92%).

The 2009-2010 survey echoed this finding: over 75% of respondents supported investment in renewables, with little difference across all racial and ethnic groups.



Regulation of CO² is Most Popular Policy

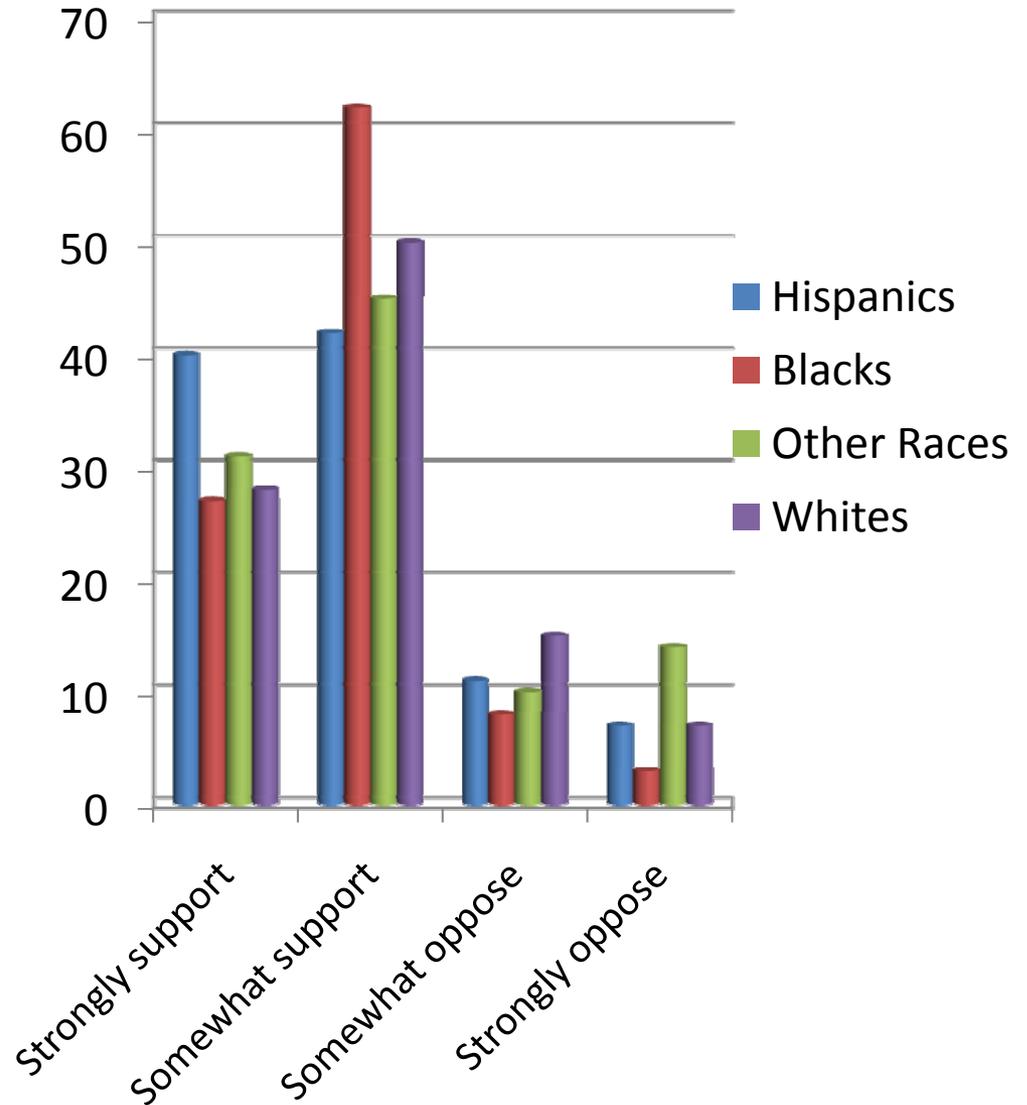
Of all policies to tackle climate change, Americans most supported regulating carbon dioxide.

Over 80% supported this policy.

African Americans were the most likely to somewhat or strongly support this policy (89%), while Hispanics were the most likely to strongly support it (40%).

EPA's "endangerment finding" made in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2007, calls for carbon dioxide to be considered a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, giving EPA the authority and obligation to regulate.⁴

Support remained high in the 2009-2010 survey.

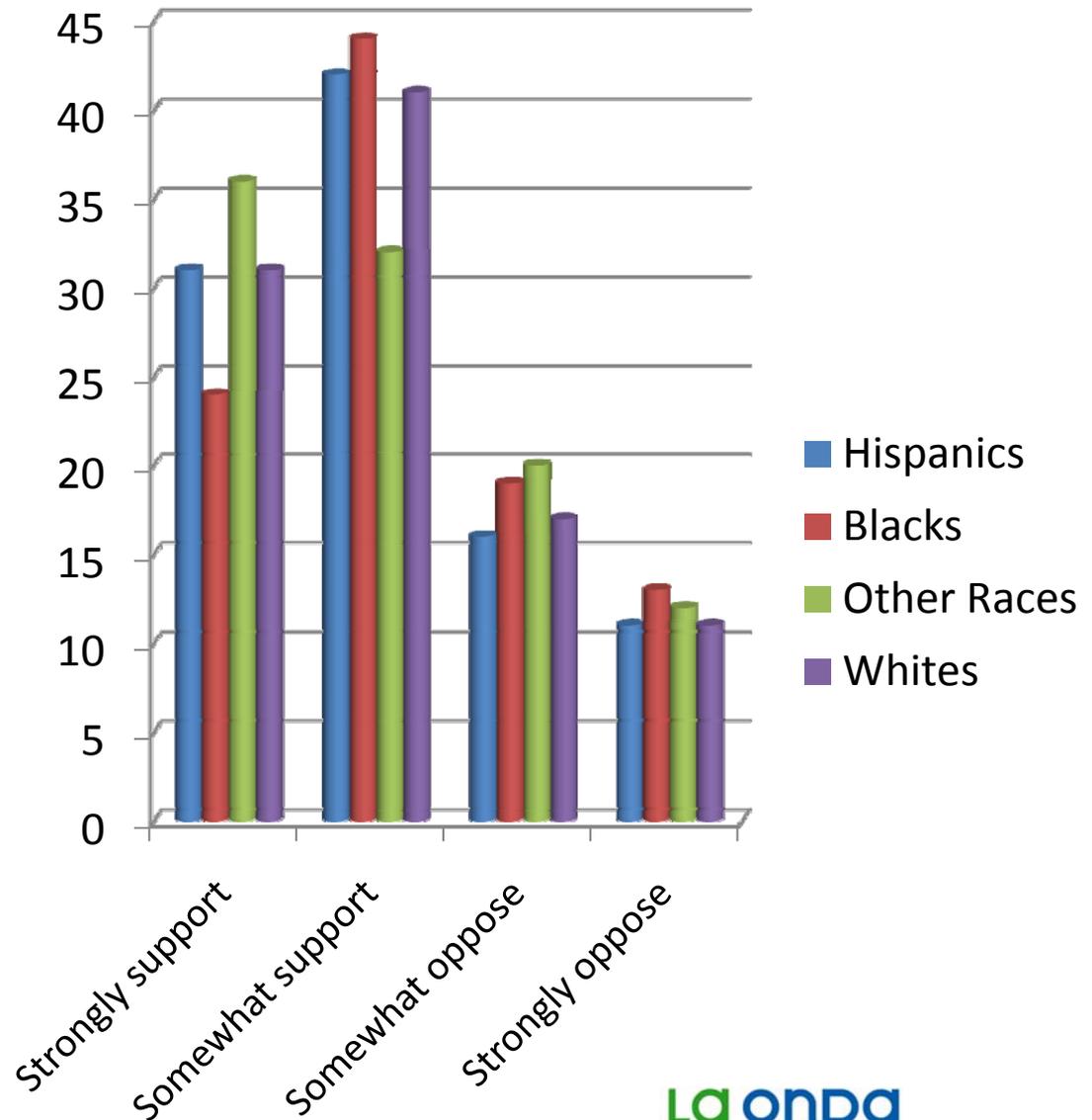


Americans Support Renewable Portfolio Standards

Renewable Portfolio Standards require electric utilities to produce a certain percentage of electricity from clean energy sources like wind or solar.

A large majority (72%) of Americans support requiring electric utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity from renewable energy sources, even if it costs the average household an extra \$100 a year.

Again, there was little difference in support for this policy among racial or ethnic groups, although African Americans were somewhat less likely to strongly support this policy.



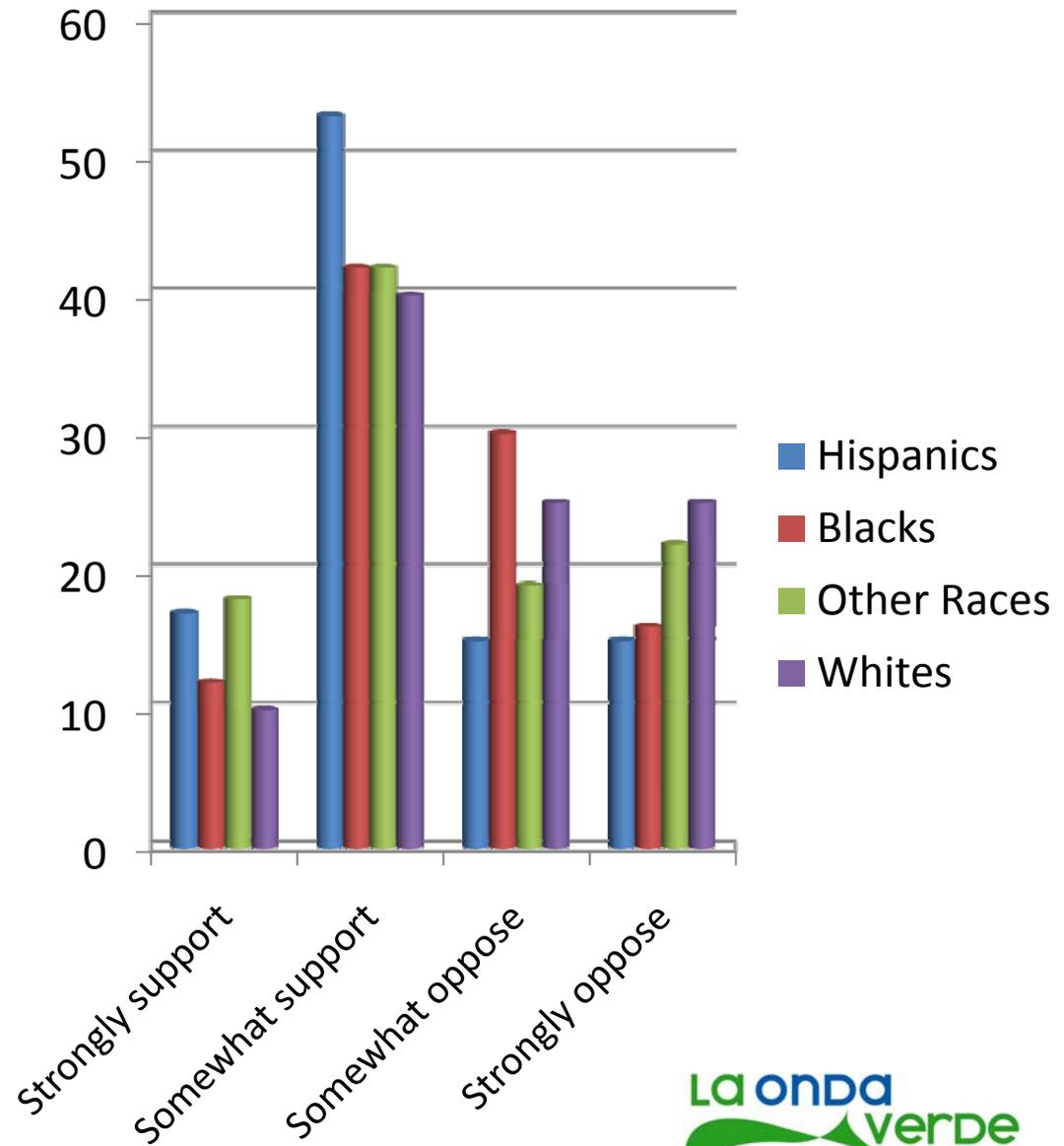
Cap and Trade Receives Favorable Support

Cap and trade remains one of the preferred comprehensive legislative policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Cap and trade will place a mandatory cap on global warming pollution while using market mechanisms to encourage innovation and reduce emissions at a lower cost.

A majority of Americans supported cap and trade though less than other policies.

Hispanics supported a cap and trade policy more than others.



Energy Efficiency is Important

All racial and ethnic groups supported a variety of policies to improve energy efficiency.

- **Support was high for rebates and tax rebates** for people who purchase energy efficient vehicle or solar panels across all racial and ethnic groups, with somewhat higher strong support among “Other” races (46%), and somewhat lower strong support among African Americans (31%).
- **Large majorities of all racial and ethnic groups also supported government subsidies** to help improve the energy efficiency of households. Latinos were significantly more likely to strongly support this policy than other groups (39%).
- Most Americans (63%) said they supported a **special fund to help improve the energy efficiency of buildings and teach Americans how to reduce their energy use**, even if it added \$2.50 to their monthly electric bills. Hispanics (30%) and “Other” racial and ethnic groups (26%) were the most likely to strongly support this policy (30%).
- Likewise, all groups **supported a requirement that automakers make more fuel efficient cars and trucks**, even if they were more expensive, with “Other” races more strongly in support (53%), and African Americans somewhat less likely to strongly support this policy (34%).

Policy Support in 2010 by Racial & Ethnic Groups

Large majorities of all racial and ethnic groups **continue to support strong government action on climate and energy**

- Funding more research into **renewable energy sources** (77-91%);
- **Regulating carbon dioxide** as a pollutant (65-86%);
- A 20% **renewable portfolio standard**, even if it costs the average household an extra \$100 a year (55-72%);
- **Tax rebates** for solar panels and fuel-efficient cars (81-85%);
- Signing an **international climate change treaty** (55-77%);
- Support for a **building energy efficiency** fund ranged from 49 to 71%;
- Support for **cap and trade** among different racial and ethnic groups ranged from 55 to 77%, but was less appealing than other options;
- Support for a **carbon tax** trended weaker ranging from 30 to 55%;

NOTES & REFERENCES

The terms used for the racial and ethnic groups are the same as the 2000 U. S. Census definitions. Hispanics may be of any race, and include those who self-designate themselves as of Latino, Hispanic or Spanish origin. Whites and blacks consist of those who identify themselves as only of that race and not of Hispanic ethnicity. “Other race/ethnicity” includes those who are of more than one race, or of other racial and ethnic groups, such as Asians, American Indians, Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives and Pacific Islanders.

¹ Environmental Protection Agency. (2009). Endangerment and cause or contribute findings for greenhouse gases under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act. *Federal Register*, 74(239), 66495-66546. Retrieved from http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment/downloads/Federal_Register-EPA-HQOAR-2009-0171-Dec.15-09.pdf

Shonkoff, S. B., Morello-Frosch, R., Pastor, M, & Sadd, J. (2009). *Environmental health and equity impacts from climate change and mitigation policies in California: A review of the literature*. Publication # CEC-500-2009-038-D. Retrieved from <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2009publications/CEC-500-2009-038/CEC-500-2009-038-D.PDF>

² PERI, U. of Mass. Amherst (2009). *Green Prosperity: How Clean-Energy Policies Can Fight Poverty and Raise Living Standards in the United States*. Retrieved from: http://docs.nrdc.org/globalWarming/glo_09062504.asp

³ Yale Project on Climate Change and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication.

⁴ Due to the relatively small sample sizes of minority groups in the 2010 survey, the results should be interpreted with caution as the margin of error for each minority group ranges from +/- 9 to 12%.

⁵ Massachusetts v. EPA, 549 U.S. 497 (2007).