

Climate Policy & Strategy: United Kingdom Tracking survey, October 2022



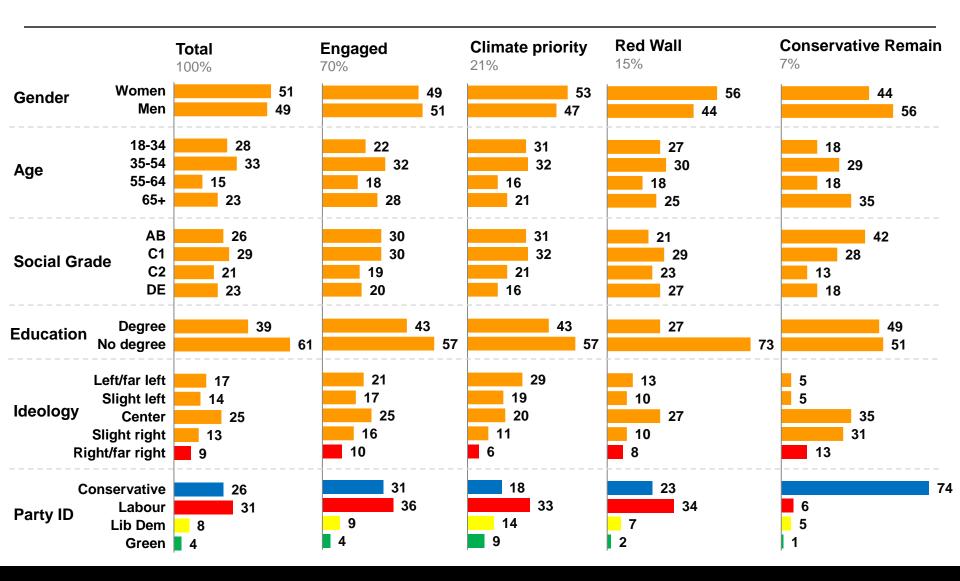
What this is based on

Our poll

- N=2,030 nationally representative survey of Great Britain
- Fieldwork: October 13-21, 2022
- Online, 20-minute questionnaire
- Weighted to national statistics on gender, age, region, education, social grade, ethnicity and past voting behaviour
- Current vote intention among likely voters:
 - Labour 46%, Conservative 26%, Lib Dems 9%, SNP 4%, Greens 3%, Reform 3%

Target groups	
Group	Definition
Total	All respondents – represents national 18+ population of Great Britain
Engaged	Those very likely to vote in elections (8-10/10)
Climate priority	Chose climate as a top priority for government
Red Wall	Lives in the Midlands or North of England, in a town or rural area, and identifies as working class
Conservative Remain	Voted Conservative in the 2019 General Election, voted Remain in the EU Referendum

Profile of target groups



What you need to know

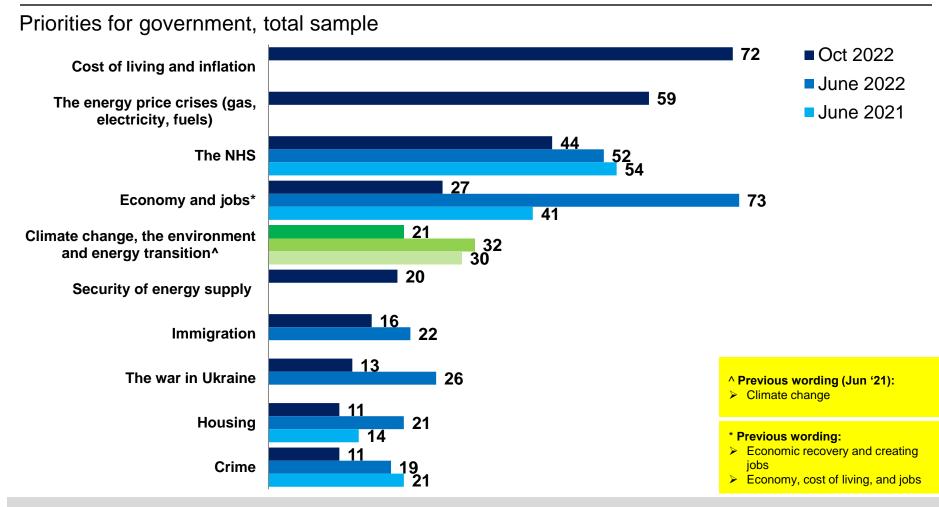
- >>> The cost of energy and struggle for households to keep up with rising prices continues to dominate issues in Britain. Climate change drops in priority for the public, including voters of all three major parties, but remains a major concern ahead of immigration and crime.
- >>> Although half are concerned about heating their home this winter, and they strongly prioritise government reducing their energy bills rather than carbon emissions, they do not pull back from the energy transition. Instead they want to double down on a shift to renewables.
- >>> The public don't see climate and energy as a zero-sum game. Instead they think renewable energy is the way out of the crisis. Every group still thinks climate requires major action. No group blames the green transition for higher energy prices. All groups think the Russia-Ukraine invasion underlines the need for renewables.
- >>> The public are in favour of an active industrial policy driving the shift to low carbon economy. They think the government should support the low-carbon tech sector, and that energy companies should invest current excess profits in the transition to green.
- >>> The most favored sources of energy to replace what came from Russia are renewables, although a majority are also in favor of using more North Sea oil and gas. They are open to nuclear, and would see it as a sustainable investment.

What you need to know (2)

- >>> Trust in the government and approval of its actions on the economy and on climate and energy are all very low. People are generally positive about the government's energy bill support package, although they need to see the details for strong majorities to feel favorable. Proposals from government or opposition to implement a windfall tax and to freeze energy bills are popular.
- >>> Labour leads by 20 (46-26%) among likely voters. Its top policy is a freeze on energy bills funded by a windfall tax; its second-strongest policy is setting up Great British Energy. All targets, including Conservative Remainers, support a state-owned power company.
- >>> The strongest opposition message overall is on Conservative tax cuts for the rich, but Labour's promotion of Great British Energy is its best message for both the Red Wall and Conservative Remainers.
- >>> The government's strongest message is on achieving energy security through domestic oil and gas production, renewables and nuclear. Its (now defunct) ideological growth messages perform poorly.
- >>> From an extremely low base, the government's messages and policies achieve a very slight uplift in ratings, but leave it still far behind in approval.

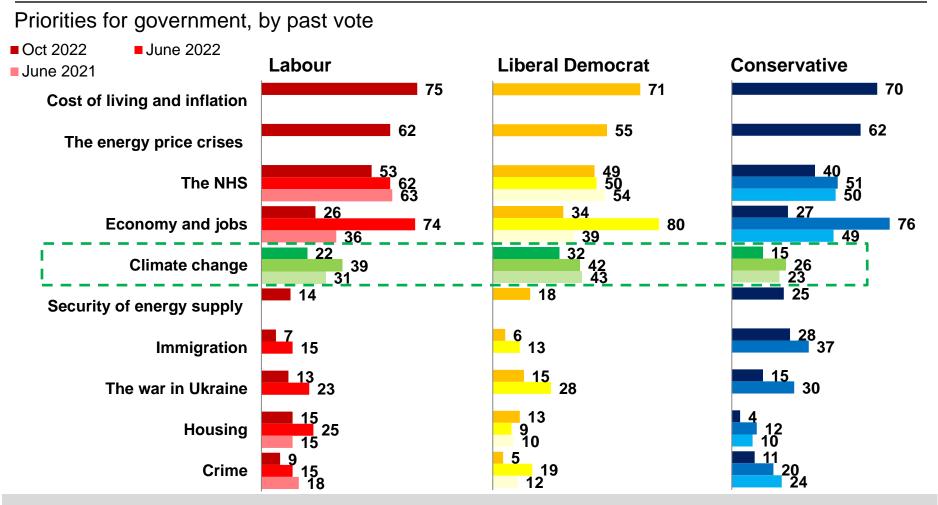
Climate Context

Climate behind cost of living, energy prices and the NHS, but bigger priority than immigration, housing or crime



What are the THREE issues you think should be the top priorities for government?

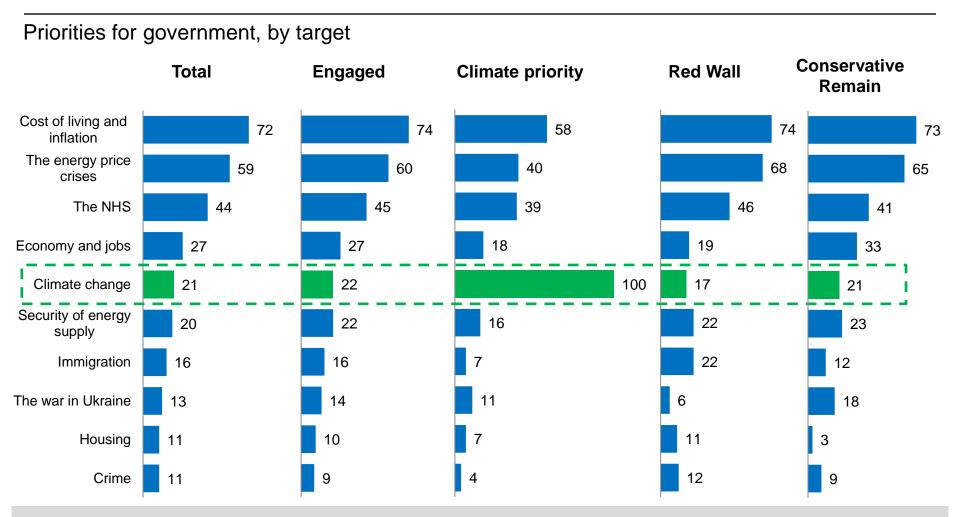
Voters of all parties prioritise cost of living, energy prices and NHS; climate most significant for Lib Dem and Labour



What are the THREE issues you think should be the top priorities for government?

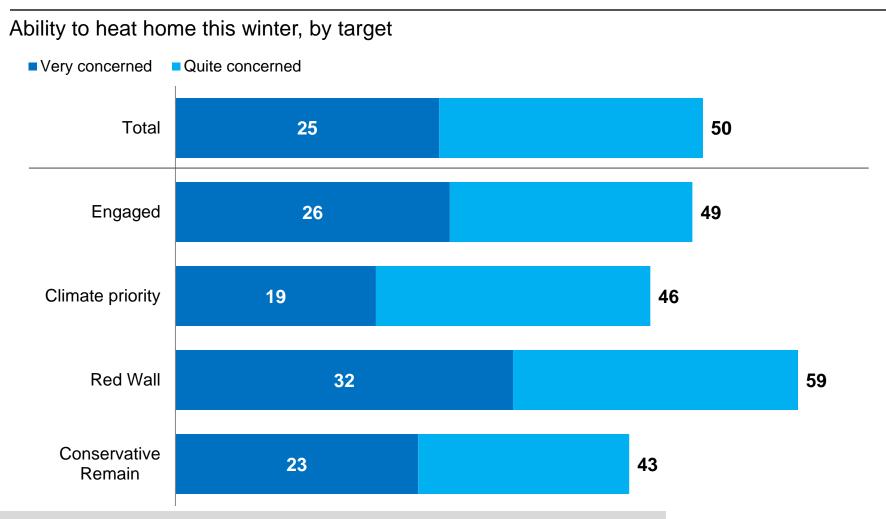
2019 vote: Labour, n=473; Liberal Democrat, n=169; Conservative, n=640;

Similar picture across target groups, but clearly Conservative Remain put higher priority on climate than other Con voters



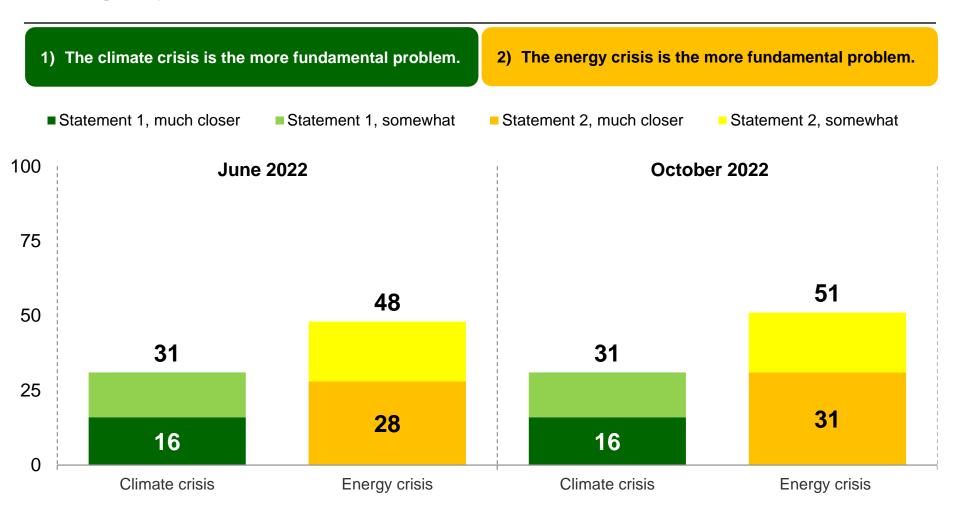
What are the THREE issues you think should be the top priorities for government?

A majority of Britons worry about their ability to heat their home this winter, much higher in Red Wall



How concerned are you about your family's ability to heat your home this coming winter?

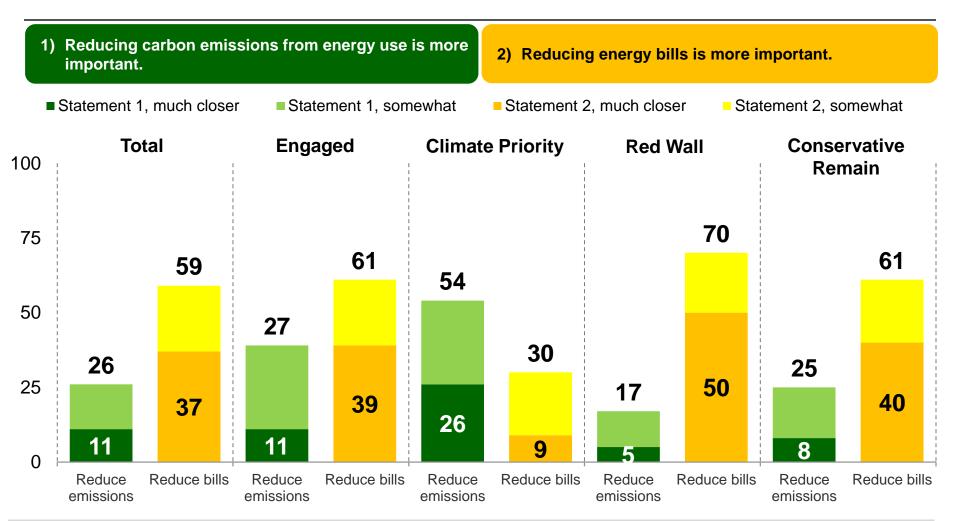
View that this is fundamentally an energy crisis has slightly intensified



On the following pages are some pairs of statements. For each, please indicate whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

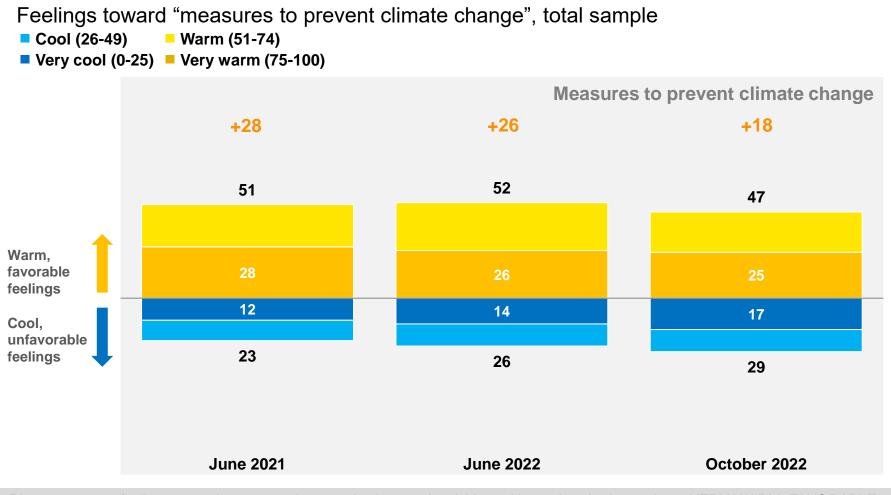
Total, n=2,030

All groups except Climate Priority want a priority on reducing bills over reducing emissions, including 70% of Red Wall voters



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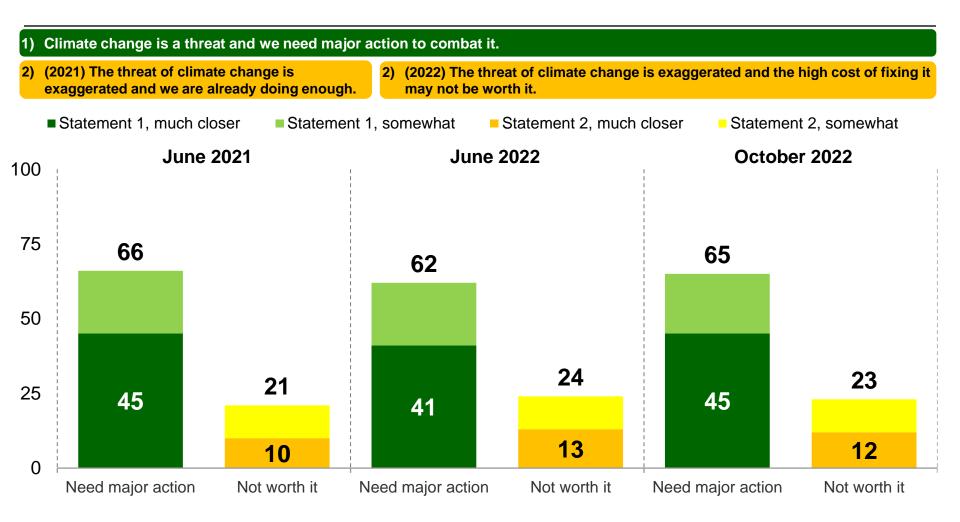
But, public still has clearly positive view of measures to prevent climate change, if slightly down since June



Please rate your feelings toward some people, organisations and activities, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

Total, n=2,030; items shown to ½-sample splits

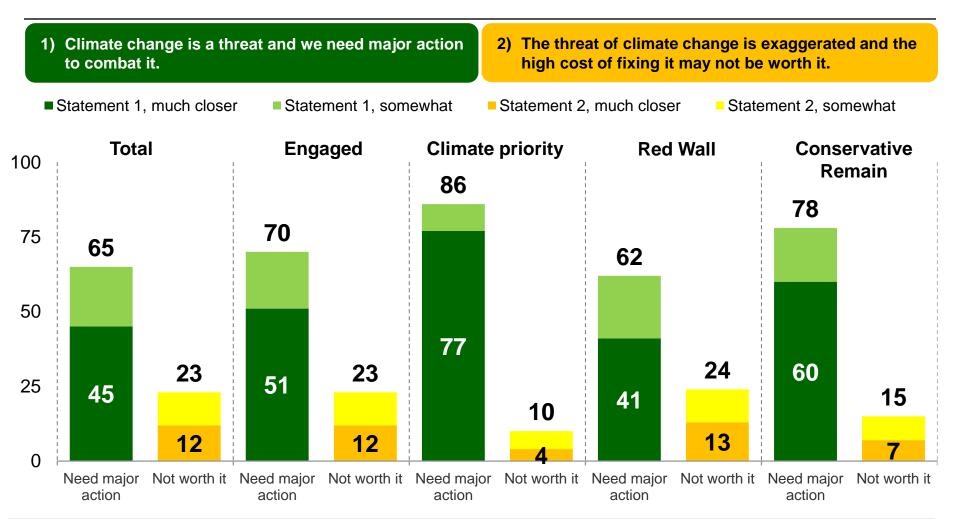
Consistent strong majority of the public say we need major action on climate, despite the high cost



On the following pages are some pairs of statements. For each, please indicate whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

Total, n=2,030

All targets strongly endorse major action on climate — especially high for Conservative remain

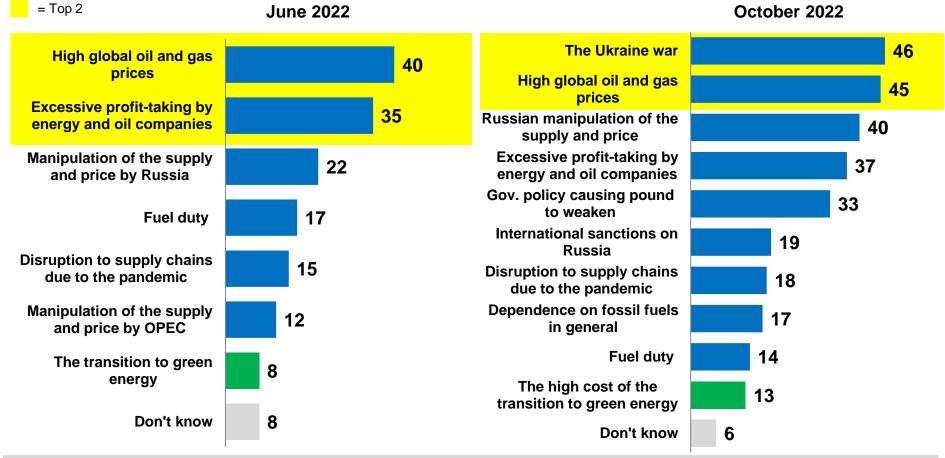


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Climate and energy policy

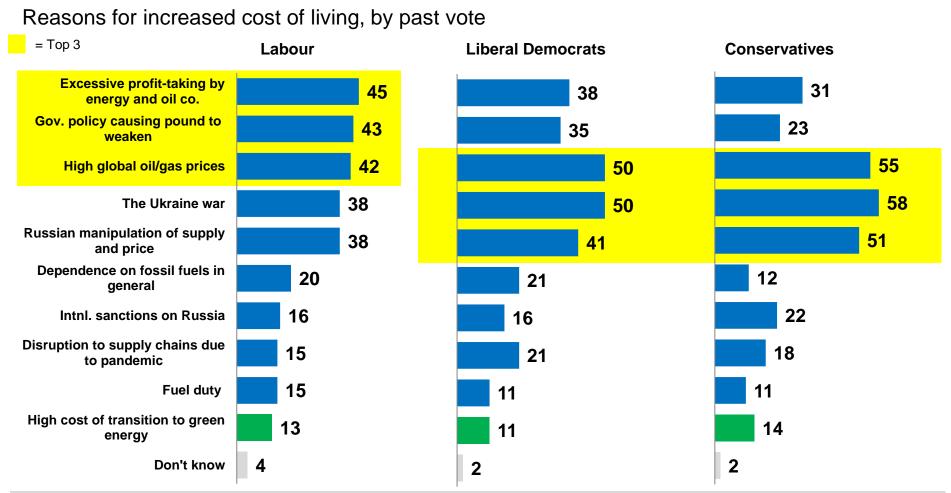
Britons blame inflation on the war and high oil and gas prices, as well as Russian manipulation & excess profits, not climate measures





You may have noticed increased prices recently, particularly for energy and food. Why do you think energy prices are high today? Please select the THREE most important reasons from the list below.

Conservative voters consistent with Labour and Liberal Democrats in not blaming green transition for energy costs



You may have noticed increased prices recently, particularly for energy and food. Why do you think energy prices are high today? Please select the THREE most important reasons from the list below.

2019 vote: Labour, n=473; Conservative, n=640; Liberal Democrat, n=169

To bring down prices, public favour government speeding the green transition, with some support for boosting production

Measures affecting energy prices, total sample

Oct-22

The government should speed up the transition to low-carbon and renewable energy, to keep prices low for consumers

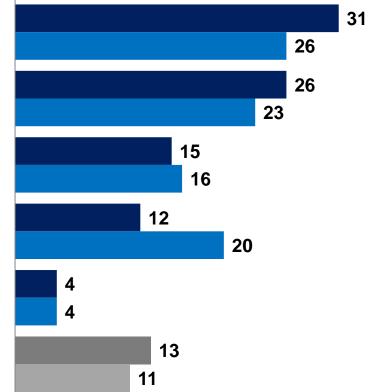
The government should encourage more energy production, to keep prices low for consumers

The government should limit energy exports to prevent prices rising too much in Britain

The government should reduce taxes on energy suppliers, to keep prices low for consumers

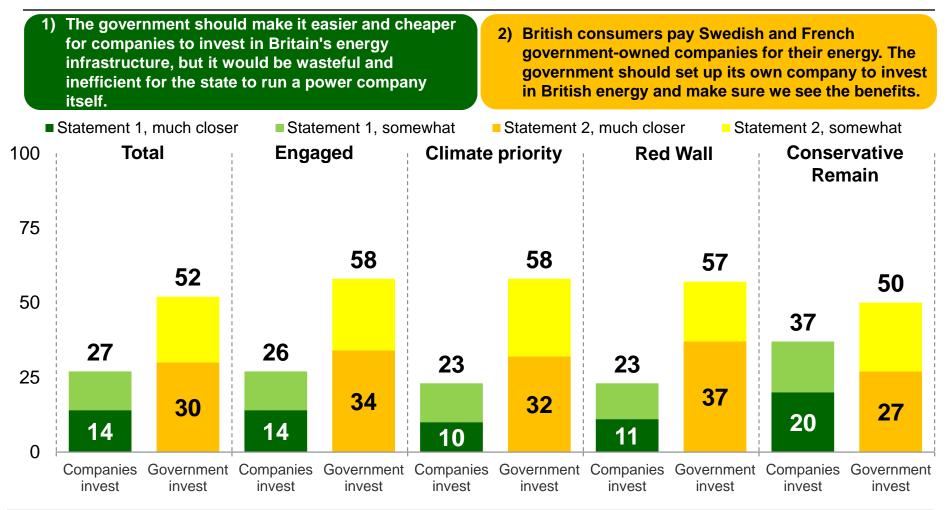
The government should NOT be trying to control the price of energy

Don't know



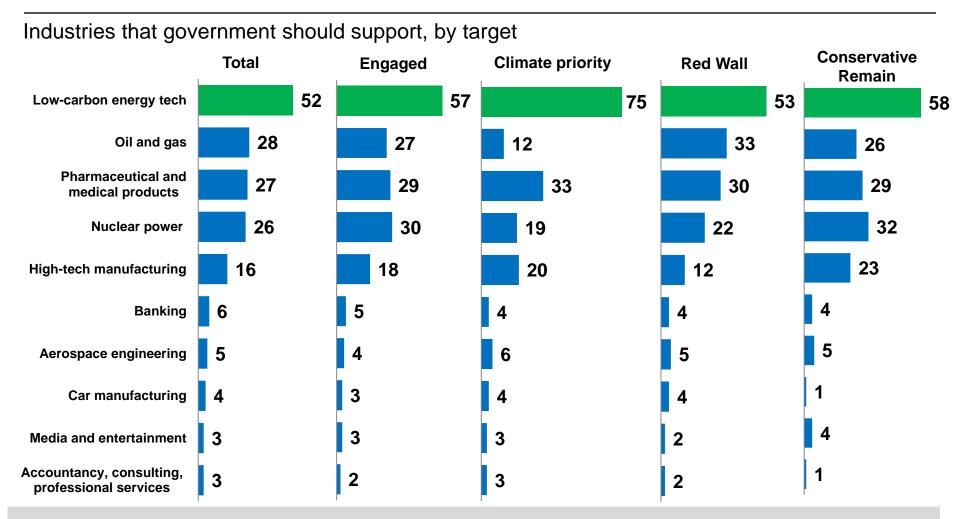
The government may take measures to affect energy prices for consumers. Which of the following statements is closest to YOUR view?

All groups including Conservative Remainers endorse the idea of setting up a state-owned power company



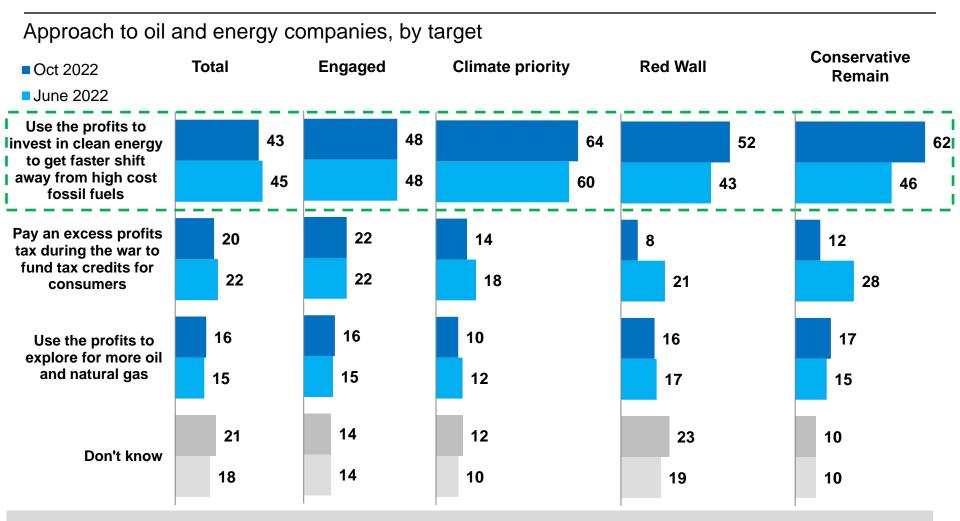
On the following pages are some pairs of statements. For each, please indicate whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

Low-carbon energy remains top sector for government to support across all target groups



Which TWO of these industries would you MOST want the government to support and champion?

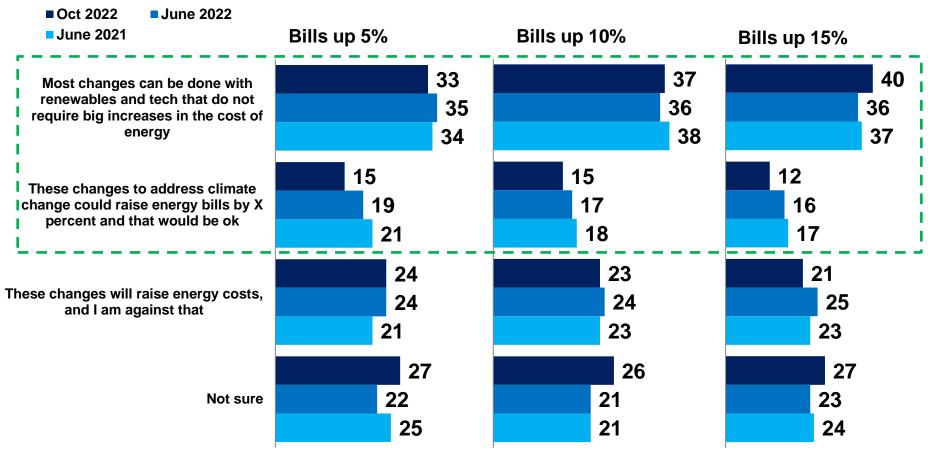
Strong appetite for current energy profits to go toward investment in clean energy, across all target groups



Which ONE is the right approach to oil and energy companies during the energy crisis?

Opposition to climate measures on grounds of cost has not increased; plurality or majority expects no change, or would accept higher bill

Sensitivity to the cost of an energy transition, by how much bills would rise



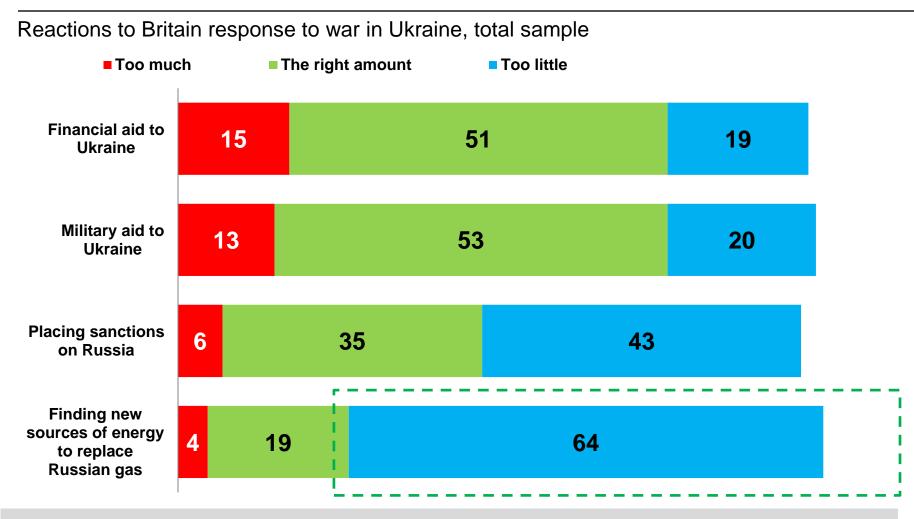
Which ONE of the following is true about the cost of these proposals to address climate change?

Total, n=2,030; each potential rise in bills shown to 1/3-sample splits

Ukraine war and end of Russian energy



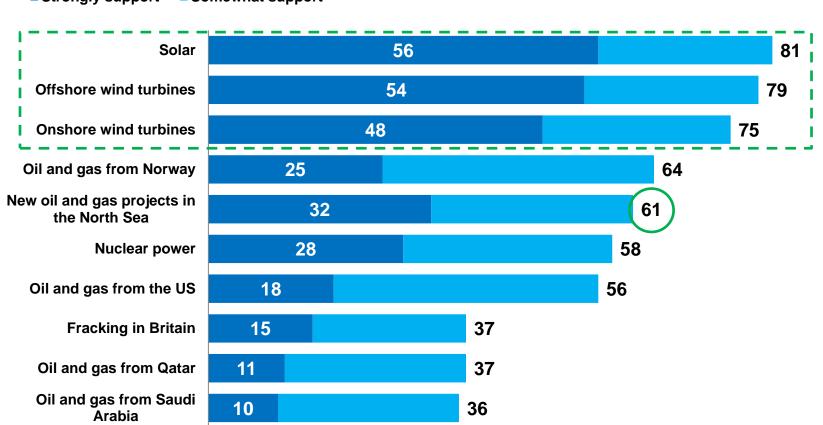
Two in three feel government has done too little to find energy sources to replace Russian gas



Do you think the British government has done too much, too little, or about the right amount on each of the following?

Total, n=2,030

Britons strongly favor renewables as replacement for Russian oil and gas, but North Sea also has majority support



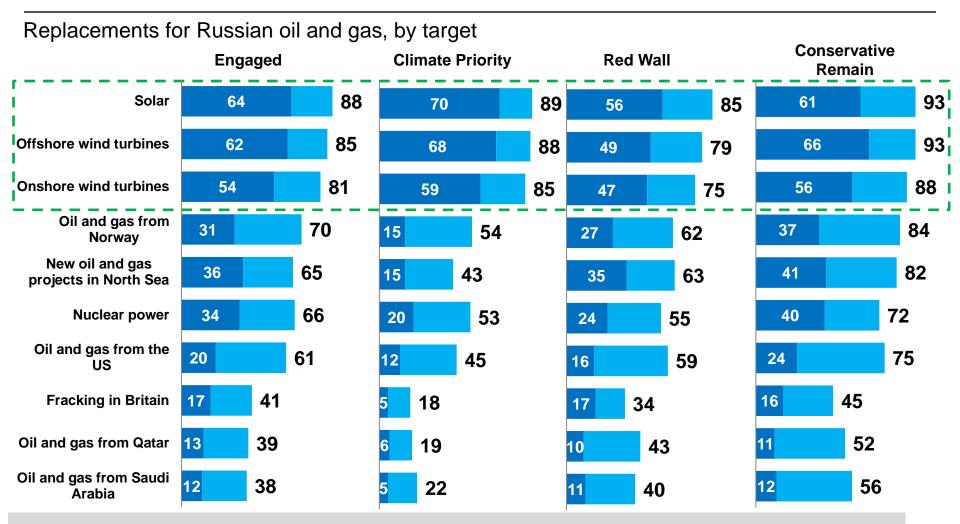
Replacements for Russian oil and gas, total sample

Strongly support Somewhat support

Do you support or oppose using energy from each of the following to replace Russian oil and gas?

Total, n=2,030

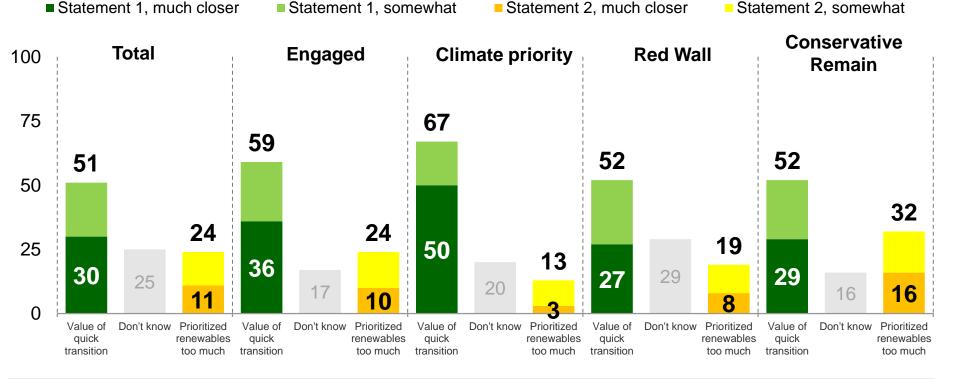
All targets favor renewable energy sources to replace Russian fuels



Do you support or oppose using energy from each of the following to replace Russian oil and gas?

Every group takes a clear view that the Russia-Ukraine crisis shows the value of transitioning to clean energy

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine will mean western democracies working to get energy security and independence from Russia. It also showed the value of transitioning as quickly as possible to clean, renewable energy.
 - P) The Russian invasion of Ukraine will mean the western democracies working together to get energy security and independence from Russia. It also showed we prioritized renewable energy too much.

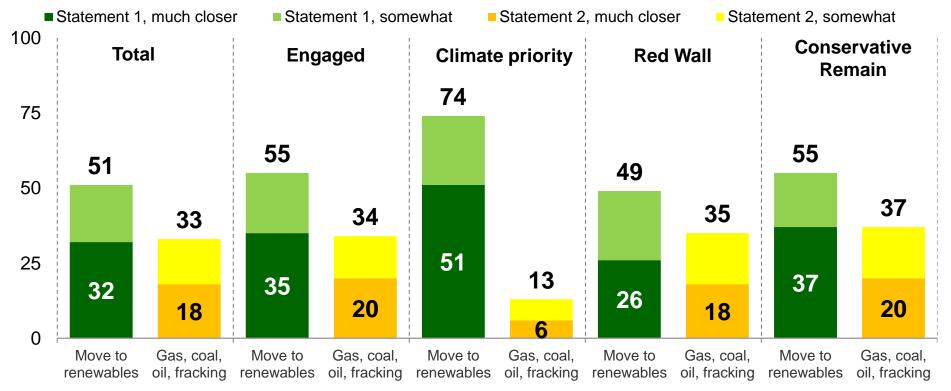


On the following pages are some pairs of statements. For each, please indicate whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

Shown to ½-sample splits: Total, n=1,015; Engaged, n=705; Climate priority, n=212; Red Wall, n=153; Conservative Remain, n=76

If fracking is part of the domestic mix, all groups prefer a straight switch from Russian energy to renewables

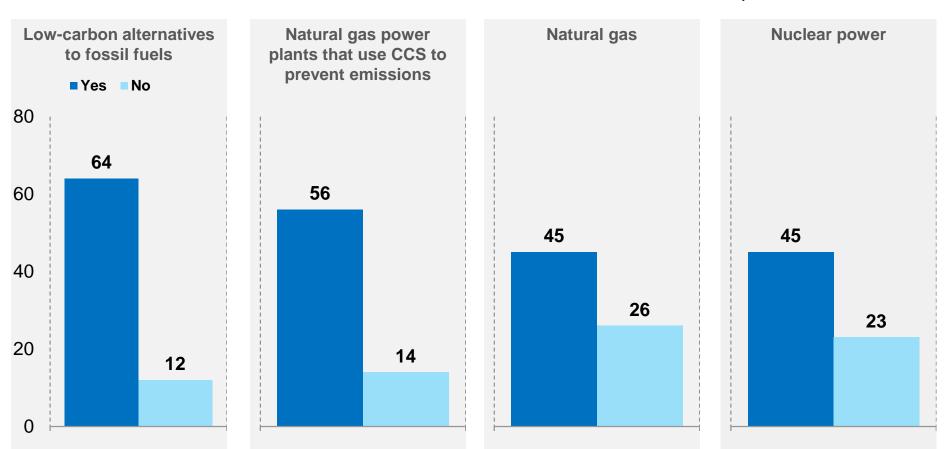
- 1) With our stopping energy imports from Russia, we should increase efforts to move quickly to renewable power that addresses climate change and doesn't have to be imported from unstable countries.
- 2) With our stopping energy imports from Russia, we should exploit our domestic natural gas, coal and nuclear energy resources, including fracking where there is local consent, as well as renewables to achieve energy security.



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Britons are open to nuclear power and natural gas as sustainable investments



What should be included in definition of "sustainable investments", total sample

Do you think that investments in the following types of power generation should be considered "sustainable investments" by the government?

Total, n=2,030

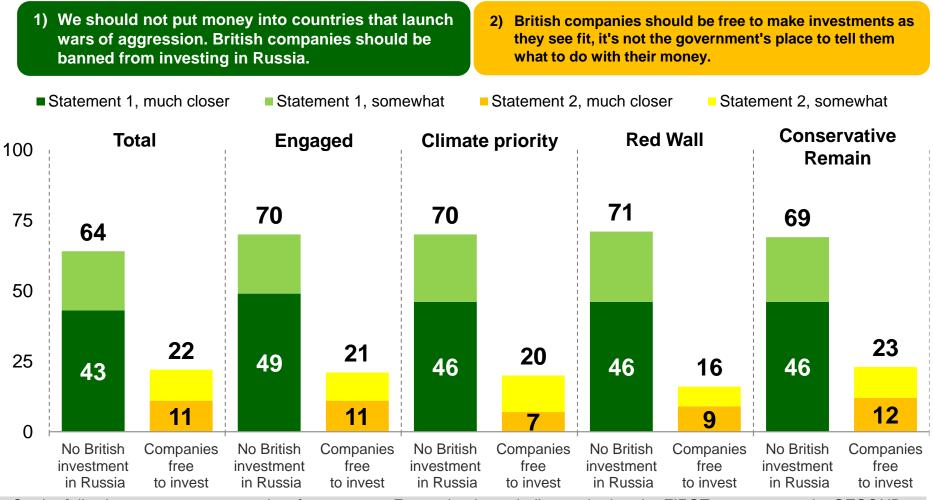
Majorities support increased LNG imports and North Sea oil and gas exploration, low appetite for fracking

Support for government response to war in Ukraine, total sample

Strongly support Support Somewhat



All groups united in opposition to British investment in Russia



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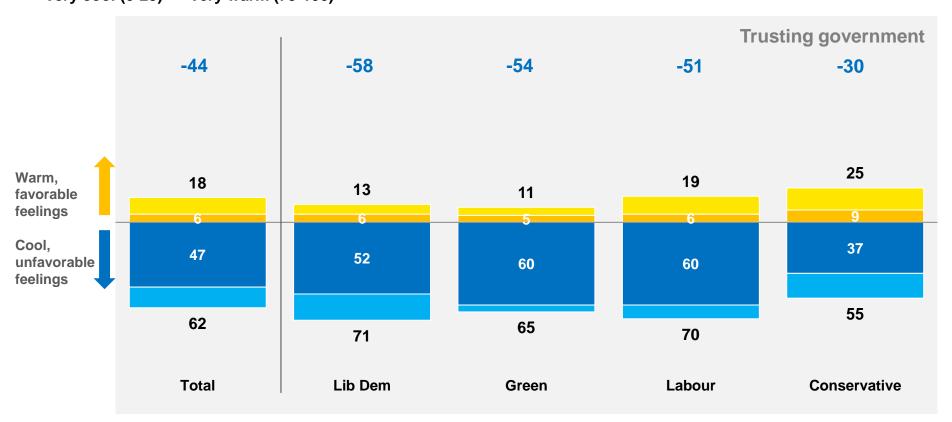
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Government climate policies

Very few feel positive about trusting government, with even Conservative voters split 25-55 against



- Cool (26-49)
 Warm (51-74)
- Very cool (0-25) Very warm (75-100)

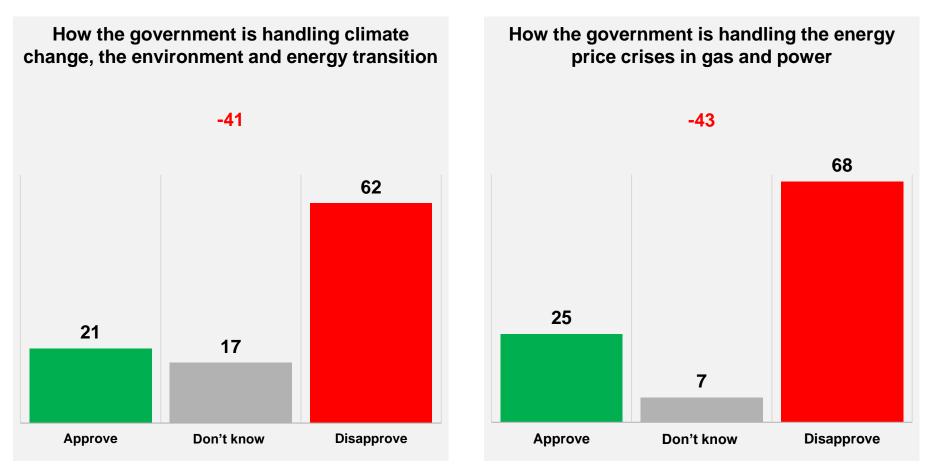


Please rate your feelings toward some people, organisations and activities, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

Total, n=2,030; 2019 vote: Labour, n=473; Conservative, n=640; Liberal Democrats, n=169; Green, n=39

Very low approval of government on climate and energy price crises

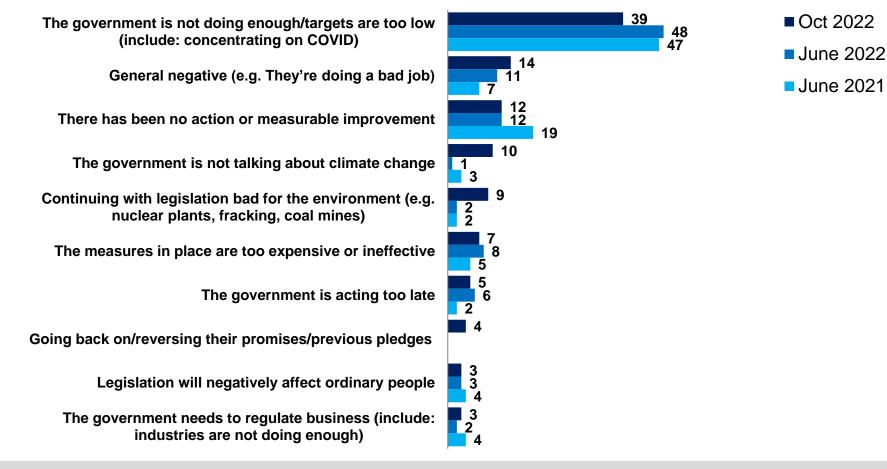
Approval of government on climate and energy, total sample



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Liz Truss is handling her job as Prime Minister/the following issues facing the country?

Top criticism of government climate handling is still not doing enough/ambitious enough

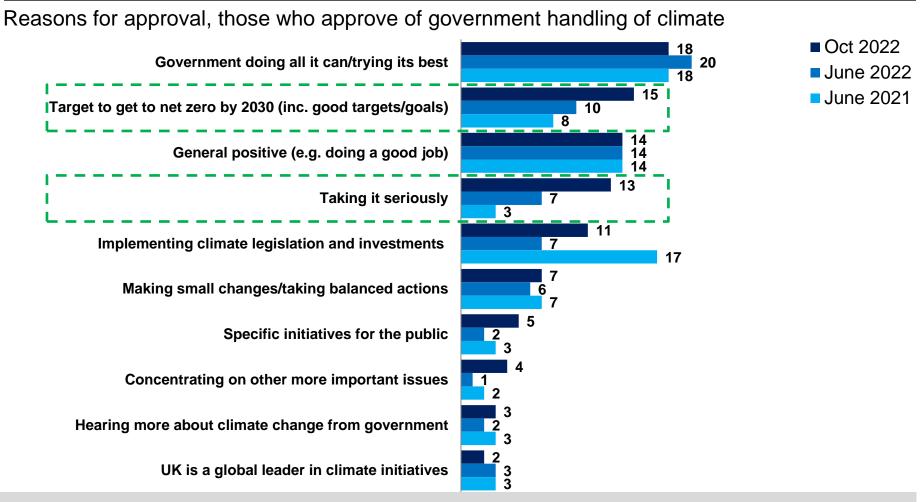
Reasons for disapproval, those who disapprove of government handling of climate



Why do you disapprove of how the government is addressing climate change, the environment and energy transition?

Total sample, n=1,537

Among small group who approve, increased awareness of targets/goals for climate, and view that it's being taken seriously



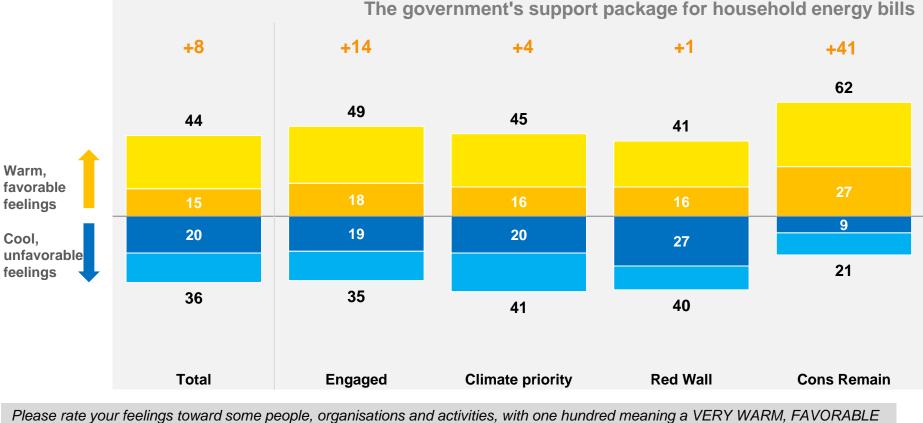
Why do you approve of how the government is addressing climate change, the environment and energy transition?

Total sample, n=431

Most targets slightly warm to government's bills support package – and Conservative Remain voters are very favorable

Feelings toward government support package on household energy, by target

- Cool (26-49) Warm (51-74)
- Very cool (0-25) Very warm (75-100)



feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

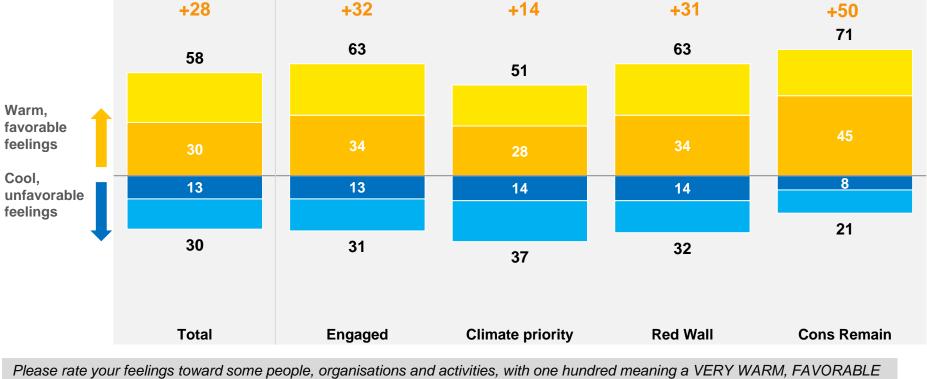
Items shown to ½-sample splits:Total, n=1,015; Engaged, n=705; Climate priority, n=212; Red Wall, n=153; Conservative Remain, n=76

Giving people detail about the energy support package boosts favorability, leading to big majorities across groups

Feelings toward government support package on household energy, by target

- Cool (26-49) Warm (51-74)
- Very cool (0-25) Very warm (75-100)

The government's support package for household energy bills: £400 given to each household, and a cap on the unit price of electricity so a typical household pays no more than £2,500 a year

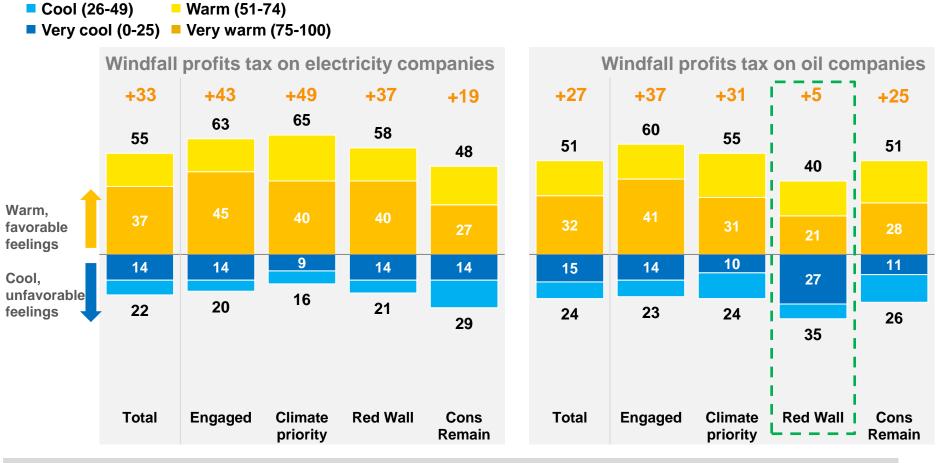


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Windfall taxes, especially on electricity companies, very popular – but Red Wall voters are lukewarm on taxing oil companies

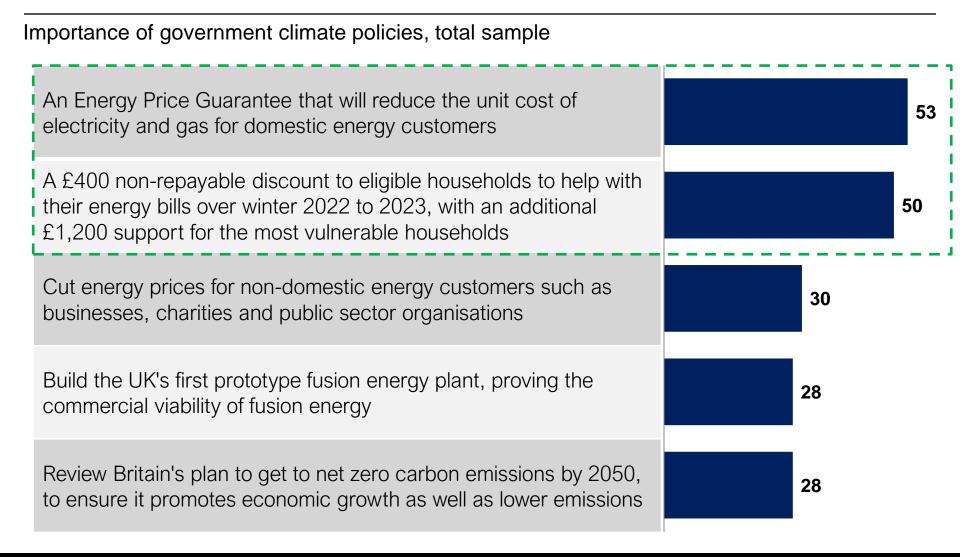
Feelings toward windfall taxes, by target



Please rate your feelings toward some people, organisations and activities, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

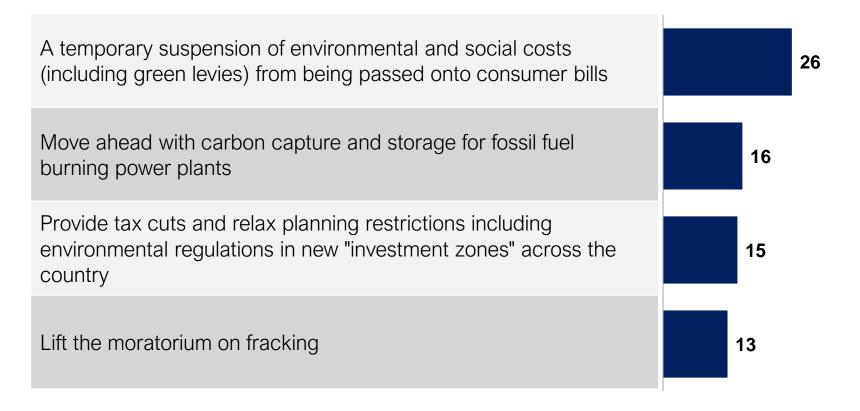
Items shown to ½-sample splits:Total, n=1,015; Engaged, n=705; Climate priority, n=212; Red Wall, n=153; Conservative Remain, n=76

Most important government policies reduce costs for households: Energy Price Guarantee and £400 energy bill discount

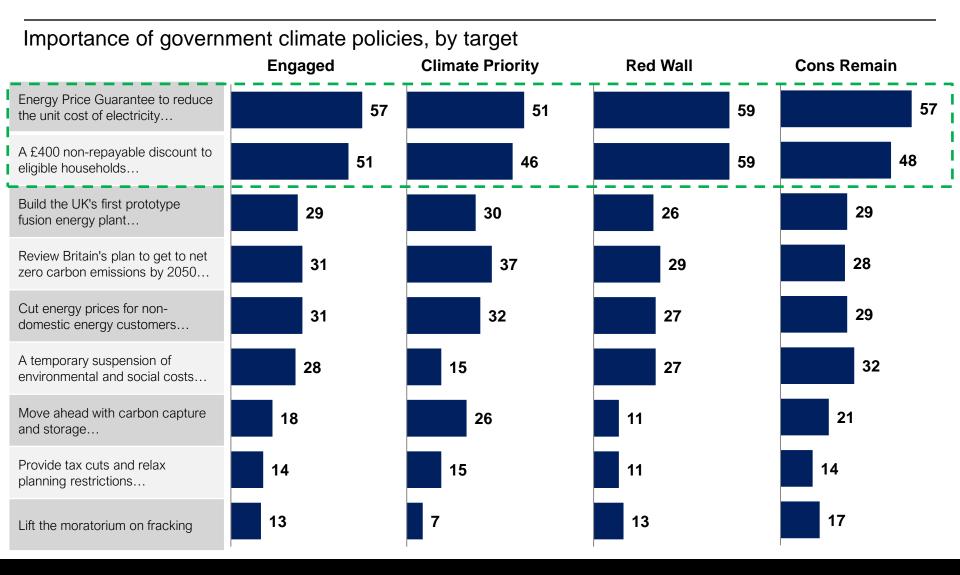


Lifting moratorium on fracking is government's least popular policy, along with CCS and "investment zones"

Importance of government climate policies, total sample

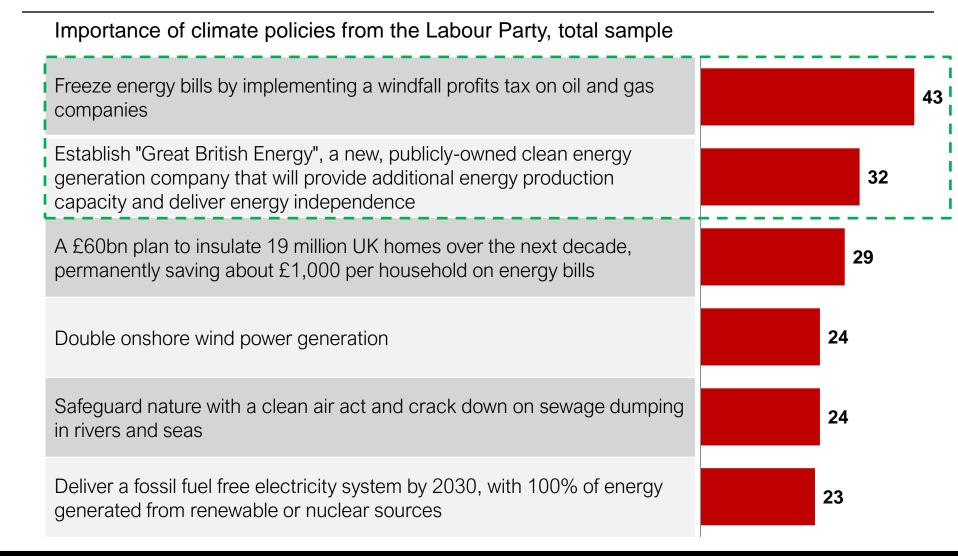


All targets are enthusiastic about the Energy Price Guarantee and £400 energy bill discount



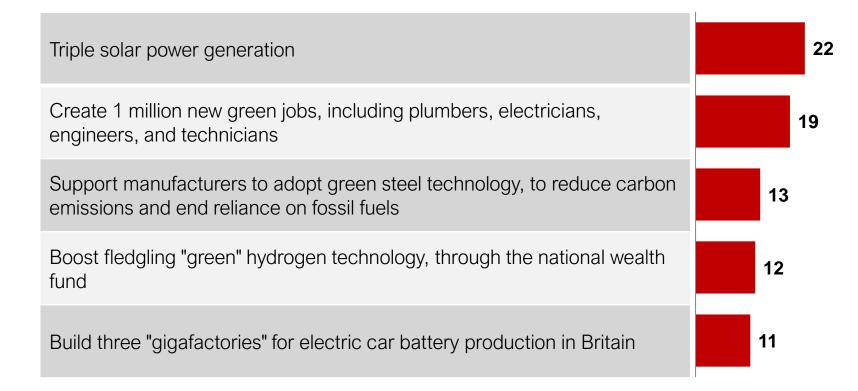
Total, n=2,030; Engaged, n=1,411; Climate priority, n=423; Red Wall, n=307; Conservative Remain, n=151

Top Labour policies: freezing energy bills through a windfall tax, and establishment of Great British Energy

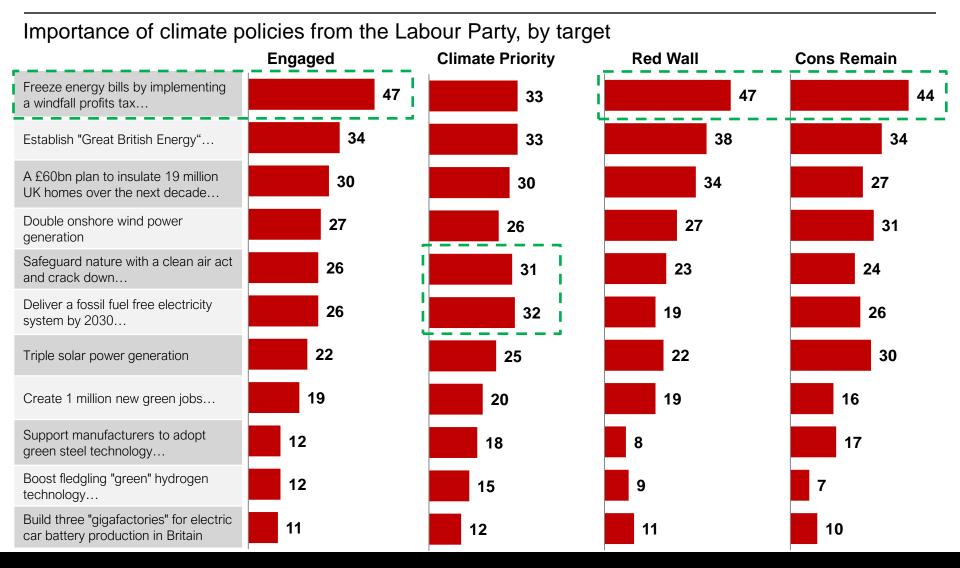


Labour policies gaining least support: green steel tech, green hydrogen and battery factories

Importance of climate policies from the Labour Party, total sample



Freezing energy bills via windfall tax preferred by most targets, but Climate Priority also like clean air act and carbon-free electricity



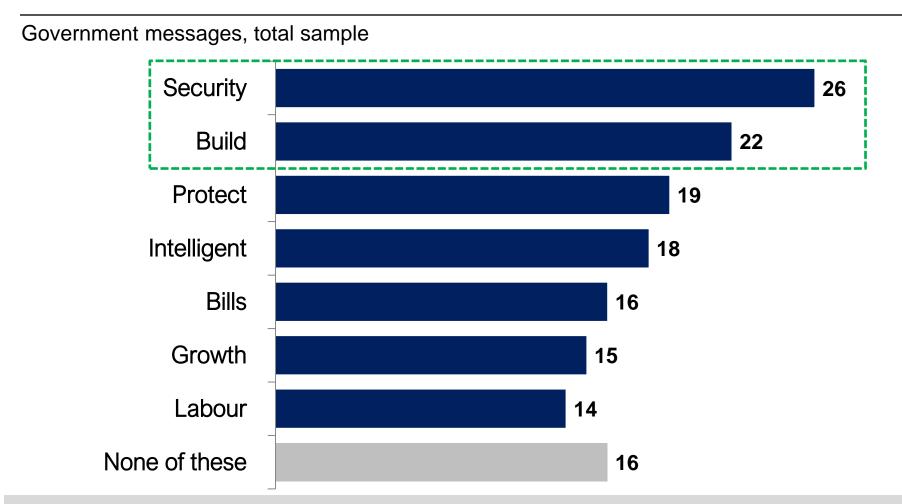
Total, n=2,030; Engaged, n=1,411; Climate priority, n=423; Red Wall, n=307; Conservative Remain, n=151



Political messages from the government: full wording

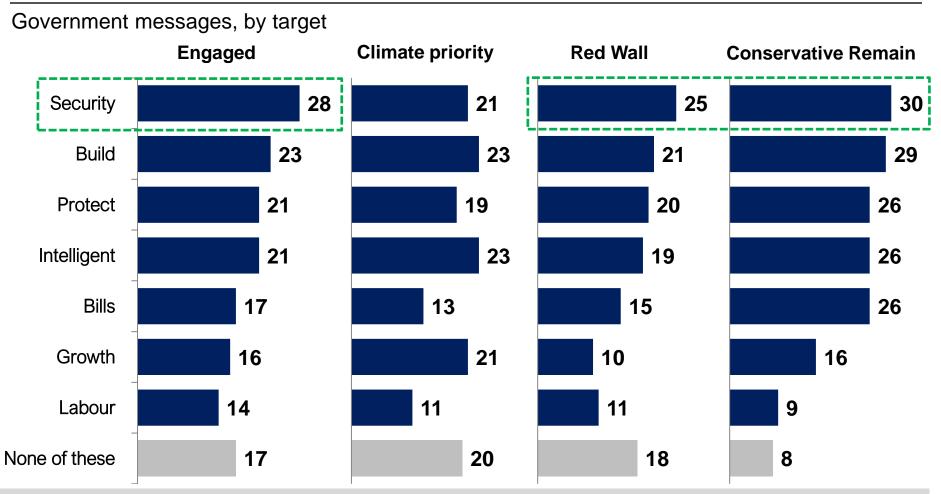
Security	We are facing a global crisis because the West became dependent on authoritarian regimes for cheap energy. So, we are reinforcing our energy security: more gas fields in the North Sea, more renewables and nuclear energy. That is how we will deliver net zero, energy security, and tackle climate change.
Build	The real heroes are those who go to work, take responsibility and aspire to a better life for themselves and their family. We are on their side. We will build roads, rail, energy and broadband quicker. We are proudly pro-growth, pro-aspiration and pro-enterprise. We are focused on boosting opportunity across our country.
Protect	We understand the pressures businesses face with their energy bills, which is why we are supporting them this winter and protecting jobs and livelihoods. As we are doing for consumers, our new scheme will keep their energy bills down from October. At the same time, we are boosting Britain's homegrown energy supply to ensure greater energy security for us all.
Intelligent	We need intelligent greenery not religious zealotry. We are moving ahead with carbon capture and storage, expanding the world's biggest windfarm and developing hydrogen and nuclear. We will also build the UK's first prototype fusion energy plant by 2040, capable of putting energy on the grid, proving the viability of fusion energy to the world.
Bills	When I entered Downing Street, energy bills were predicted to soar above £6,000 a year. Families would have been unable to heat their homes. So, acted to make sure the typical household bill shouldn't be more than £2,500 a year. We are doing more in this country to protect people from the energy crisis than any other country in Europe.
Growth	We are committed to Net Zero by 2050. But the green agenda does not mean poverty. It does not contradict the growth agenda. We will go green in a way that makes the British people better off not worse off, drives growth instead of hindering it, and levels-up, by boosting industries in our regions instead of imposing costs that drive them to the brink of ruin.
Labour	Labour wants more tax on the companies we need to invest in our energy security. In Wales they are cancelling road-building projects. They have no long-term plan or vision for Britain, just tax rises and central controls on industry. They are prepared to leave our towns and cities facing decline.

Standout government message emphasizes energy security through domestic production, renewables and nuclear



Below are some statements from the government supporting its plans on climate change. Which TWO do you find most CONVINCING?

Energy security fairly strong with Engaged, Red Wall and Conservative Remain; Climate Priority don't like much



Below are some statements from the government supporting its plans on climate change. Which TWO do you find most CONVINCING?

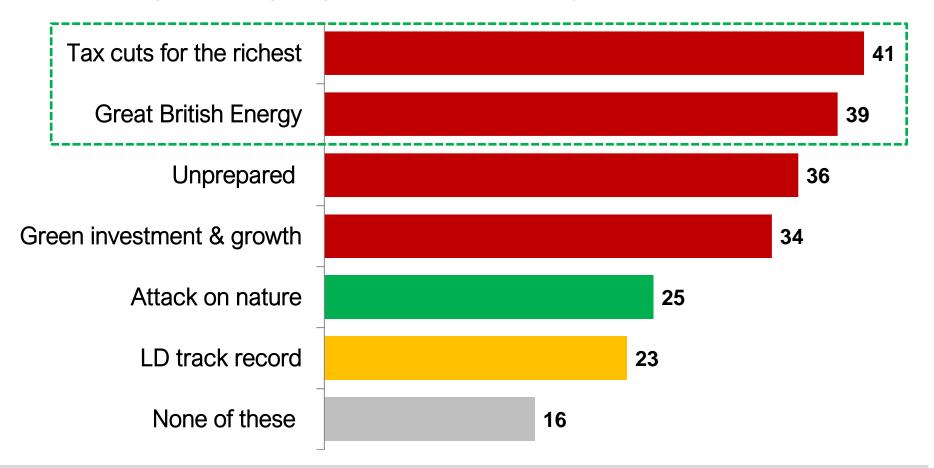
Engaged, n=1,411; Climate priority, n=423; Red Wall, n=307; Conservative Remain, n=151

Political messages opposing the government: full wording

Tax cuts for the richest	Labour says: Tories lost control of the British economy. Not for you, not for working people, for tax cuts for the richest 1% in our society. Trickle-down economics doesn't work. Britain won't be better off just because we make the rich, richer. The Tories aren't prepared to do the hard yards on growth. But we will.
Great British Energy	Labour says: The largest onshore wind farm in Wales is owned by Sweden. Five million Britons pay their bills to an energy company owned by France. A Labour government will set up the Great British Energy company to build a clean energy system for the future, run by British people.
Unprepared	Labour says: We will never accept that the war is an excuse for how unprepared Britain was to tackle the energy fallout. The war didn't ban onshore wind, the war didn't scrap home insulation, the war didn't stall British nuclear energy. The Tories did that.
Green investment & growth	Labour says: Labour will turn the UK into a green growth superpower, producing one hundred percent clean power by 2030. We will make sure that the public money we spend building-up British industry spurs private investment and stimulates growth so the British people can enjoy the returns.
Attack on nature	The Green Party says: The Government has launched an attack on nature. They are scrapping planning rules that protect nature in new investment zones, ripping up environmental protections introduced by the EU, and withdrawing plans to help farmers protect nature. They dismiss essential environmental protections as burdens.
LD track record	The Liberal Democrats say: Liberal Democrats in Government helped homeowners with subsidies on solar panels and offered 0% interest loans, we were on track toward energy independence a decade ago. This was torn up by the Tories who have left our country at the mercy of Putin.

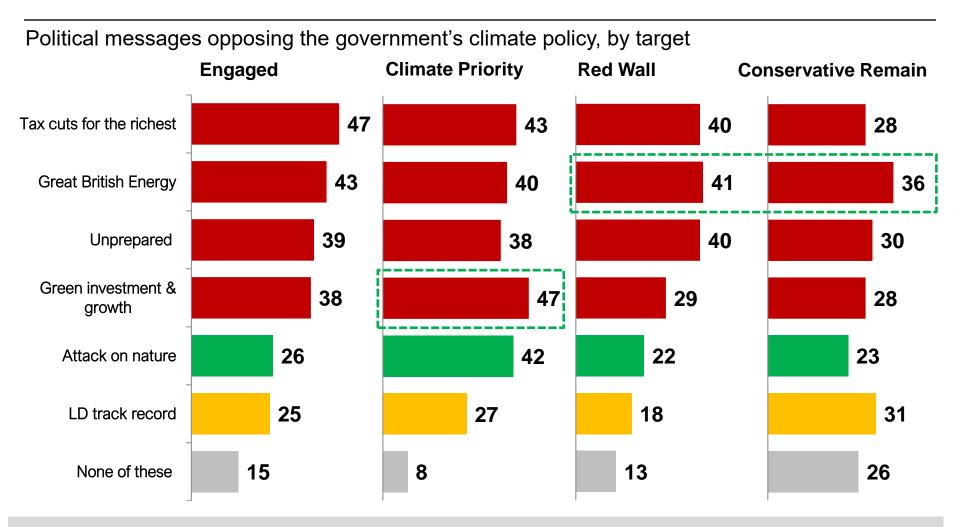
Labour attack on tax cuts for rich people is strongest, but Great British Energy almost as effective

Political messages opposing the government's climate policy, total sample



Below are some statements from the opposition parties about climate change. Which THREE do you AGREE with the most?

Great British Energy message is the best for Red Wall and Conservative Remain targets; Climate Priority like green growth



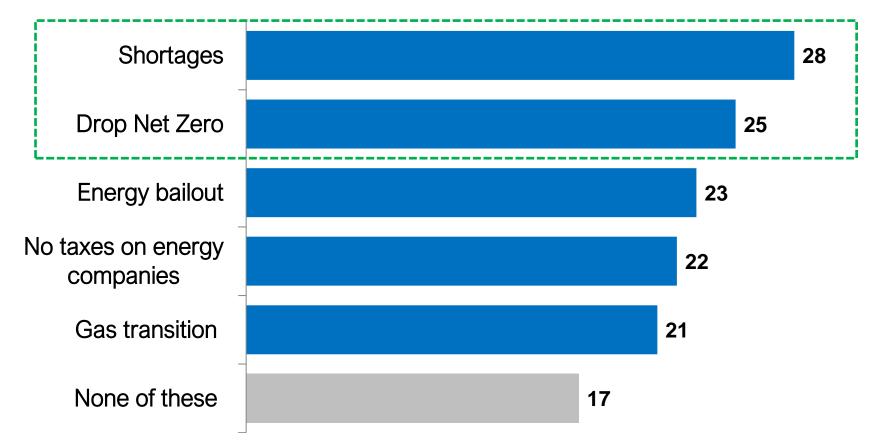
Below are some statements from the opposition parties about climate change. Which THREE do you AGREE with the most?

Climate-sceptical political messages opposing the government: full wording

Shortages	Richard Tice from Reform UK says: Because 32 of 54 nuclear reactors in France are out of action, they are being allowed to import electricity from the UK. We normally import energy from France in the winter, so we are at risk of gas shortages and rationing is inevitable. This is gross negligence by our leaders.
Drop Net Zero	UKIP says: There is no choice but to drop Net Zero. We don't even have the energy to charge electric cars. But the green lobby is deeply embedded in the establishment and it will not let go without a fight to the death.
Energy bailout	Nigel Farage says: The globalists blame the UK financial crisis on tax cuts. The truth is our government's energy bailout is three times bigger than the tax cuts. Despite our massive reserves of oil, gas, and coal, we don't produce our own energy. This mess is because of energy.
No taxes on energy companies	Nigel Farage says: the Prime Minister should commit to no extra taxes on energy companies. We need them to reinvest in the economy to create thousands of jobs. And we need to be self-sufficient in energy by the next election.
Gas transition	Conservative MP Steve Baker says: It's time for a sensible conversation about net zero. The government is committed to net zero in the long term, but renewables are intermittent. They are great when they are available, but they require a lot of subsidies going in. We are going to need gas as a transition fuel.

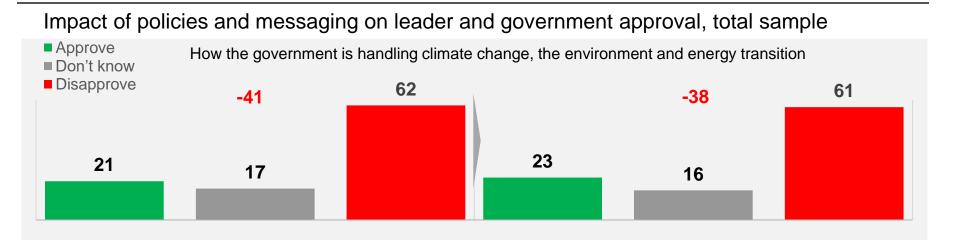
Strongest climate-sceptical messages criticize government negligence and commitment to Net Zero

Climate-skeptical messages opposing government policy, total sample

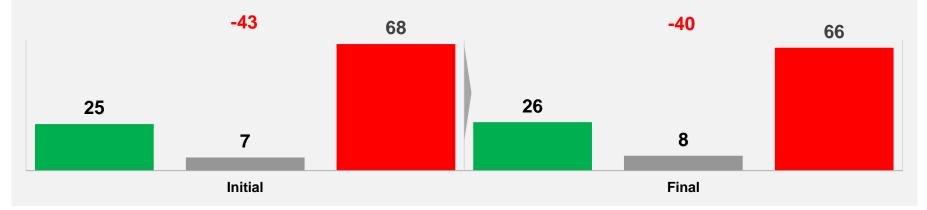


Below are some statements from politicians and organisations opposing the government's plans on climate change. Which TWO make you most WORRIED about these plans?

Messages and policies give minimal boost to government approval on climate and energy price crises



How the government is handling the energy price crises in gas and power



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Liz Truss is handling her job as Prime Minister/the following issues facing the country?



Climate Policy & Strategy: United Kingdom Tracking survey, October 2022

