



Green and Global Britain Pre-COP Media Briefing

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Executive summary

The opportunity for Labour on climate foreign policy

The public are proud of Britain's potential for international leadership and frustrated at our diminished influence -

Climate action is one global issue where Britain is seen as a leader. But the public wants the Government to make this a higher priority.

Starting points for this year's COP

The public consider multilateral efforts like the COP effective.

They want the UK to represent itself as forward-looking, practical and influential and would feel proud if we defended nature and brought fresh ideas.

If the US under a Trump presidency scales back action on climate change, Britons do not want to see UK climate action deterred.

Funding global climate action

There is broad support for helping poorer countries to tackle climate change.

The public sees international spending as a trade-off worth making to mitigate climate change. Revenue source is what most affects support.

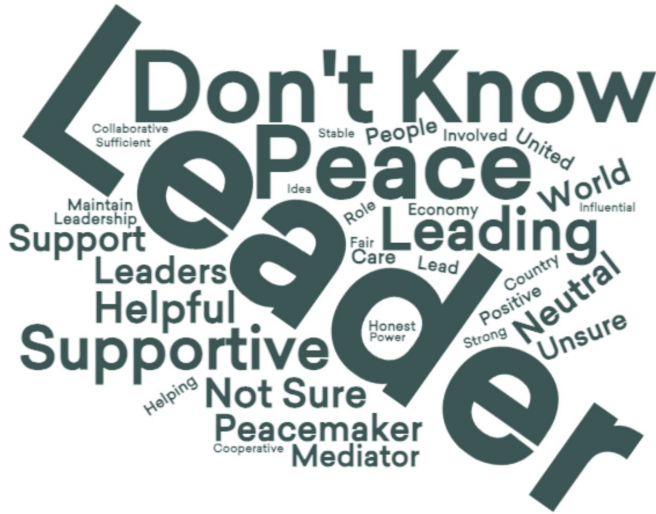


Britons and Climate Foreign Policy

Public expectation for British leadership on the world stage

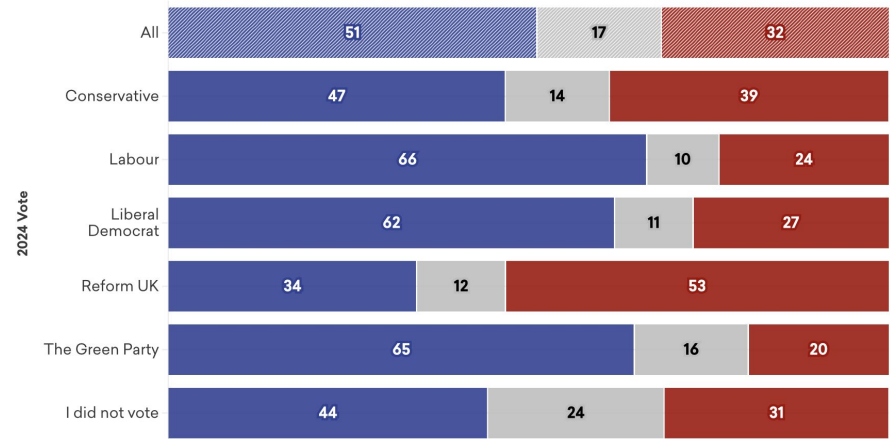
The public are proud of Britain's potential for international leadership - with the role that Britain has played in supporting Ukraine a standout example. But they want to see the Government do more to lead the way on global issues. In focus group conversations it emerged that Britons see our role as 'one of the leading countries' rather than the single 'lead country'.

How do you think the UK is seen by the rest of the world?



Thinking about the UK taking a stance on global issues, which statement comes closer to your view?

- The UK should do more to lead the way on global issues
- Don't know
- The UK should not try to lead the way on global issues



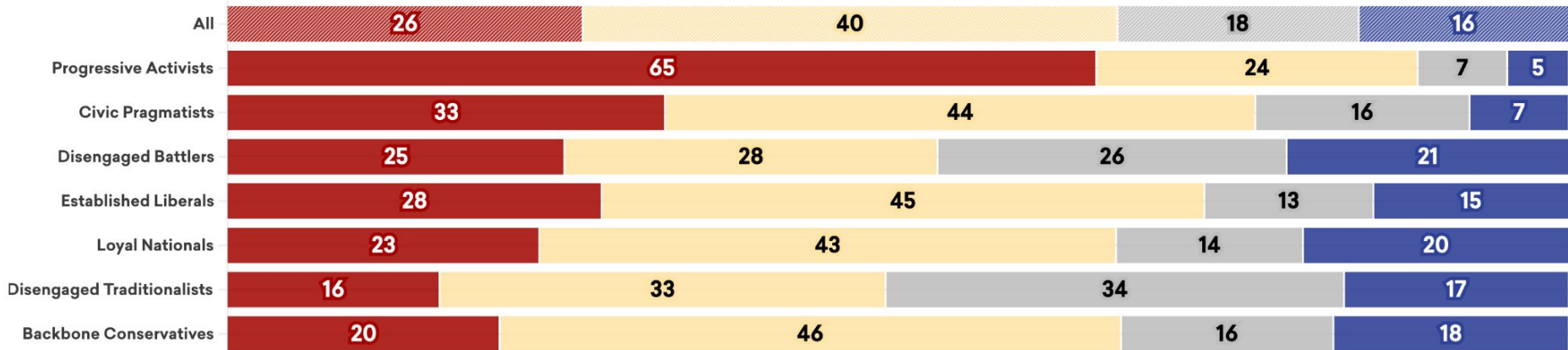
Source: More in Common, October 2024

Britons do not want a Trump presidency to derail UK climate action

- If the United States scales back its climate action under a Trump presidency, **two in three Britons think the UK's global action on climate change should increase or stay the same.**
- When it comes to UK and US foreign policy, the public is five times as likely to say the UK should try to influence US foreign policy by leading the way rather than follow the lead of the Americans.

If Donald Trump wins the next US Presidential Election, he has said the US will reduce its efforts on climate change and withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. If this happens, what should the UK do?

● Increase our global action on climate change ● Keep our global action on climate change the same ● Don't know ● Reduce our global action on climate change

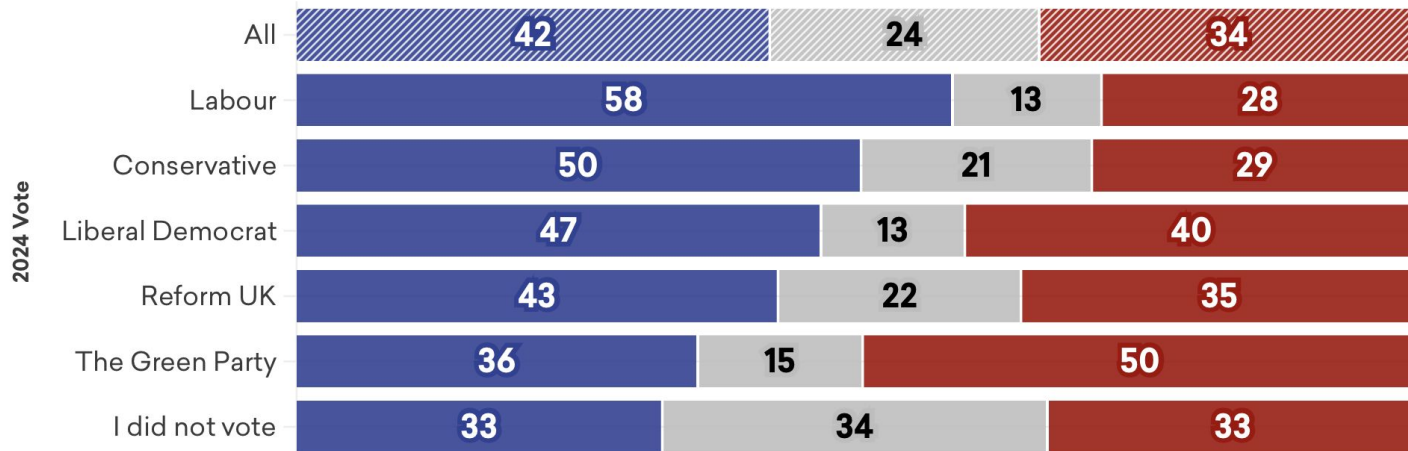


Climate is one area where Britain is seen as leading the way

Britain is seen as leading the way on climate action. The public is more likely to say Britain is one of the countries leading the way on climate action (42%) than not (34%). This view is held across the political spectrum - both Labour and Conservative voters are more likely to see the UK as a climate leader.

Which of the following comes closest to your view?

- The UK is one of the countries leading the way on climate action ● Don't know
- The UK is not one of the countries leading the way on climate action

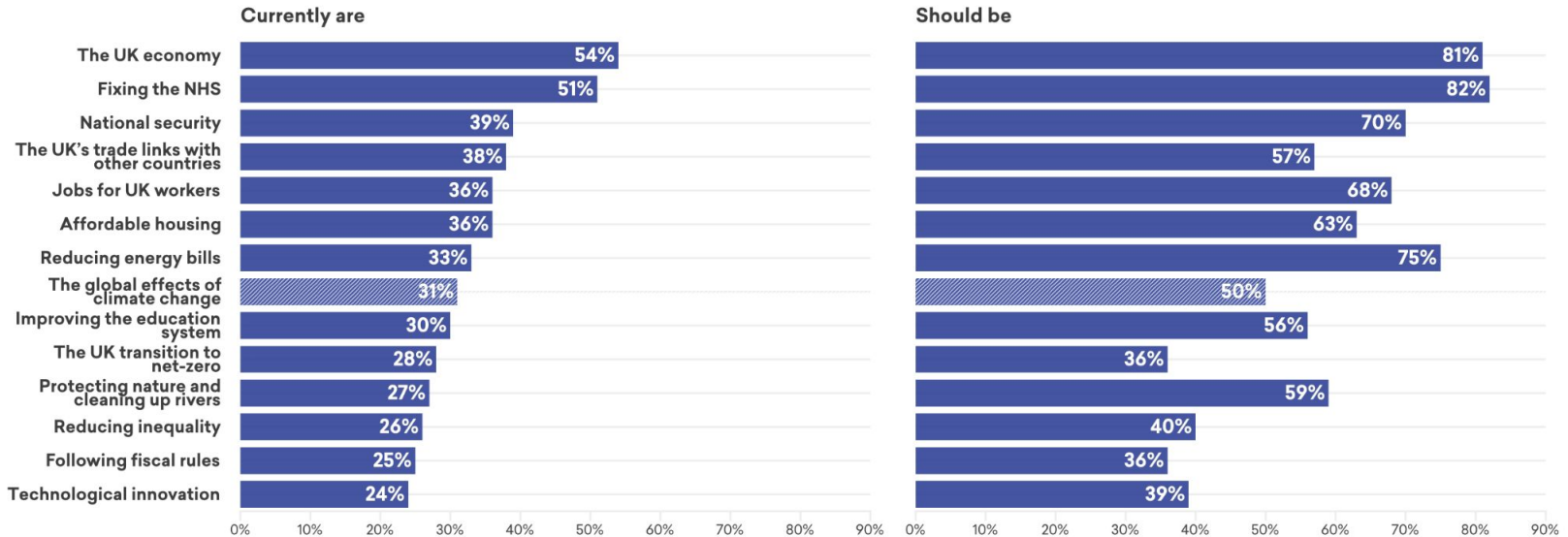


Britons want the Government to make this more of a priority

- One in two think the global impacts of climate change should be a high priority to the Government, but only one in three think it currently is.
- This desire unites Labour's diverse coalition - every segment won by Labour in the General Election is likely to say that the global effects of climate change should be a high priority for the Government, but within each a majority say it is not currently a high priority.

How much of a priority do you think the following issues [currently are/ should be] to the Government?

% selecting 'high' or 'top' priority

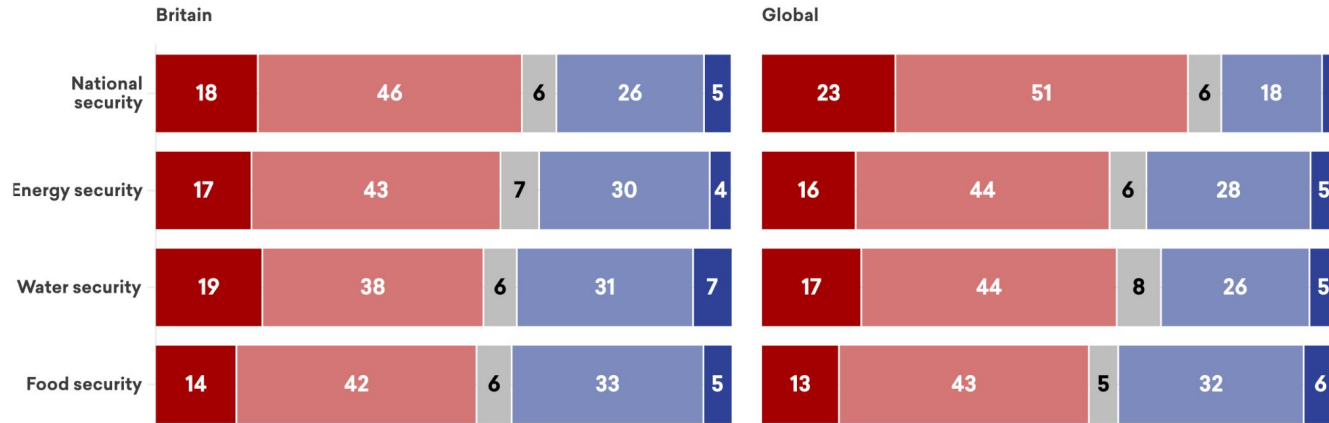


The public expects climate change to increasingly impact their lives and sense of security

- Two in five expect to personally feel an increased impact from climate change over the course of this Parliament.
- Britons increasingly think about climate change as something which affects the safety and security of the country. The public take a broad view of what 'security' means in the national and global context. Around two thirds of the public are worried about national security at home and almost three quarters worried about global security. But more than half of the public also worry about energy, water and food security.

How worried are you, if at all, about threats to [Britain's/global] [...] security?

● Very worried ● Quite worried ● Don't know ● Not very worried ● Not at all worried



Source: More in Common, April 2024

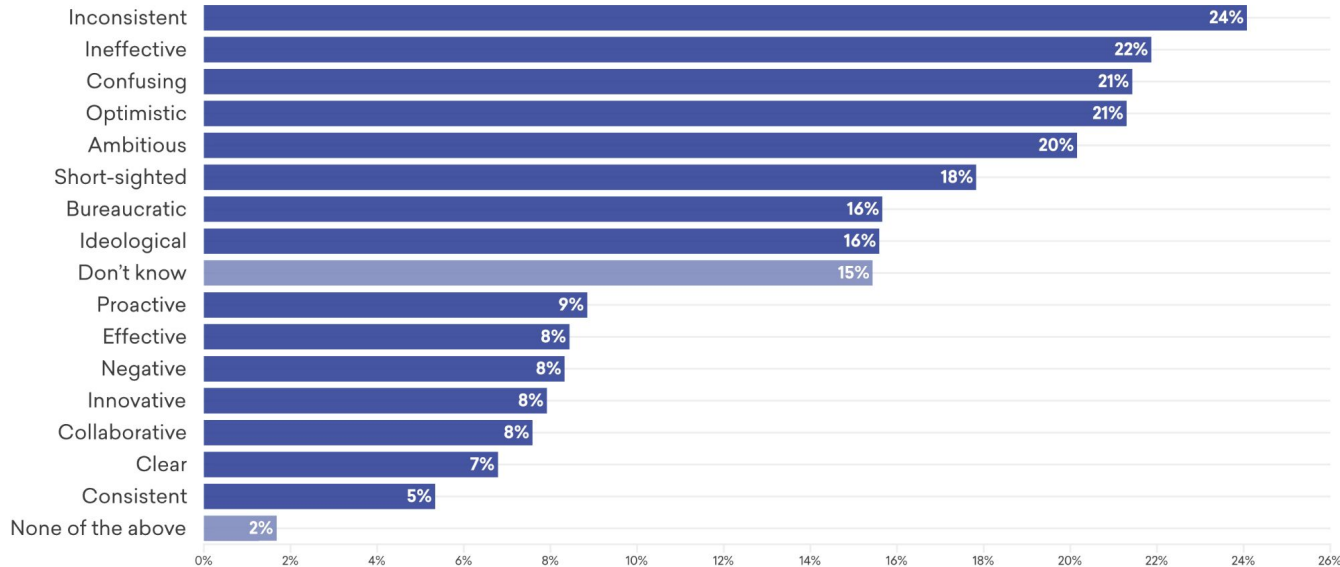
I know our shoreline is going to be reduced because of climate change, so that means our land is going to be less, but there's going to be I think heavy pressure people still coming to this country due to the effects of climate change in other countries, and I think it could lead to climate wars in terms of water and food scarcity - Mohamed, Potters Bar

There is broad desire for a clearer plan on climate action

- Current government policies about climate change are seen as inconsistent, ineffective and confusing. In focus groups people point to examples of policy reversals to explain a lack of confidence in new policies.
- The public instead wants our climate solutions to be cost-effective, long-term and science-led.

Which of the following best describes the UK Government's policies about climate change?

Select up to three

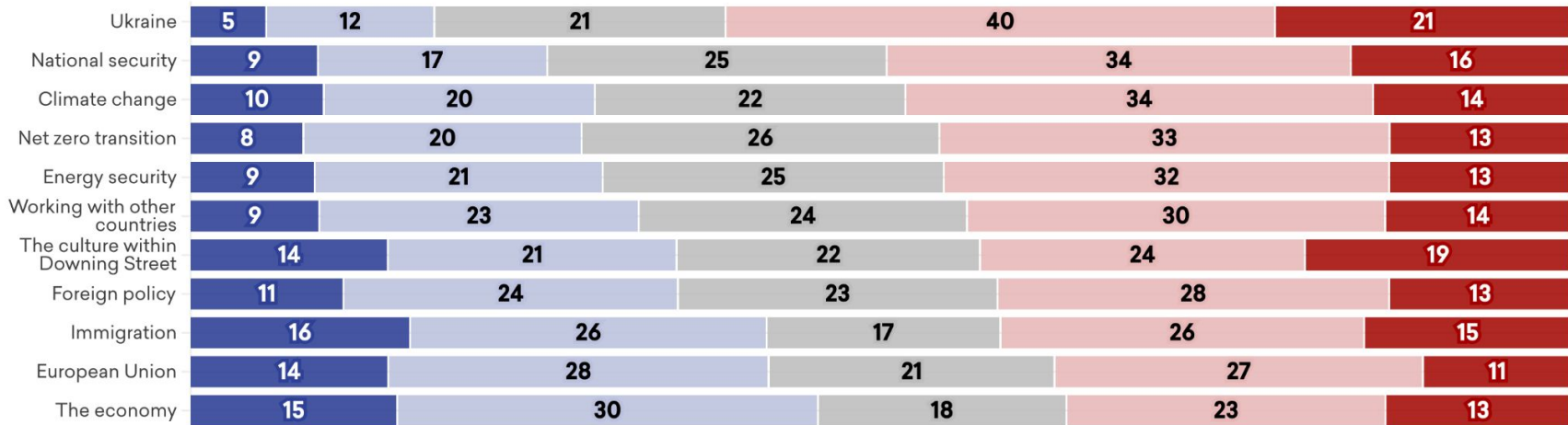


A risk for the new Government is being seen as more of the same

On both climate change (net 19% similar) and foreign policy (net 6% similar) the public is more likely to say that the current Government is similar to the previous Government than different. To differentiate themselves from the Conservatives, the Government will need to show the public what their narrative on re-engaging with other countries looks like in practice.

On the following issues, how different or similar do you think the current Labour Government is to the previous Conservative Government?

● Very different ● Quite different ● Don't know enough to say ● Quite similar ● Very similar





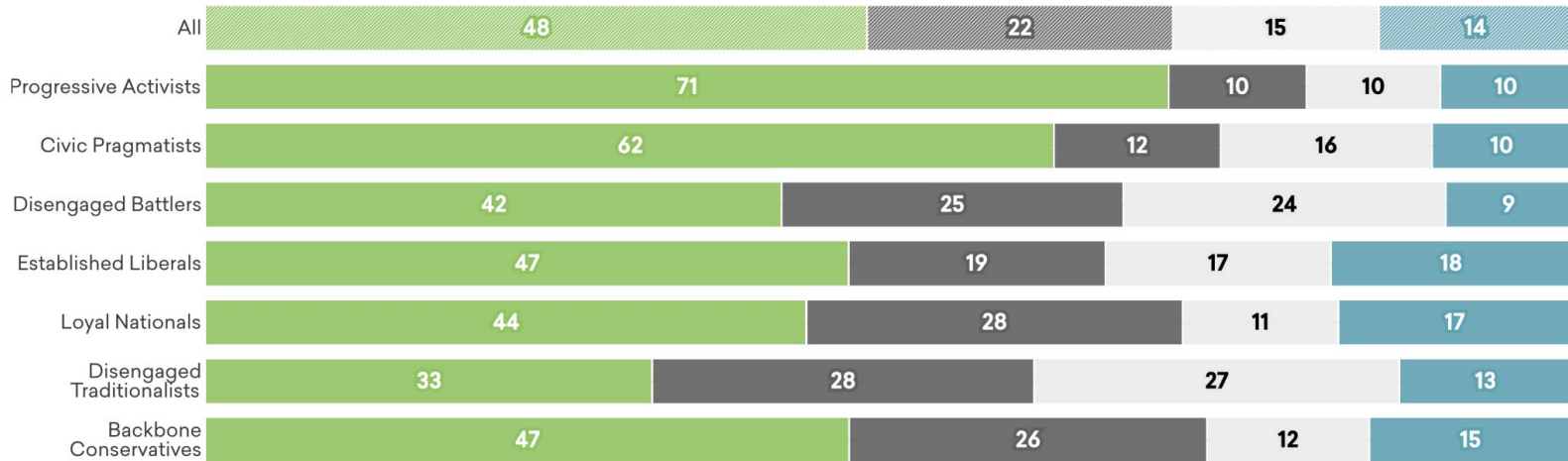
Britons and the COP

The public consider multilateral efforts like the COP effective

- Those who follow news about the COP (29%) are likely to say it helps climate action and most consider it effective.
- This comes alongside public support for multilateralism more broadly - with Britons likely to say the UK can more effectively get countries to act on climate change if we club together with like-minded countries than if we act individually

When it comes to the UK influencing international action on climate change, which comes closest to your view?

- The UK will be more effective at getting countries around the world to act on climate change if we club together with other countries
- There will be no difference to how effective the UK will be at getting countries to act on climate change, whether we wo
- Don't know
- The UK will be more effective at getting countries around the world to act on climate change if we act as an individual

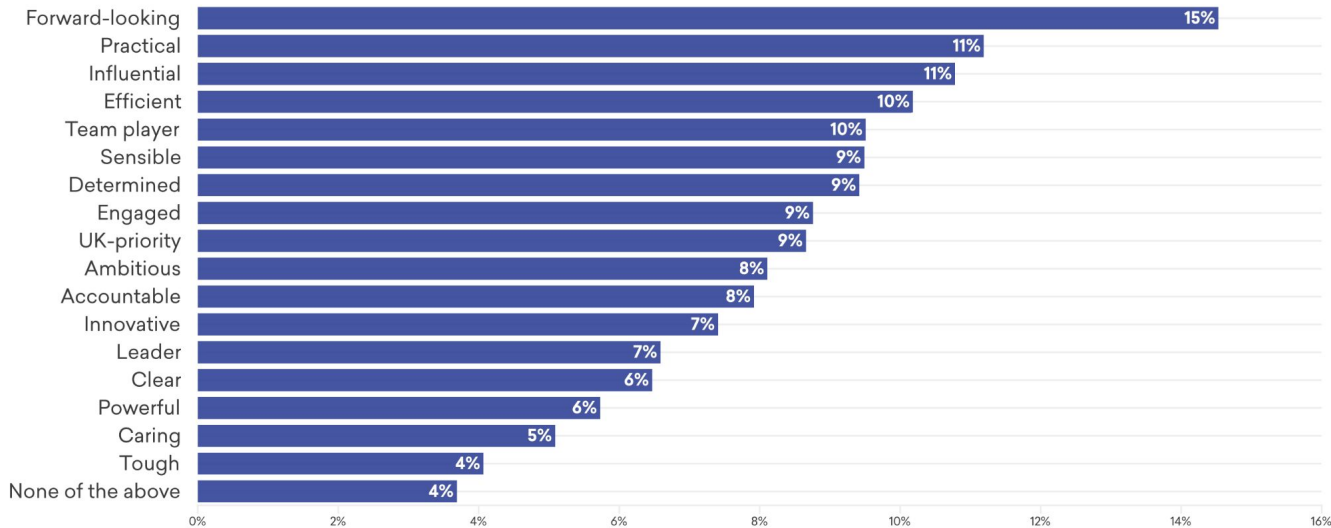


Britons want the UK delegation at the COP to be forward-looking, practical and influential

- The public wants the UK to be seen as forward-looking, practical and influential at the COP.
- Britons would feel proud of our role in the COP if we encouraged countries to reduce emissions more quickly, defended nature and brought fresh ideas.

Later this year, the UK government will represent the country at COP. How would you like the UK to be seen by other countries delegates at COP?

Please select up to two of the following adjectives.



We need to come together as a planet to look at real sensible solutions instead of keep having these meetings and then saying, oh well we can't agree again. If you want to do something, you need strong leadership.

Tracy, Blyth



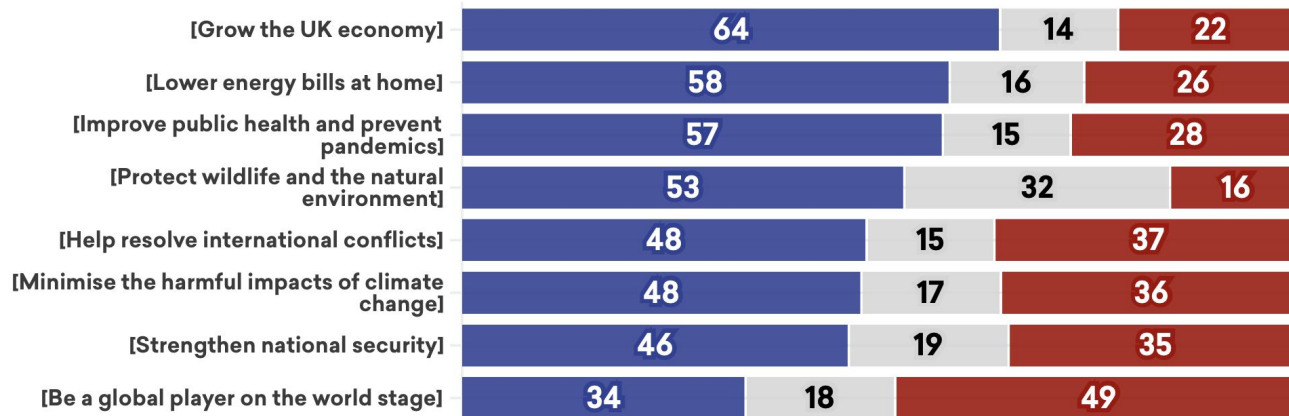
Funding climate initiatives

The public sees international spending as a trade-off worth making to mitigate climate change

- While international spending is generally unpopular with the British public, it is seen as worth it to spend internationally for outcomes including protecting the environment and minimising the harmful impacts of climate change.
- In focus group conversations it is clear people oppose spending they deem wasteful - above all else the public wants climate solutions to be cost-effective and long-term.

Which of the following comes closer to your view?

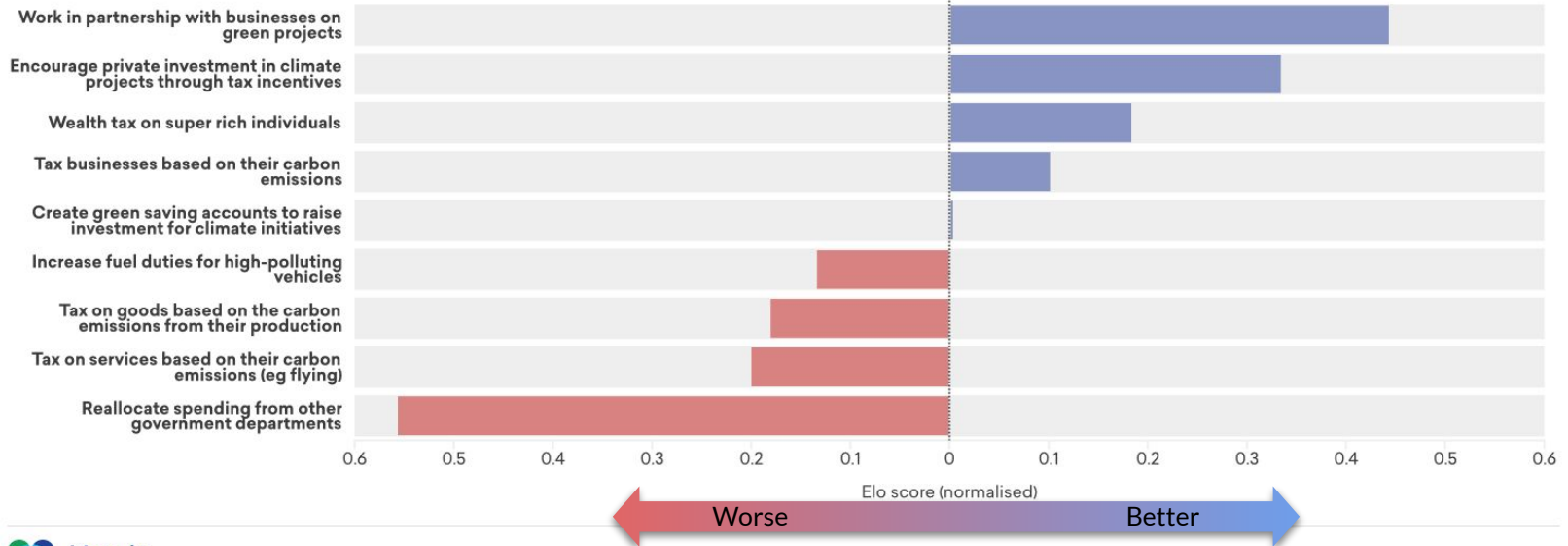
- It is WORTH the UK spending more in other countries to [...] ● Don't know
● It is NOT WORTH the UK spending more in other countries to [...]



Where the money comes from impacts public support

- Revenue source has more of an effect on support for international spending on climate change than the messenger or argument used.
- Domestically, the public thinks it is better for the burden to fall on businesses rather than consumers - but would prefer the Government to work in partnership with businesses and incentivise investment over taxation.

The UK government has committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Which of the following do you think would be the best and worst ways to fund this transition?

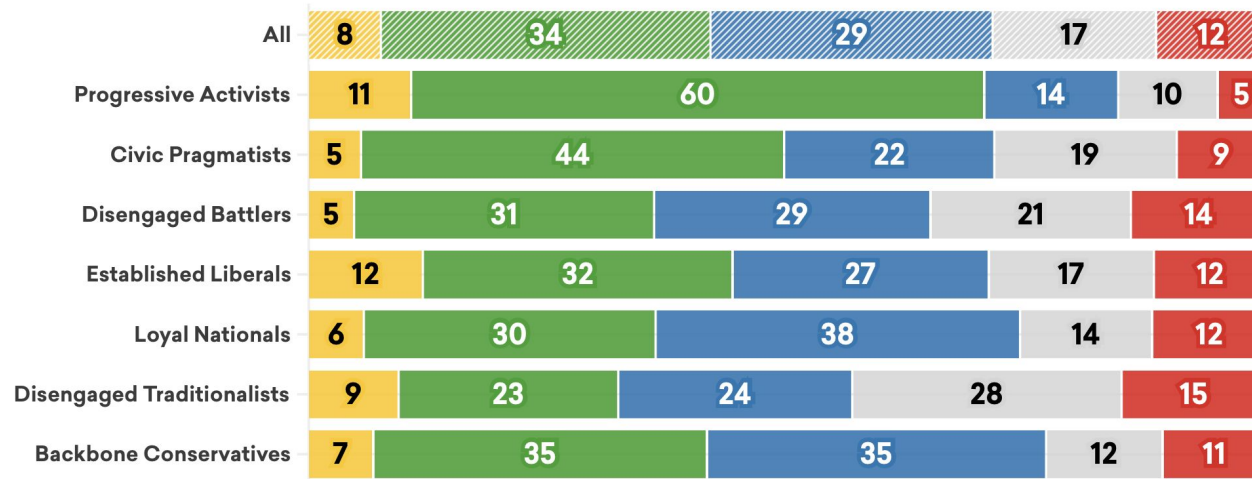


Public thinks funds raised in the UK by taxing international trade should fund climate action globally and at home

If funds are raised through climate-related measures such as a carbon tax, the public would strongly favour hypothecating these funds for climate action. They are also likely to say the Government should use this to fund climate action globally as well as at home.

If the UK put a levy on overseas goods being produced with high carbon emissions should the money raised be used to...


● Fund climate action overseas
 ● Fund climate action in the UK and overseas
● Fund climate action in the UK
 ● Don't know
 ● Not be used to fund climate action

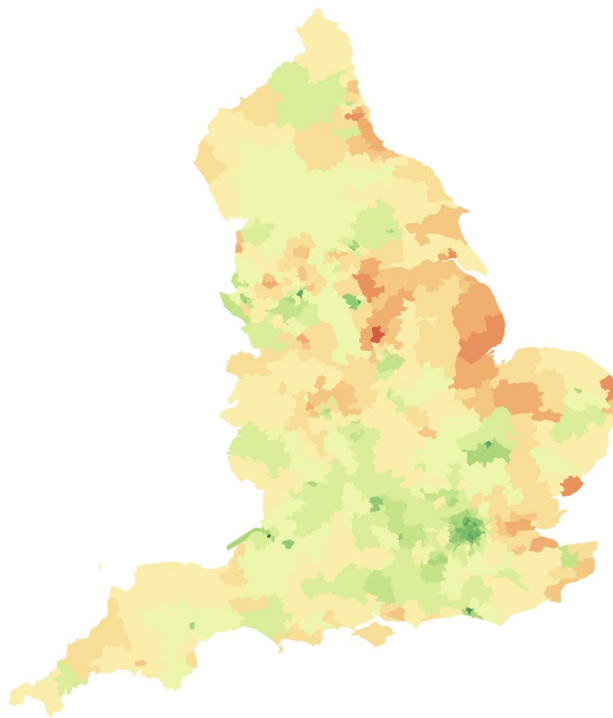


There is net support across the country for helping poorer countries to tackle climate change

Support for the UK helping developing countries to tackle climate change is not politically or geographically concentrated - modelling suggests there is net positive support in all but one constituency.

To what extent would you support or oppose the UK helping developing countries to tackle the impacts of climate change ?

% support
25%  75%



A smaller proportion of people support the UK helping poorer countries to tackle climate impacts in constituencies in Eastern England. Support is highest in urban centres and university towns.

Constituencies with lowest net support:

- Ashfield
- Clacton
- Barnsley South
- Boston and Skegness
- Barnsley North

Constituencies with highest net support:

- Bristol Central
- Brighton Pavilion
- Cambridge
- Hackney North and Stoke Newington
- Hampstead and Highgate

Seats won by	Net support
Labour	+25%
Conservative	+23%
Liberal Democrats	+29%
Reform UK	+3%
Green	+45%
SNP	+16%
Plaid Cymru	+14%



Appendix: The British Seven Segments

A key lens for understanding climate foreign policy

Throughout this report, More in Common has used the lens of the British Seven segments to describe how different groups of the public - shaped by their values and core beliefs - converge and diverge on different issues.

Progressive Activists



...a group for whom politics is an important part of their identity and who seek to correct long-standing injustices.

Civic Pragmatists



...a group that cares about others, at home or abroad. They wish for less conflict and more compromise.

Disengaged Battlers



... a group that are just getting by. They blame the system for its unfairness, but not other people.

Established Liberals



...a group that has done well and means well towards others, but also sees a lot of good in the status quo.

Loyal Nationals



...a patriotic group who worry that our way of life is threatened and also feel our society has become more unfair.

Disengaged Traditionalists



... a group that values a well-ordered society and takes pride in hard work. They want strong leadership that keeps people in line.

Backbone Conservatives



... a group who are proud of their country, optimistic about Britain's future, and who keenly follow the news.

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