

## Study on People's Attitudes towards Climate Change Summary of Key Findings

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1. In July 2019, Civic Exchange commissioned the Hong Kong Public Opinion Program (HKPOP) under the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (HKPORI) to conduct this survey on climate change. It was conducted from **16 to 28 August with 1,011 successful cases**. Also, to supplement the survey findings, **4 focus groups** were carried out in late October to collect some in-depth and elaborative views from a total of **38 participants**.
2. Key findings from the telephone survey include:
  - 71% were most concerned with **rising temperatures** and 66% with more extreme weather as negative effects of climate change.
  - 84% believed the climate change **impacts would be big to their children and grandchildren**.
  - 84% claimed they **practiced energy saving very often in the past year** to reduce carbon emission, while 79% **used more public transportation**. Reducing the number of overseas trips was the least commonly adopted measure, only 28% did it last year.
  - Over 2/3 were **motivated by leading to a more sustainable life and better health / less disease** for adopting a low carbon living.
  - 79% thought the **Government should bear the biggest responsibilities** in tackling climate change while 69% said citizens should also share the responsibilities.
  - 55% **disagreed that HK government has implemented sufficient policies** on carbon emissions reduction.
  - 71% thought that **Government reserves should fund climate change mitigation and adaptation measure**, and 69% said there should be 'polluter pays' tax income to fund the measures.
  - 74% were **willing to pay more for an increase in renewable energy**. On average, they were willing to pay 19% more.
  - 60% had **heard of the Paris Agreement** prior to the survey.
  - 62% would search for information about climate change through **traditional news media** while 57% would go for **online channels**.

3. Focus group results echo largely with those of telephone survey, and serve as good references:
- **Rising temperatures, no distinctive seasons, more extreme weather, stronger typhoons and higher rainfall levels** are noticeable changes in climate.
  - Major concerns include becoming **more susceptible to illnesses, the general health condition of future generations** as well as rising sea-level, affected the ecosystem / food supply and endangered survival of some species as well as human beings.
  - Commit to try to adopt a low carbon living; however, most participants **feel helpless and powerless** as they think individual effort is very limited.
  - **Energy saving** is most commonly practiced, then commuting by **public transportation**, also **water conservation, dine-in** more instead of take-away, and eating more vegetables but **less meat**.
  - **It is everybody's responsibility** in tackling climate change but **government should bear the biggest responsibilities** – to lead, to educate, to make and review policies, to provide incentives to citizens & corporates, and to monitor the business sector.
  - Fully support and willing to pay more **“polluter pays” tax**; also **willing to pay higher electricity charges** for more renewable energy; yet need a **pledge from government** to ensure the money would only be used on renewable energy.
  - Most believe the government **has not implemented sufficient polices** on carbon emission reduction while some are **outdated**, e.g. the 3-colored waste separation bins.
  - Looking ahead, participants suggest the government to 1) **strengthen the enactment** and review the policies regularly, 2) **publicize its long-term planning** and goals; increase transparency in updating the progress made as part of publicity, 3) pay persistent efforts to promote public awareness; **incorporate climate change & related topics into the regular curriculum of schools**, 4) **subsidize green enterprises**; introduce green tax and green bonds, and 5) **take the lead** in adopting low carbon life.
  - Make full and better use of **social media**, like Facebook & Instagram, in future; adopting the term **“climate crisis”** to help reflect the escalating urgency of the issue and to serve as a wake-up call to the public.