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CLIMATE CHANGE, WELLBEING, AND CARBON

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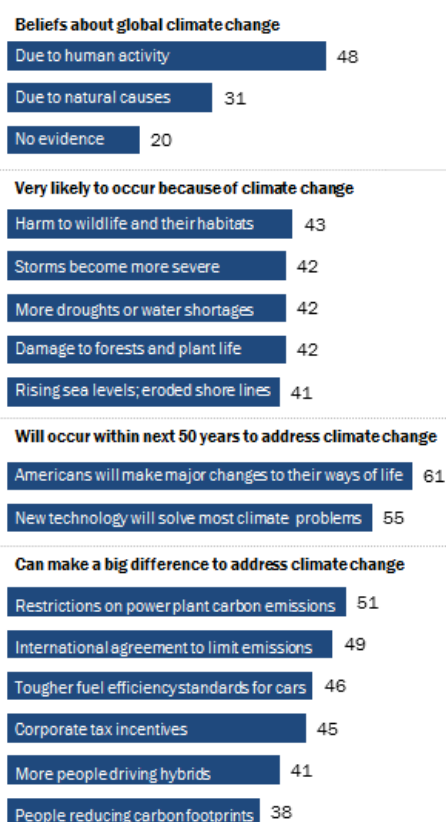
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The Schwartzreport tracks emerging trends that will affect the world, particularly the United States. For EXPLORE it focuses on matters of health in the broadest sense of that term, including medical issues, changes in the biosphere, technology, and policy considerations, all of which will shape our culture and our lives.

According to the Pew Research Center nearly half of American adults say “climate change is due to human activity.” A similar percentage say Earth’s warming is entirely natural or that there is no evidence of warming.¹ It is part of the Great Schism Trend, about which I have written in these pages many times.

Many in U.S. expect negative effects and life changes due to climate change

% of U.S. adults who say the following about global climate change



Note: Beliefs about climate change includes those who “lean” toward each position. Other responses on each question are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 10-June 6, 2016.

“The Politics of Climate”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Belief in climate change very strongly correlates with political beliefs. As Pew says, “On all of these matters there are wide differences along political lines with conservative Republicans much less inclined to anticipate negative effects from climate change or to judge proposed solutions as making much difference in mitigating any effects. Half or more liberal Democrats, by contrast, see negative effects from climate change as very likely and believe an array of policy solutions can make a big difference.”² And that is the way the argument usually plays out.

Donald Trump on 2 November 2012 tweeted: “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.”

On October 19, 2015, he then tweeted: “It’s really cold outside, they are calling it a major freeze, weeks ahead of normal. Man, we could use a big fat dose of global warming!”³

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