

Climate Change Omnibus Survey – Findings

This Omnibus survey was commissioned during June 2010 by EngineeringUK and undertaken by ICM Research in order to provide a UK representative insight into public perceptions on Climate Change. Four key questions were asked as part of the survey and the main key findings for each question are presented below.

Q1 Do you believe that climate change is a major problem?

	Total	Gender %		Age %						
		Male	Female	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Yes	62	59	65	79	69	69	64	61	58	53
No	38	41	35	21	31	31	36	39	42	47

Base: All respondents (2099)

Nearly two (65%) of female respondents believe climate change to be a major problem, compared to over half (59%) of men. There was a clear pattern when looking at perceptions of climate change by age with belief that climate change is a major problem declining as respondents get older.

Q2 Do you believe that engineers have a role to play in tackling climate change?

	Total	Gender %		Age %						
		Male	Female	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Yes	88	92	84	81	84	87	92	88	88	88
No	12	8	16	19	16	13	8	12	12	12

Base: Believe climate change to be a major problem (1307)

There was a high level of belief that engineers had a role in tackling climate change (88%) amongst those who thought climate change was a problem. Men (92%) were more likely to say that engineers had a role to play than women (84%). Those aged 35-44 were the most likely to say that engineers had an important role to play.

Q3 Do you do any of the following to try and help the environment?

	Total	Gender %		Age %						
		Male	Female	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Recycle	94	93	95	93	90	92	94	95	97	95
Minimise energy use	88	85	92	70	83	86	89	89	94	93
Use green transport more	55	51	58	72	57	55	46	58	60	53
Buy greener products	54	48	58	37	46	55	51	58	65	51
Offset carbon	8	7	8	5	12	5	5	12	11	3
None of the above	1	2	*	0	2	1	1	1	0	1

Base: Believe climate change to be a major problem (1307)

The main way that people, who perceive climate change to be a major problem, to try and help the environment is recycle things (94%). Recycling was popular with both men and women and with all age groups with the lowest level of recycling being 90% for those aged 18-24.

Minimising energy use was also very important with nearly 9 out of 10 (88%) of respondents doing it. For women minimising energy use was nearly as popular as recycling. Those least likely to minimise energy use was those aged 16-17 (70%).

Using green transport and buying greener products were both done by over half of respondents (55% and 54% respectively). However in each case women were more likely to do it than men.

Offsetting carbon was only done by 8% of respondents.

Q4 What engineering development of the last 50 years has had the greatest impact on you?

	Total	Gender %		Age %						
		Male	Female	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET: all electrical engineering	16	19	13	18	11	11	14	17	18	23
Computer/PC/laptop	11	15	8	15	7	8	11	11	12	17
NET: all communication engineering	9	12	6	9	9	13	10	1	6	10
Internet/www	7	9	5	3	7	10	9	5	4	7
None have had any impact on me	19	18	19	16	23	20	17	16	22	16
Don't know	43	34	52	52	50	49	49	48	35	30

Base: All respondents (2099)

When asked about engineering developments of the last 50 years which have had the greatest impact on respondents 16% something related to electrical engineering, the largest subgroup of which was computer/PC/laptop on 11%. Those aged 65+ were the most likely to mention anything to do with electrical engineering or the computer/PC/laptop. 9% of respondents mentioned something related to communication engineering.

However overall 52% of respondents either thought no engineering development had had any impact on them or answered don't know. Women were more likely than men not to be able to name an engineering development which has had an impact on their lives, 71%. This contrasts starkly with the fact that there was a high level of belief that engineers had a role in tackling climate change (88%) amongst those who thought climate change was a problem.

Those aged 65+ were the most likely to name an engineering development which has had an impact on their lives with only 46% not being able to name an engineering development.