

Climate Compared: Climate Change Opinions in the United States and Canada

Barry Rabe (University of Michigan)

Erick Lachapelle (Université de Montréal)

Christopher Borick (Muhlenberg College)

Sarah Mills (University of Michigan)

Our Institutions



INSTITUTE OF
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Methodology



- Random probability sample of 1200 adult Canadians
- Inclusion of landline (719) and cell phone (481)
- Fielding dates: 5 to 18 October, 2016
- AAPOR RR3 Response Rate = 10%
- Margin of error: +/- 2.8%
- Data weighted by Gender, Age and Region



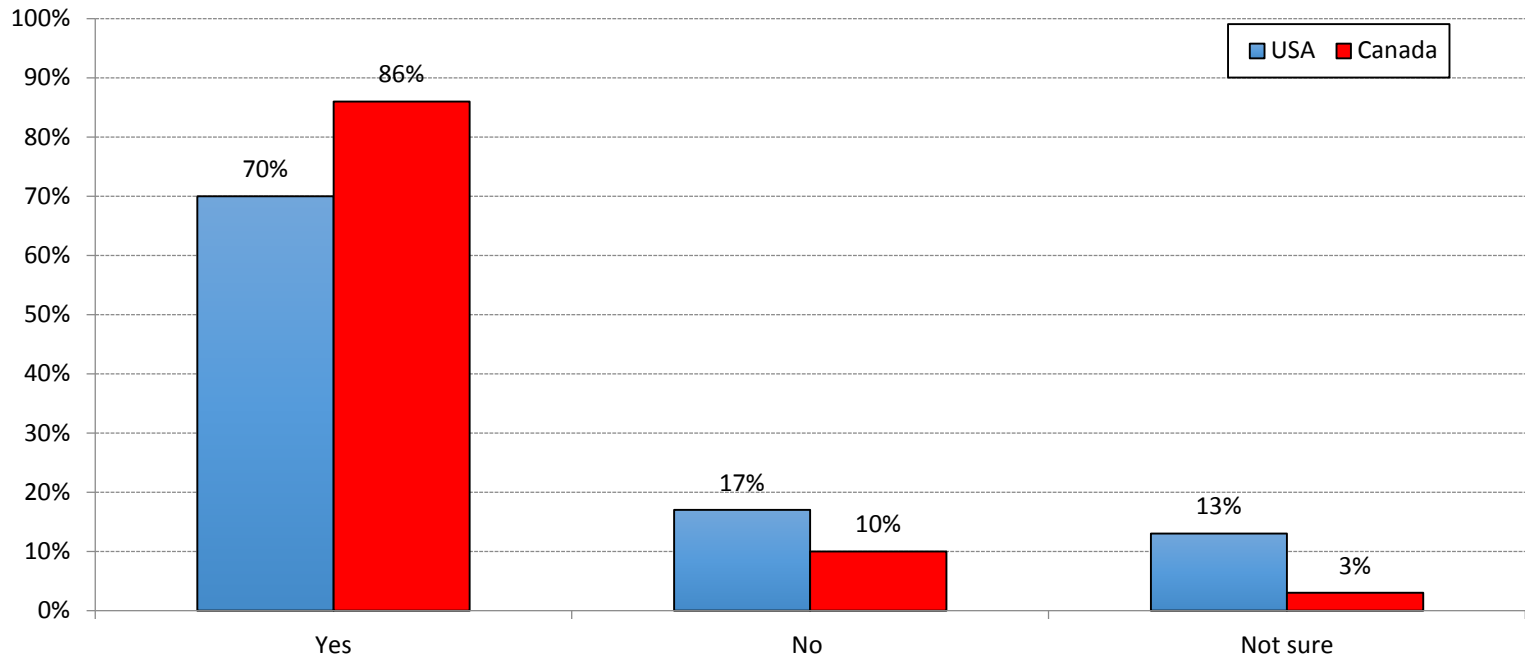
- Random probability sample of 940 adult Americans
- Inclusion of landline (210) and cell phone (730)
- Fielding dates: October 13 – November 6, 2016
- AAPOR RR3 Response Rate = 11%
- Margin of error: +/- 3.2%
- Data weighted by Gender, Age, Race, Income and Educational Attainment

The Game Plan

- Canada-U.S. Climate Comparison
- The view from Canada
 - Perceptions of the problem
 - Perceptions of solutions
- The view from the United States
 - Perceptions of the problem: pre-Obama vs pre-Trump
 - Perceptions of solutions: energy policy, wind energy

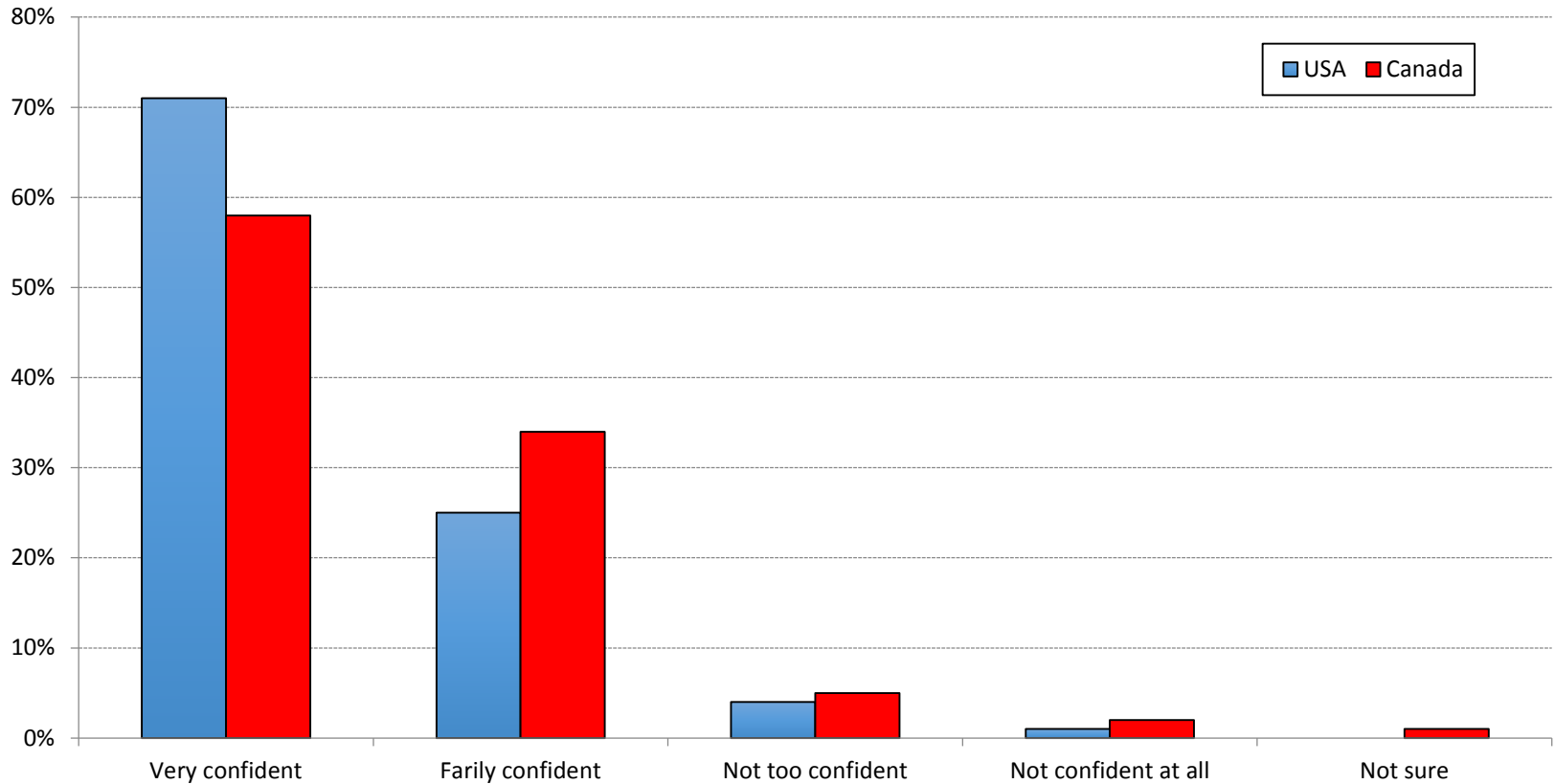
Canada – U.S. Climate Comparison

Evidence of Global Warming, 2016



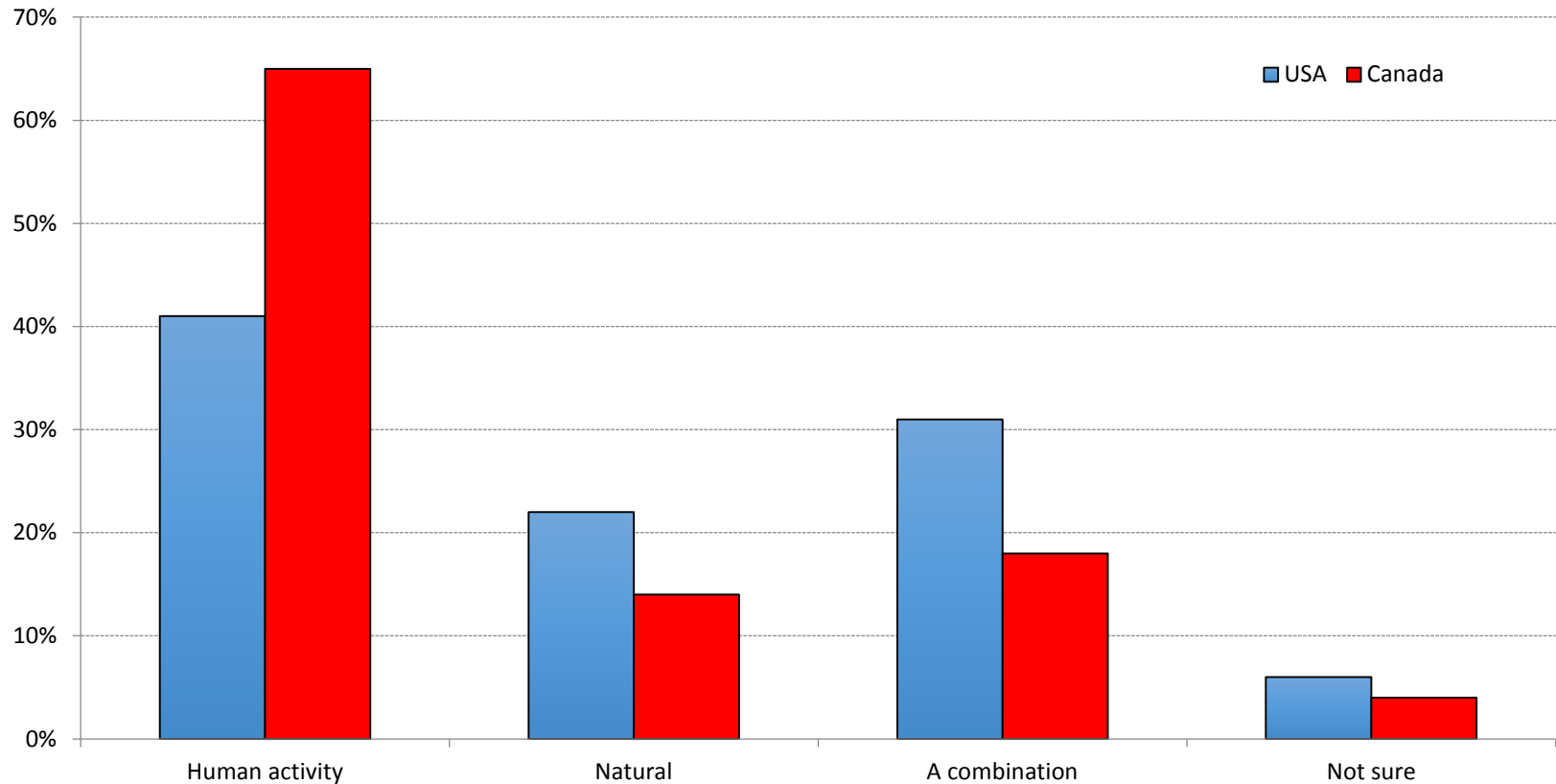
“Is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades?”

Confidence in Beliefs, 2016



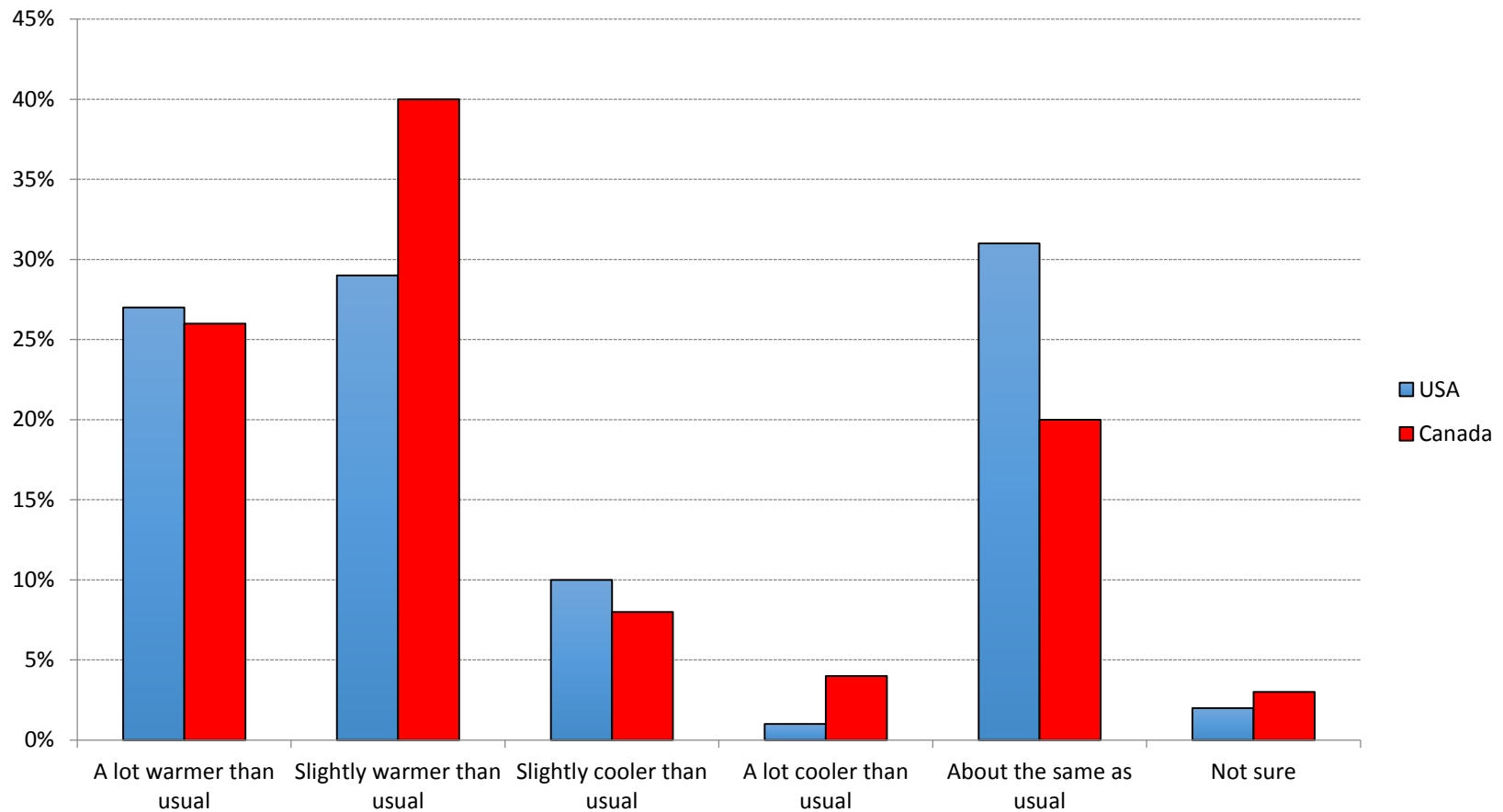
“How confident are you that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer?”

Perceived Cause (believers only), 2016



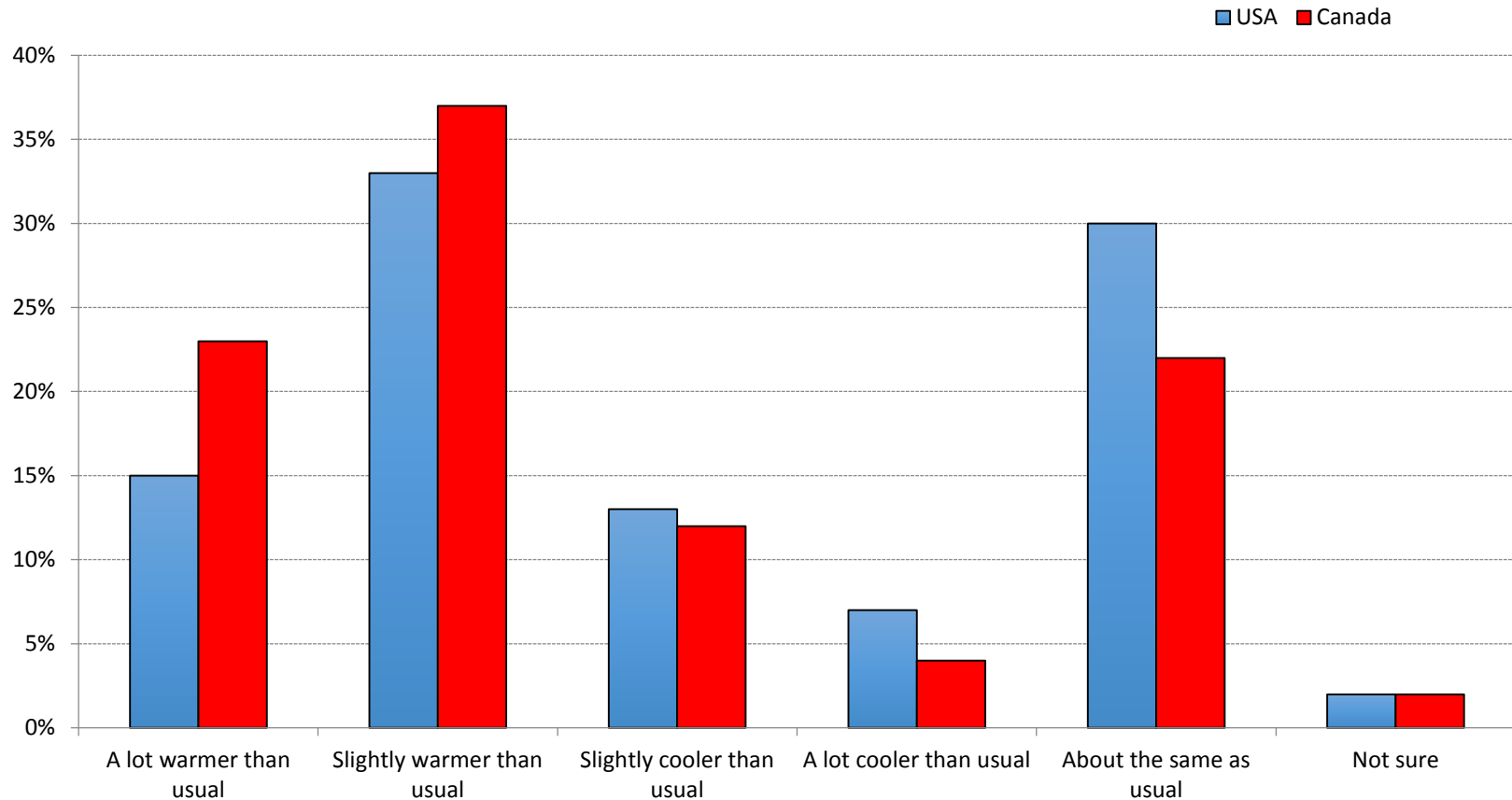
Is the Earth getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment?

Retrospective Evaluation of Local Summer Temperature, 2016



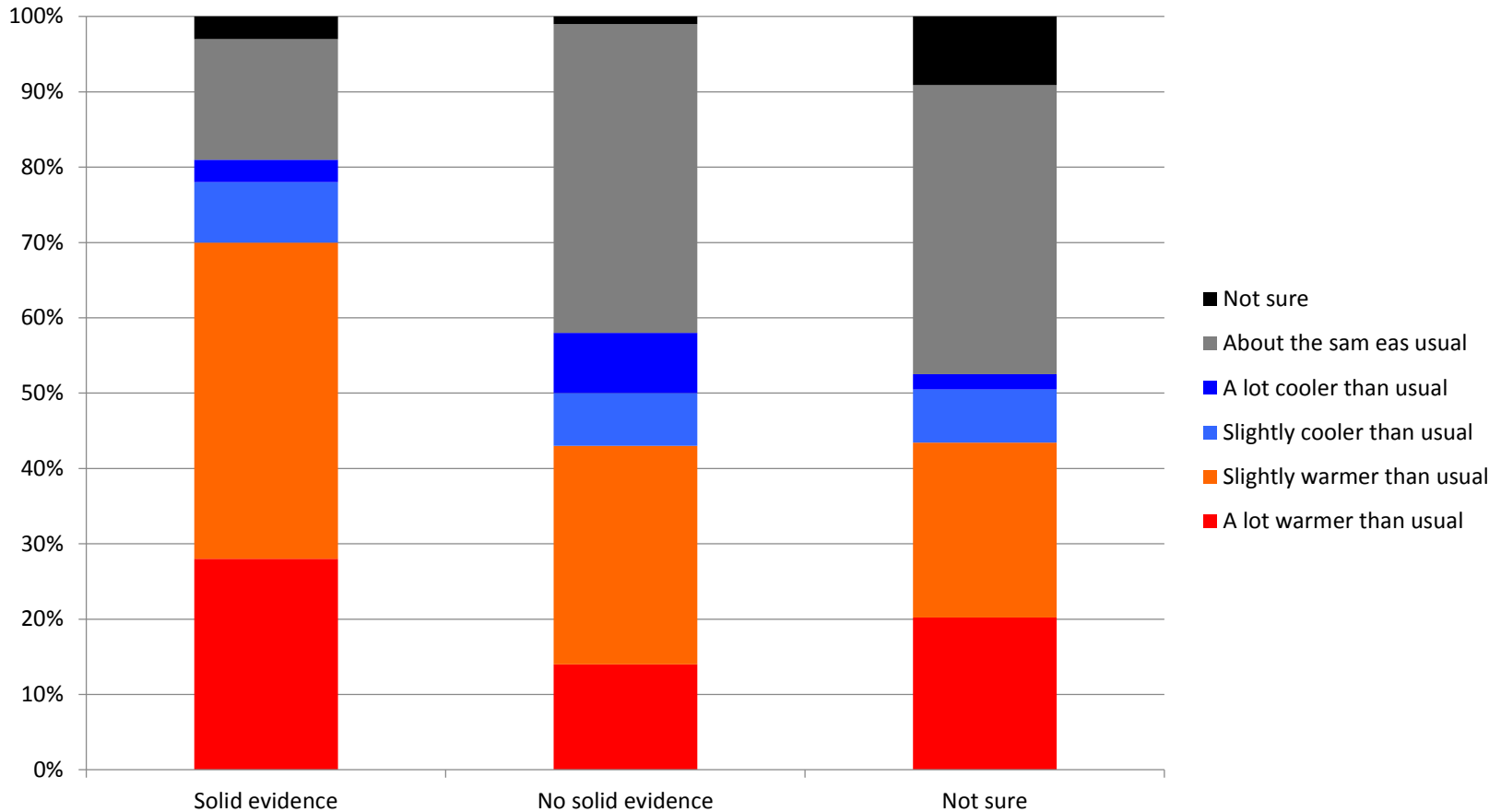
How would you describe the weather in your area this past summer? On average would you say it was:

Retrospective Evaluation of Local Winter Temperature, 2016



How would you describe the weather in your area this past winter? On average would you say it was:

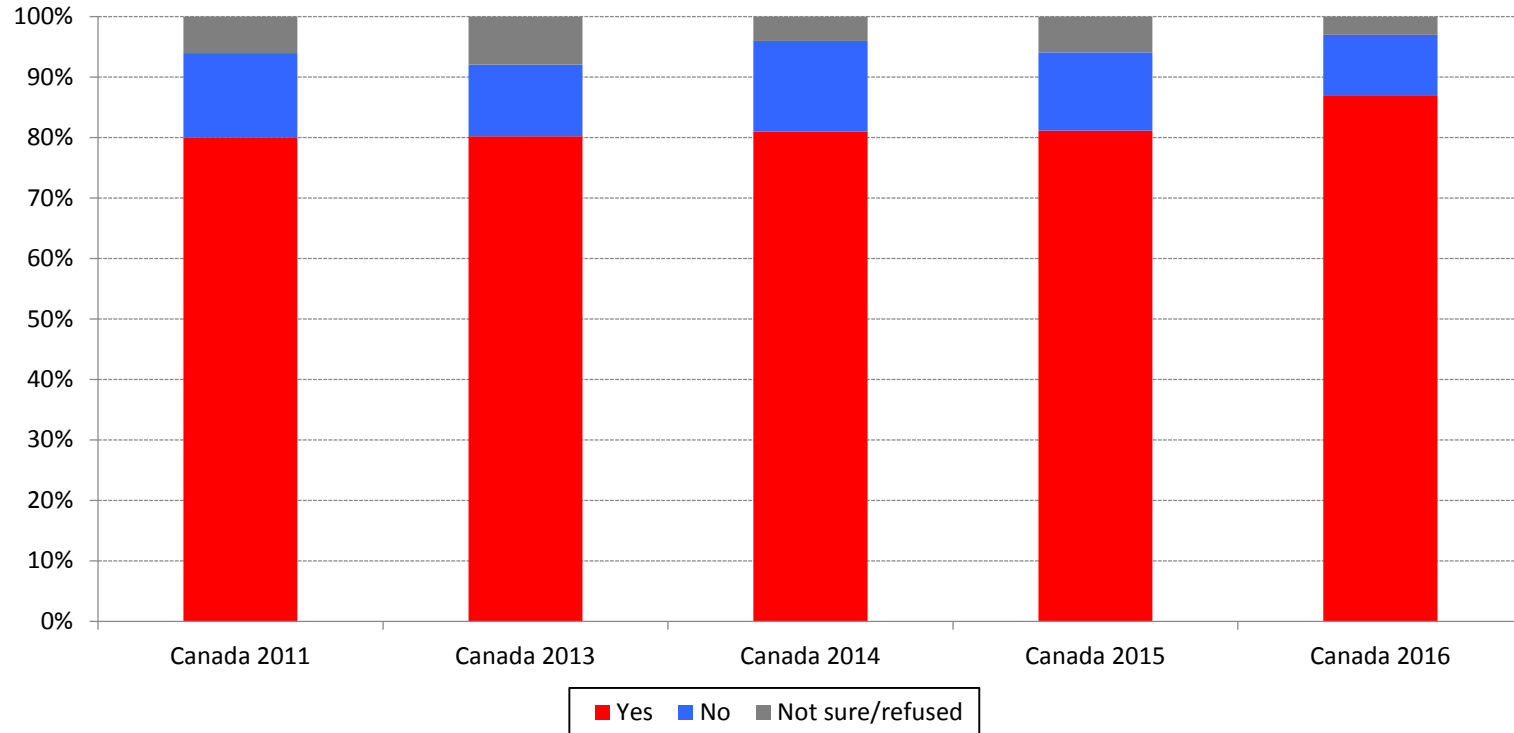
Perceptions of Local Weather by GW Beliefs in Canada



The View from Canada

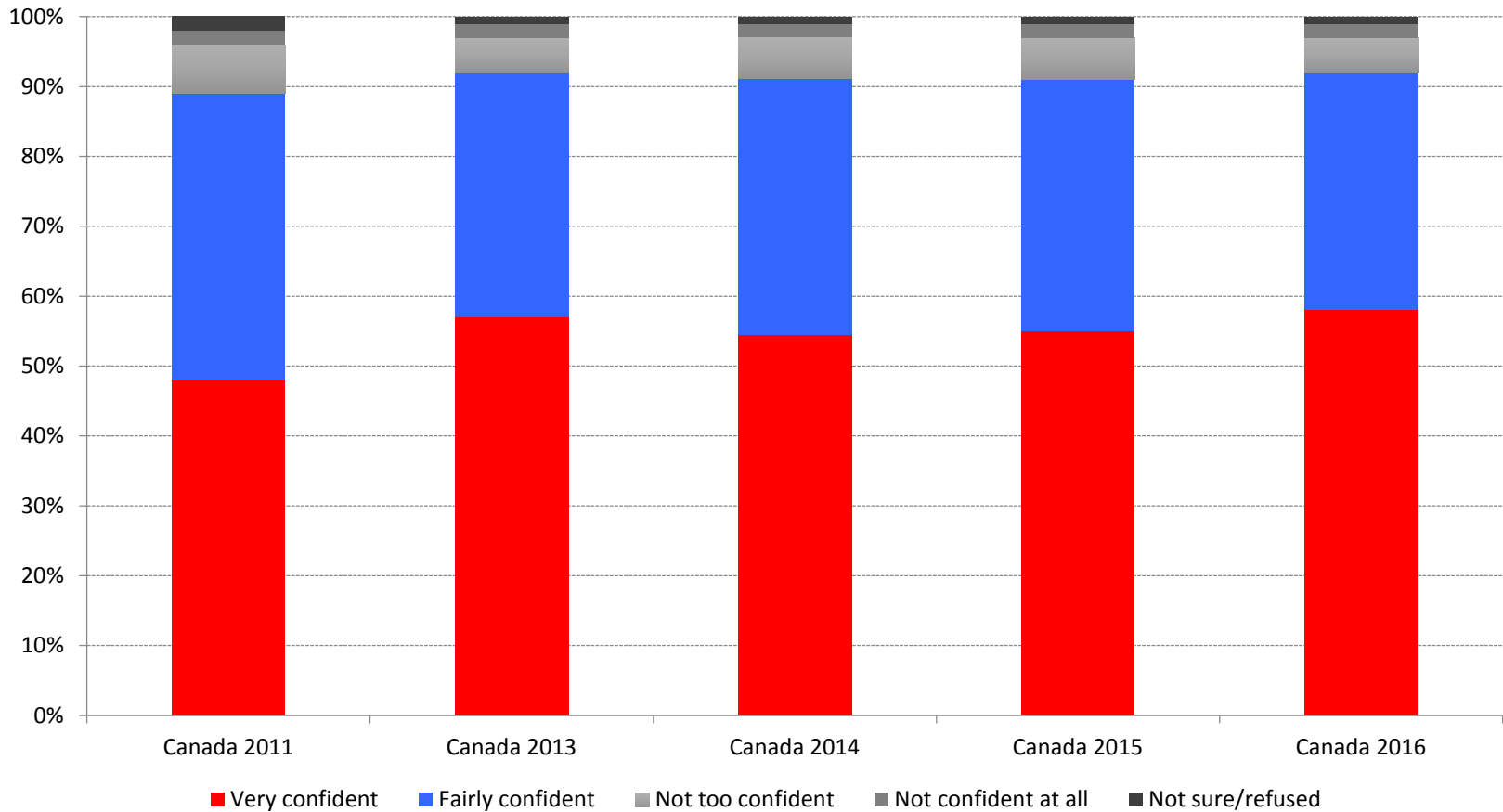
Perceptions of the problem

Record Belief Levels in Canada

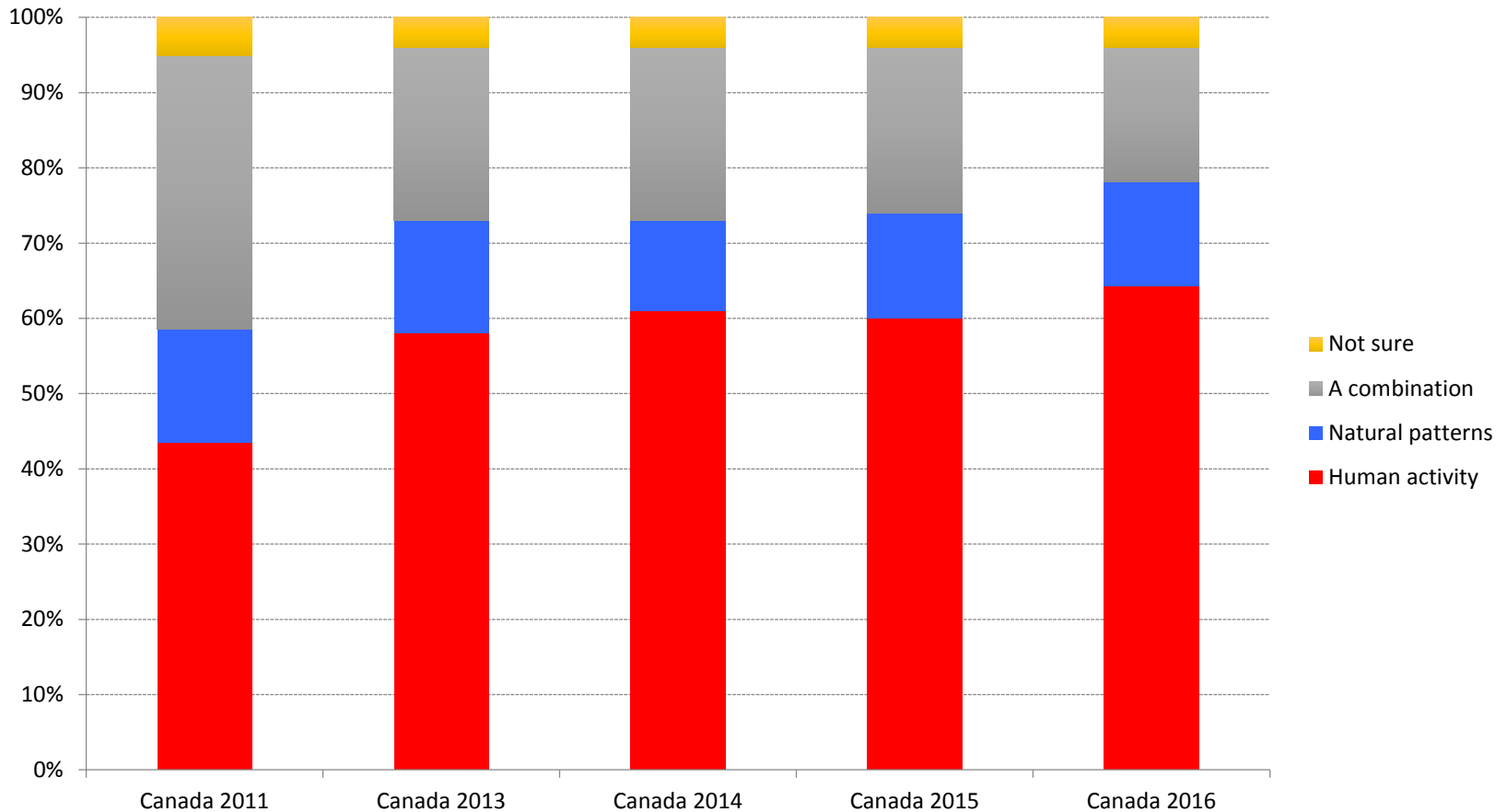


“Is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades?”

Confidence Levels in Canada

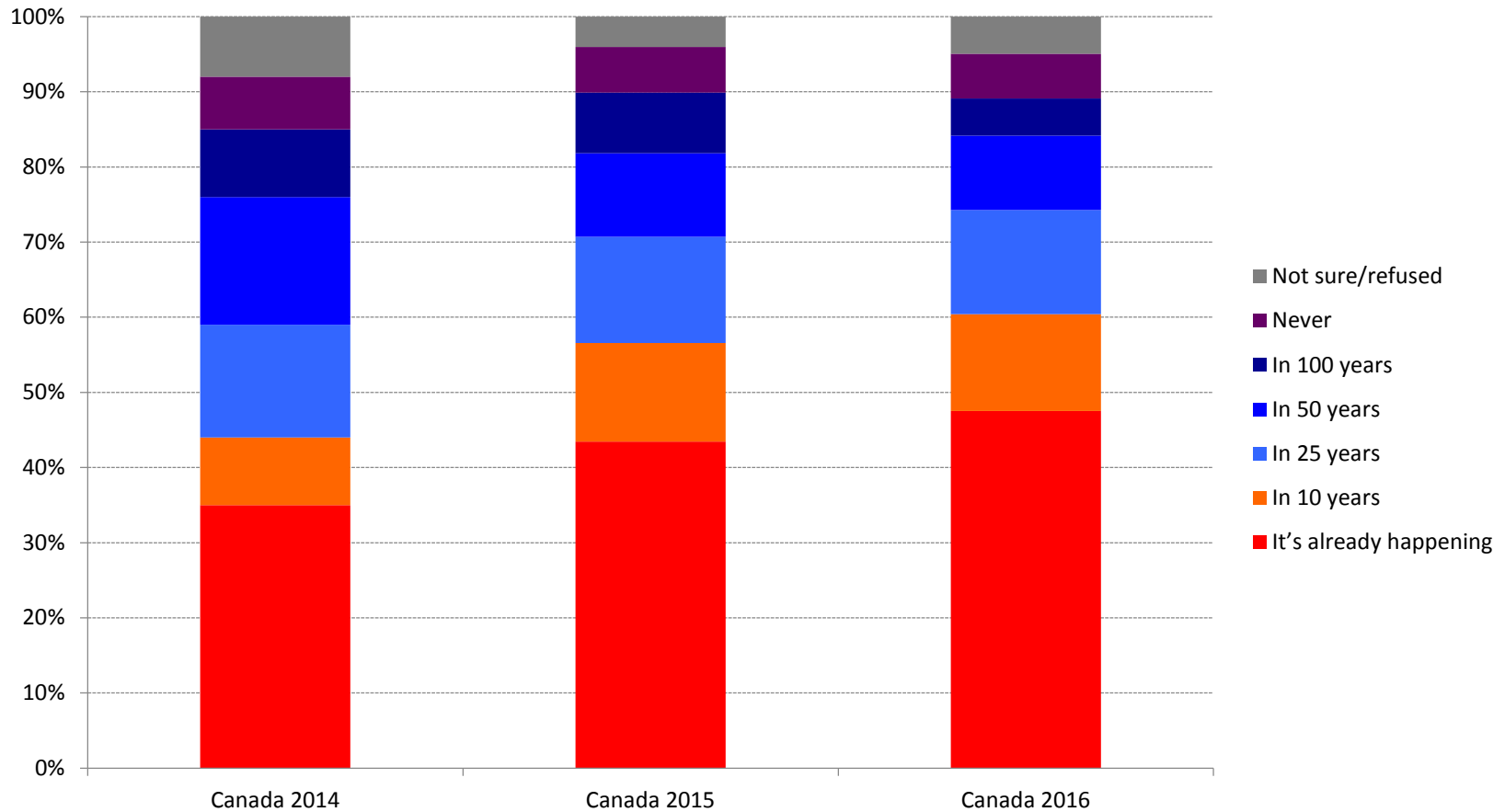


Perceived Cause (believers only) in Canada



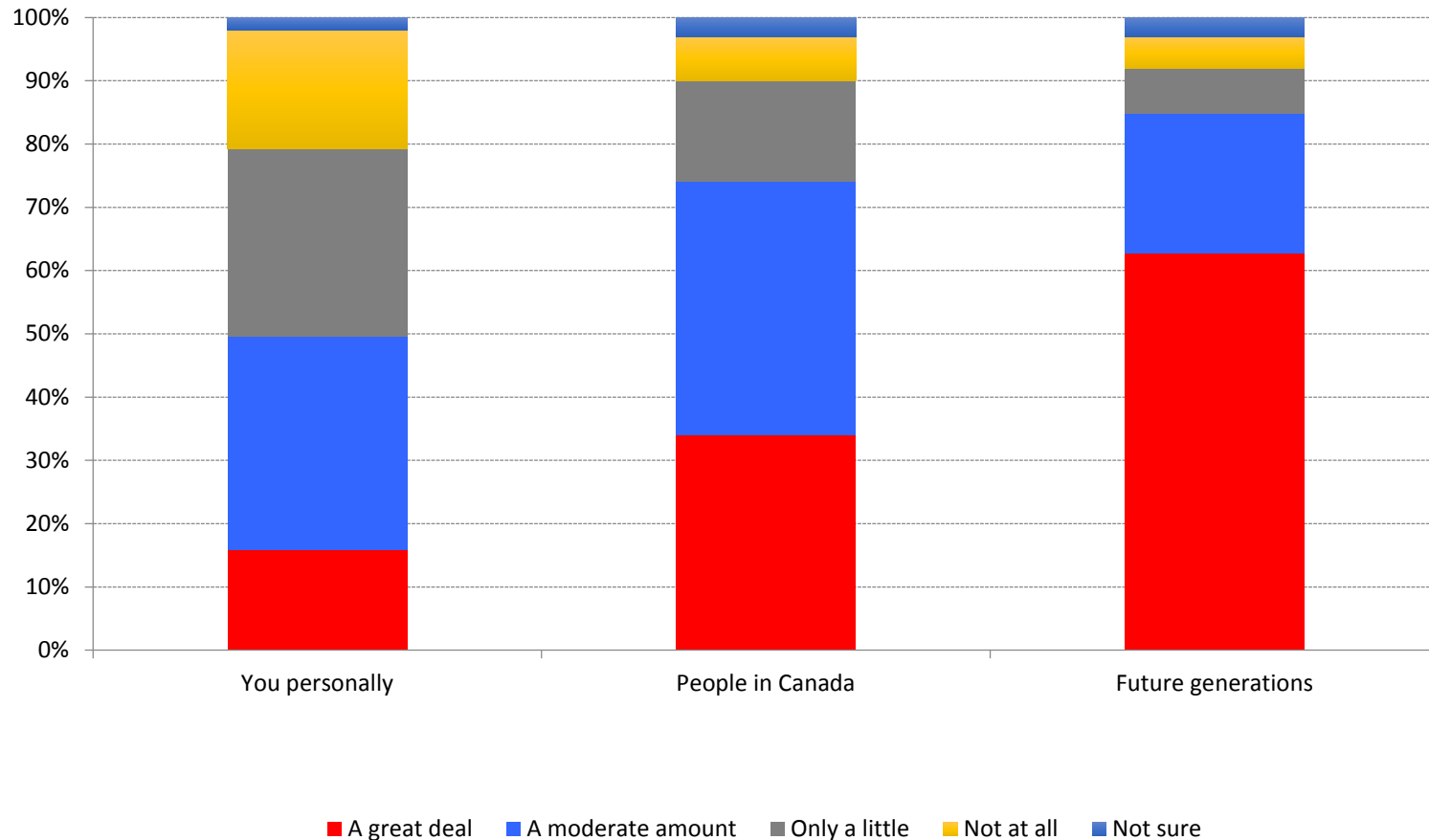
Is the Earth getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment?

More Canadians Feeling the Heat



“When do you think climate change will start to harm people living in Canada?”

...But Not Personally at Risk

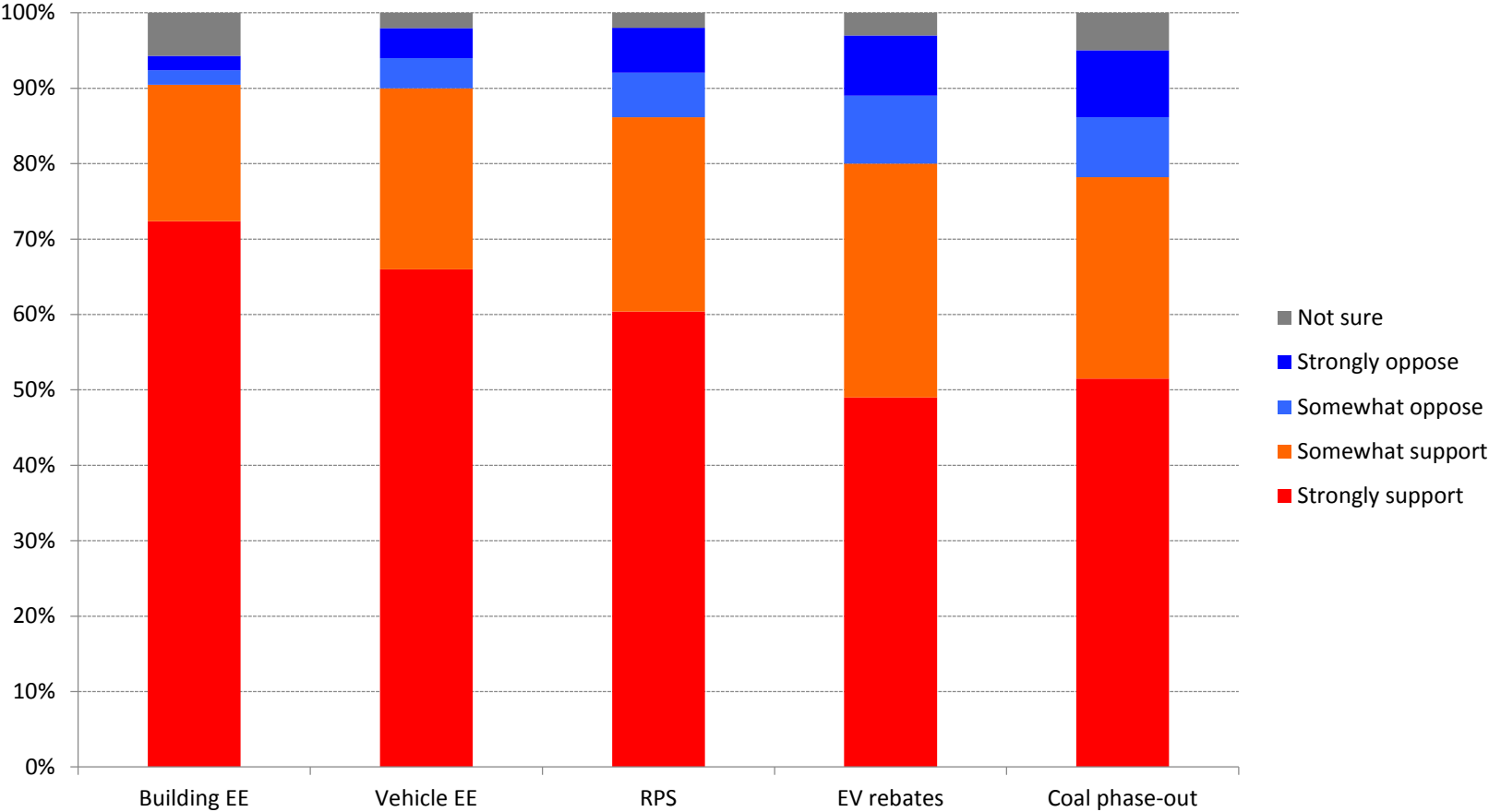


“How much do you think climate change will harm ... you personally [people in Canada/Future generations]?”

The View from Canada

Perceptions of solutions

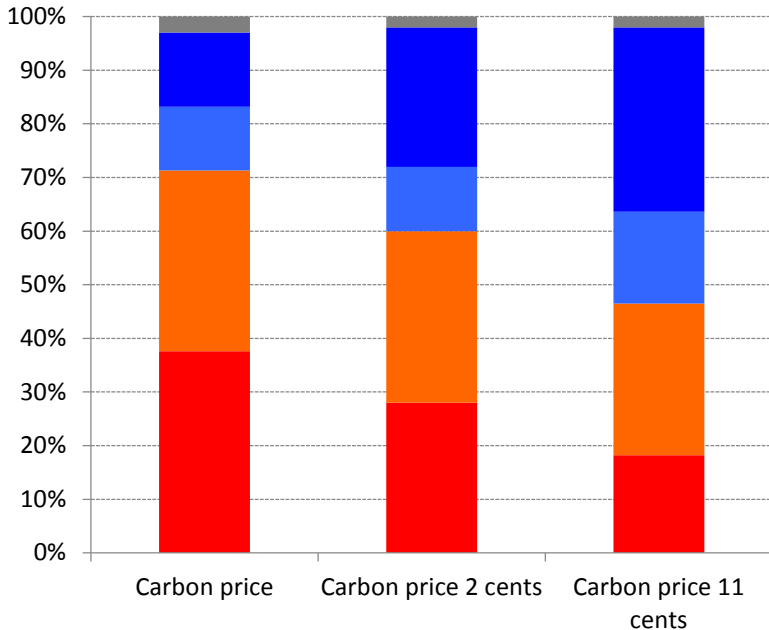
Energy Efficiency Gets Most Support



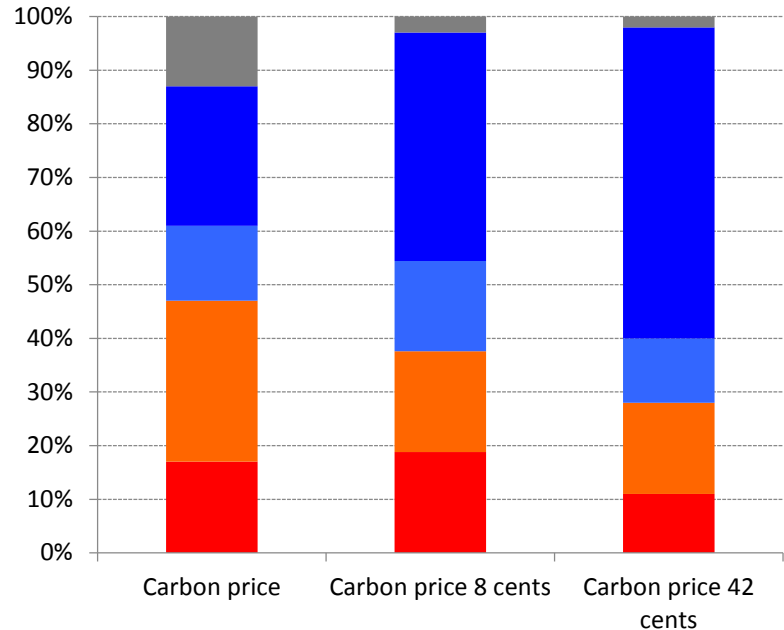
“Now I’d like to hear your view on a number of ideas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stabilize the climate. For each idea that I mention, please tell me if you strongly support...”

Support for a price on carbon pollution at different cost specs.

Canada



United States

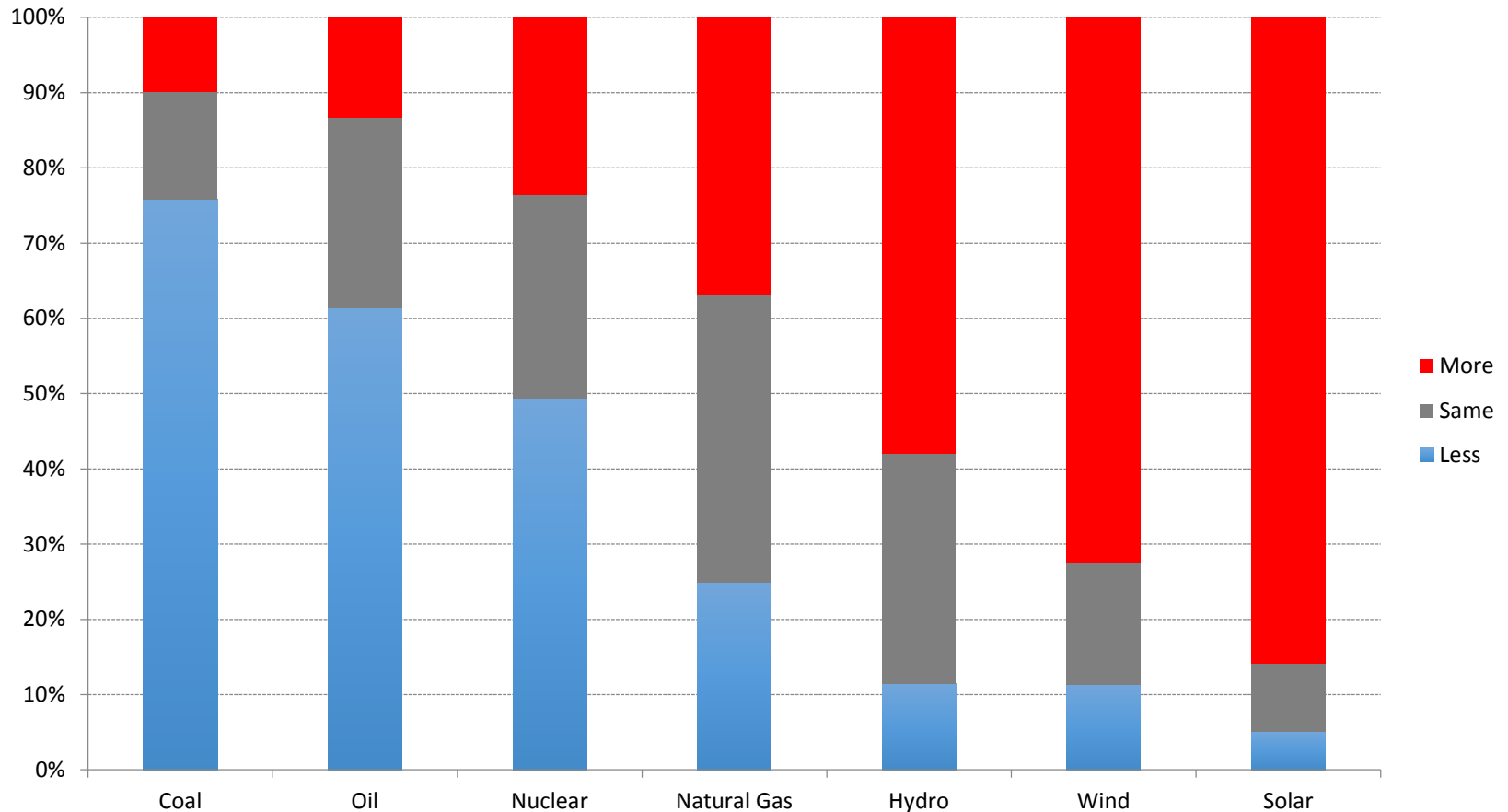


Strongly support Somewhat support Somewhat oppose
Strongly oppose Not sure

Strongly support Somewhat support Somewhat oppose
Strongly oppose Not sure

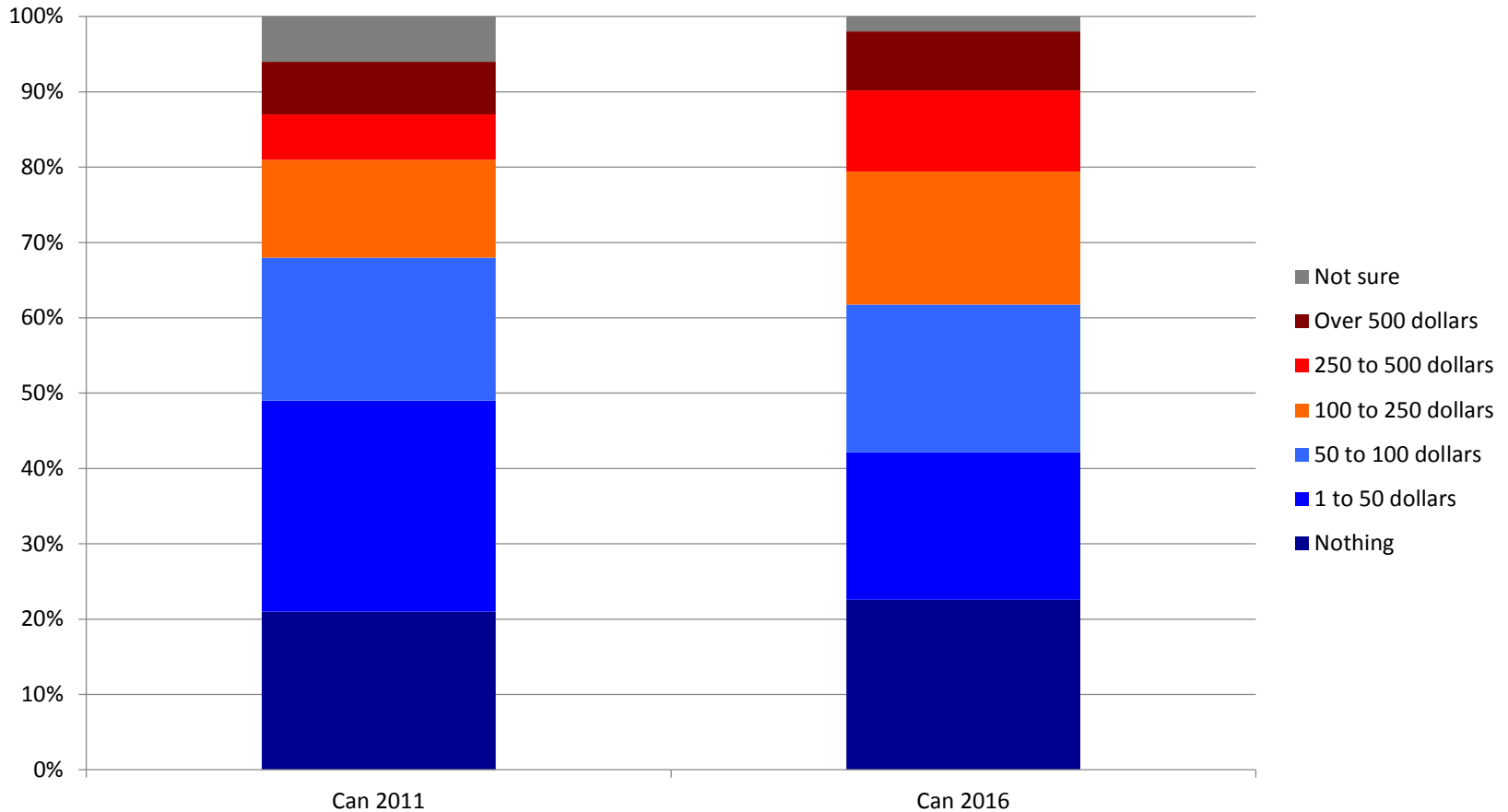
“Putting a price on carbon pollution [... that would increase the price of gasoline by about X cents per litre/gallon]?”

More Emphasis on Clean Energy



“Now thinking about the way energy is generated in the country, do you think Canada should put more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same as it does now on producing domestic energy from each of the following?”

Willingness to Pay for more RE, 2011 - 2016



“If it required you to bap extra money each year for more renewable energy to be produced, how much would you be willing to pay?”

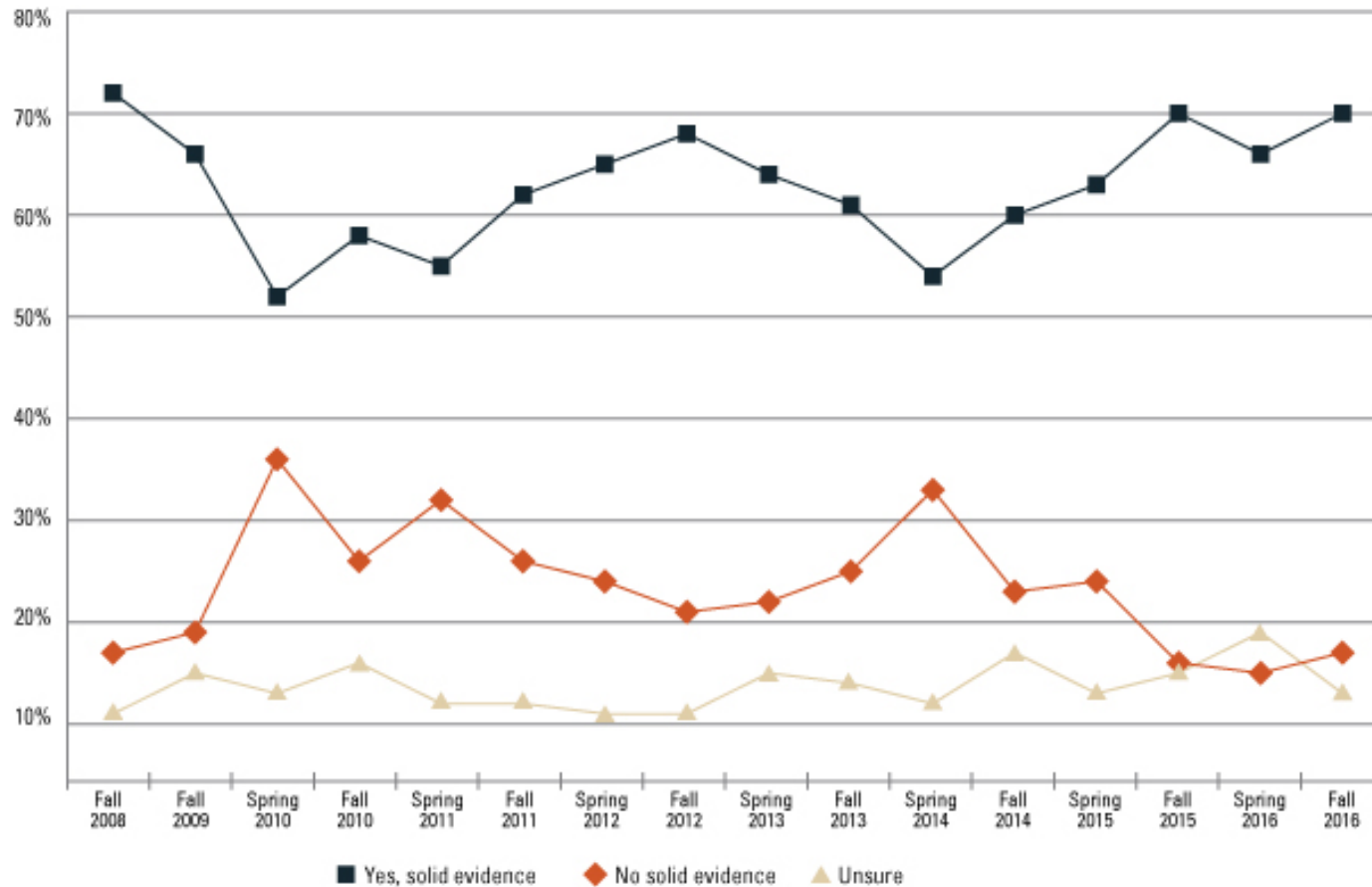
The View from the United States

Perceptions of the problem

American Public Opinion Regarding Climate Change: 2008-2016

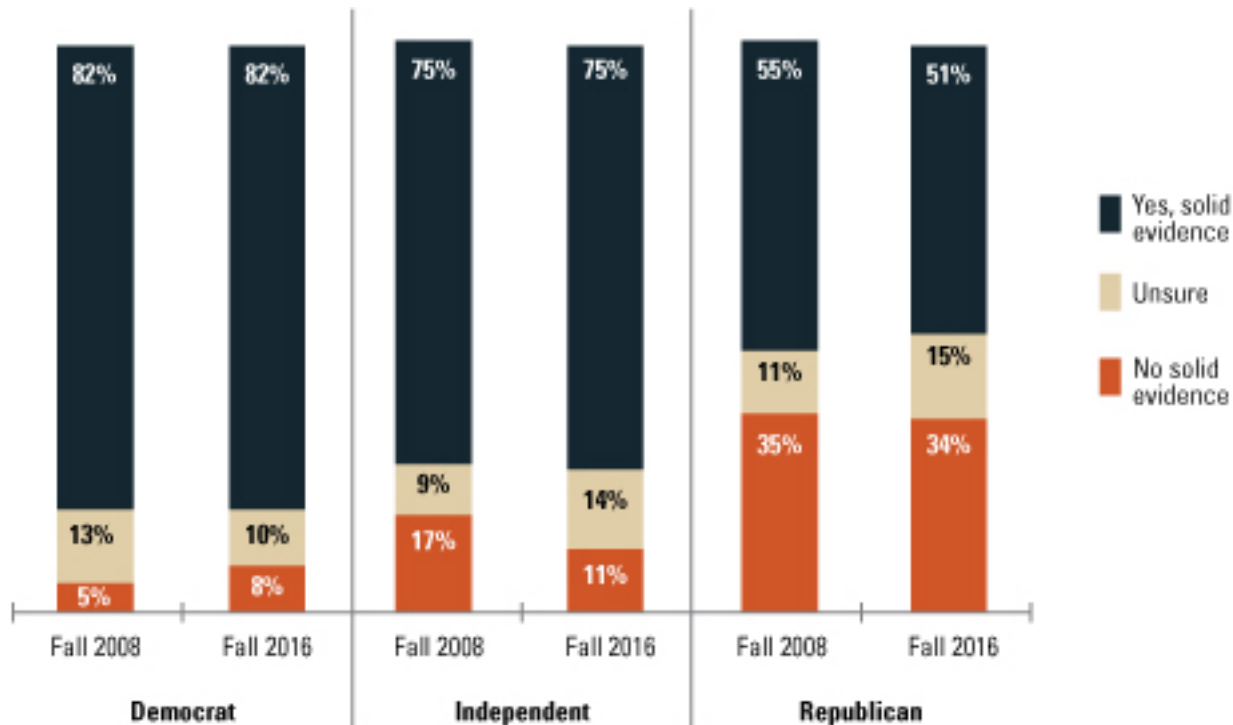
- Where are American views on climate change at the start of the Trump presidency?
- How do beliefs look today in relation to the start of the Obama presidency?

American views on the existence of global warming, 2008 - 2016



“From what you’ve read and heard is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades?”

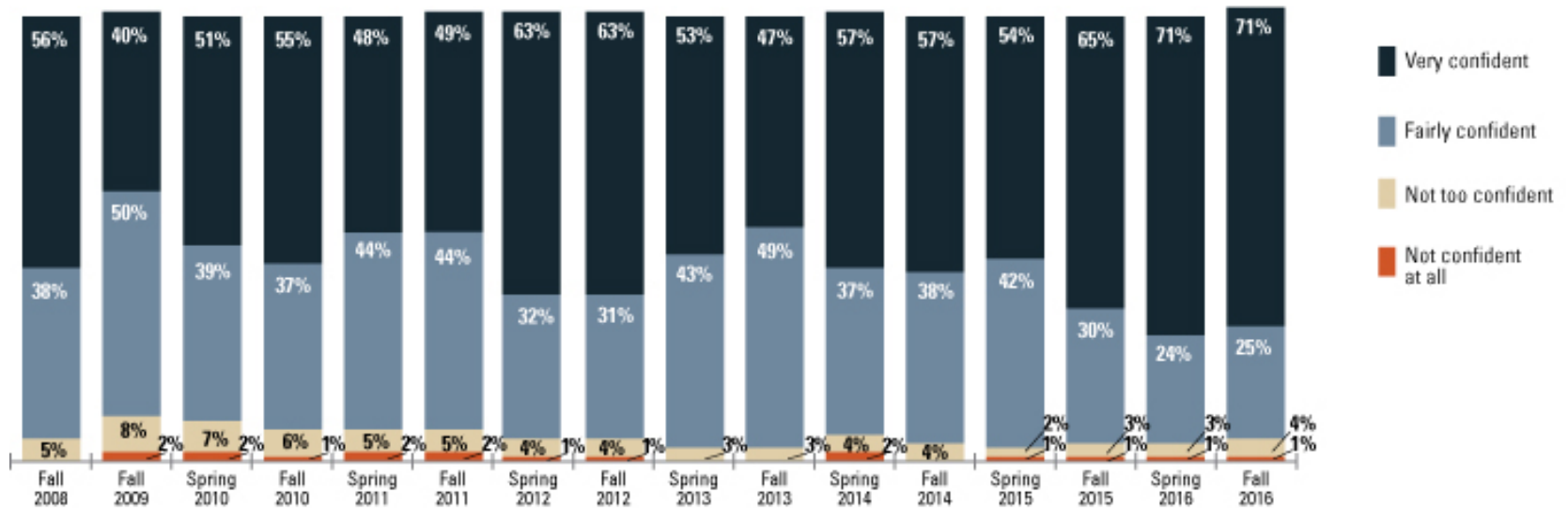
Partisan views on the existence of evidence of global warming, 2008 and 2016



“From what you’ve read and heard is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades?”

Confidence that earth IS warming, 2008 – 2016

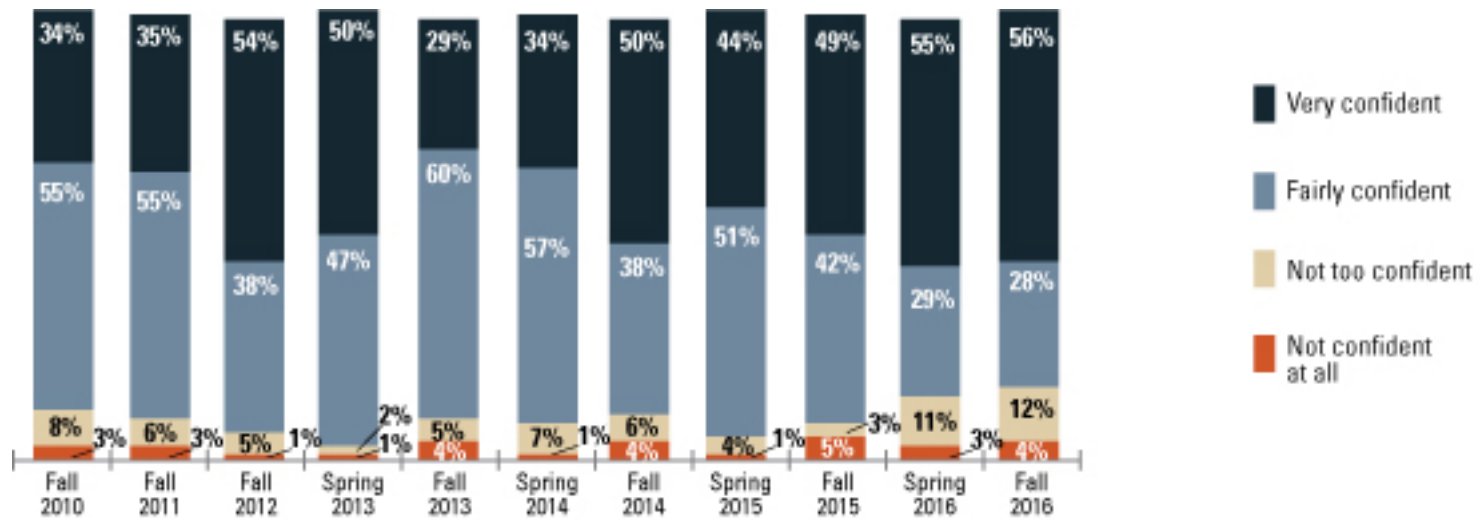
(among Americans who think global warming is occurring)



“How confident are you that the average temperature on earth is increasing? Are you very confident, fairly confident, not too confident or not confident at all that the average temperature on earth is increasing?”

Confidence that earth IS NOT warming, 2008 – 2016

(among Americans who think global warming is not occurring)

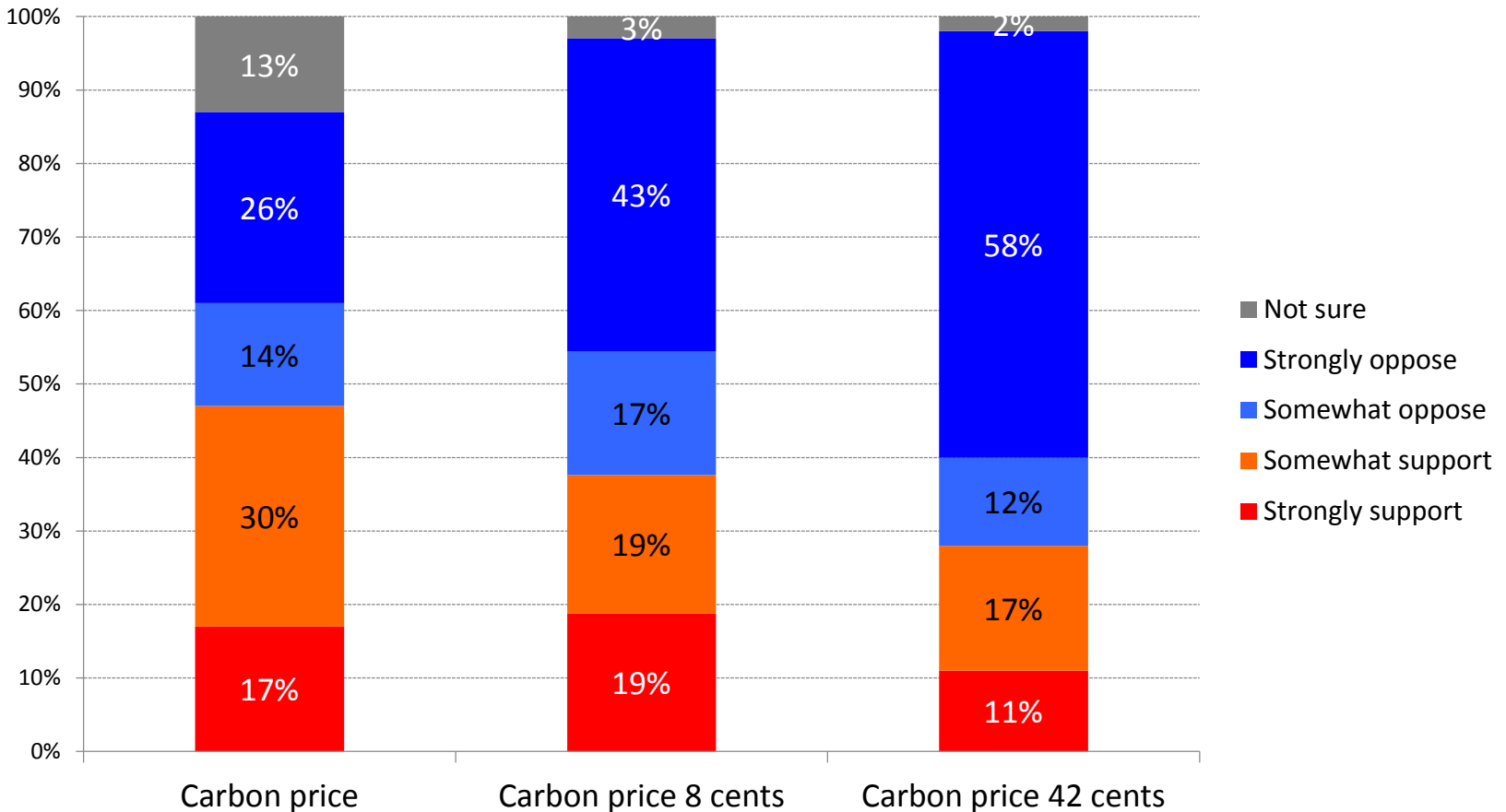


“How confident are you that the average temperature on earth is not increasing? Are you very confident, fairly confident, not too confident or not confident at all that the average temperature on earth is not increasing?”

The View from the United States

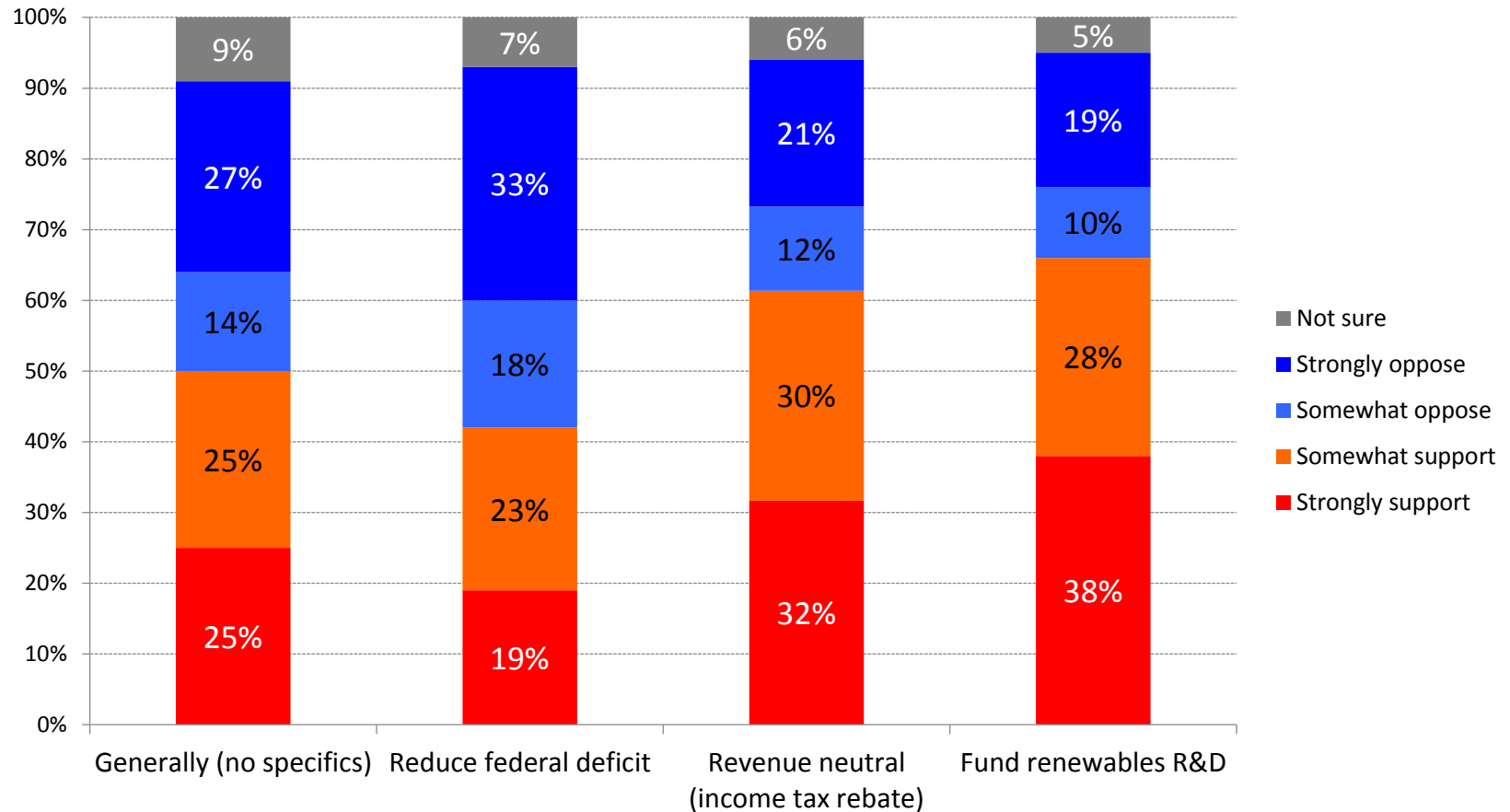
Perceptions of solutions

Support for a price on carbon pollution at different cost specs.



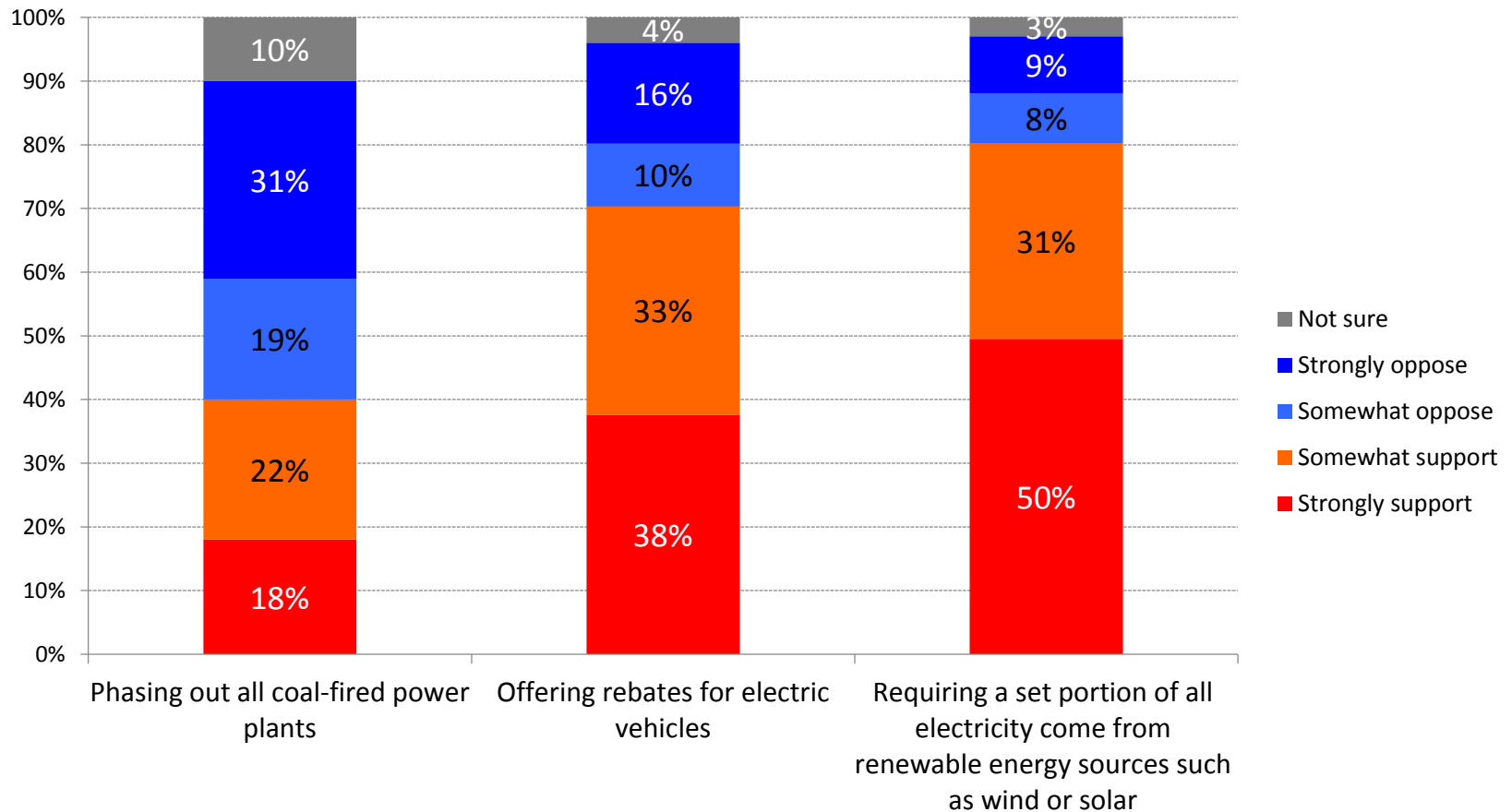
“Putting a price on carbon pollution [... that would increase the price of gasoline by about X cents per litre/gallon]?”

The devil's in the details: Support for a carbon tax



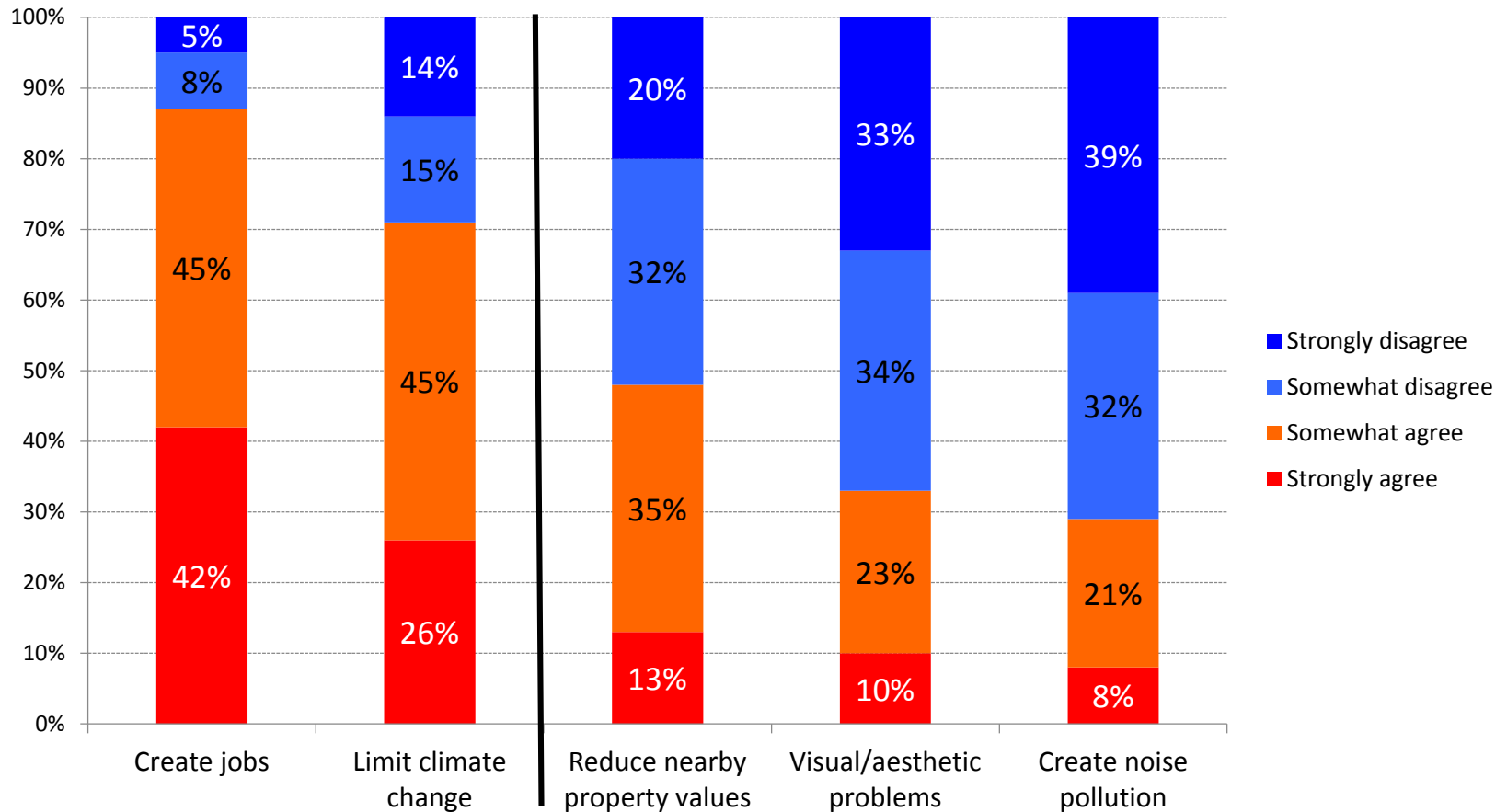
“Next I would like to ask for your views on a number of ideas that have been proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stabilize the climate. Consider a policy to reduce greenhouse gases by taxing carbon based fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas.”

Highest support for renewables mandates



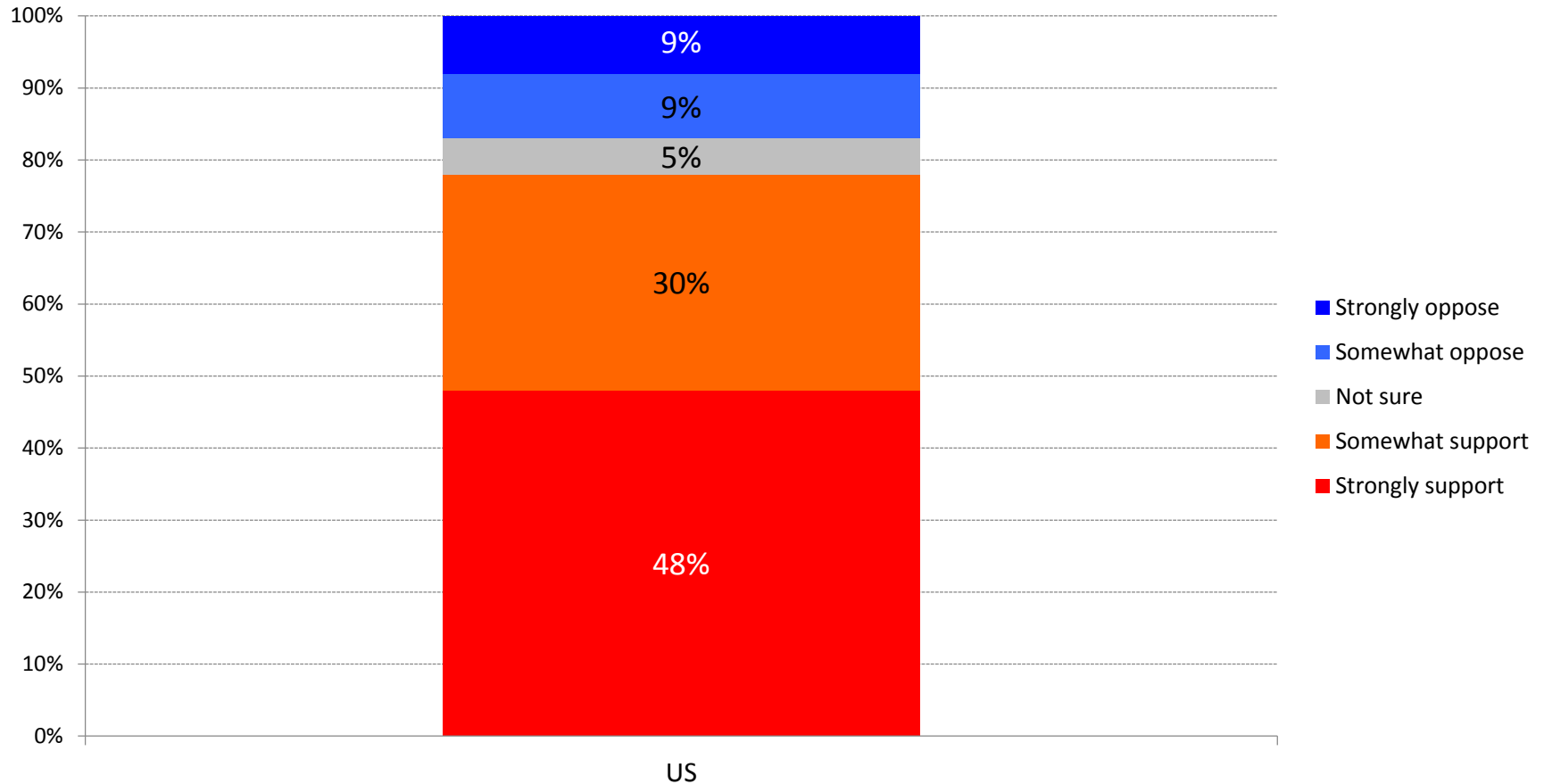
“There have been a number of ideas proposed for how governments can reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. For each of the following policy options I read please indicate if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that option.”

Perceived impacts of wind energy



“Next I have a few questions about wind energy. For each of the following statements I read about the impacts of wind turbines, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.”

Willingness to have wind turbines placed in own community



“Assuming there were suitable locations for them, would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose wind turbines being placed in your community/township?”

Perceived impacts depend on where you sit (and if you're paid)

- Census of landowners in 10 Michigan communities with windfarms
- 2,013 responses
- June-August 2016
- AAPOR RR3 = 52.7%

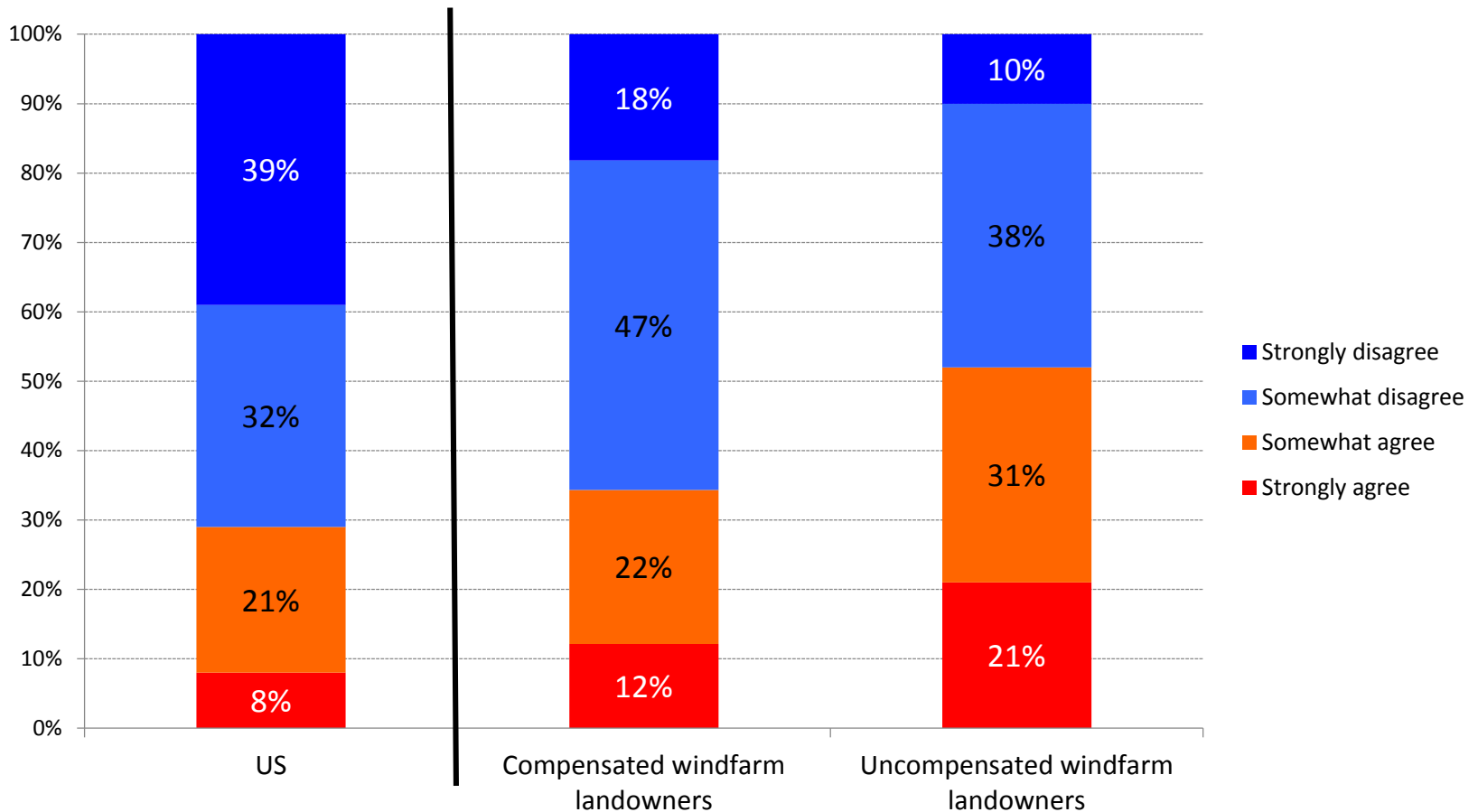
Funded by:



CHARLES STEWART

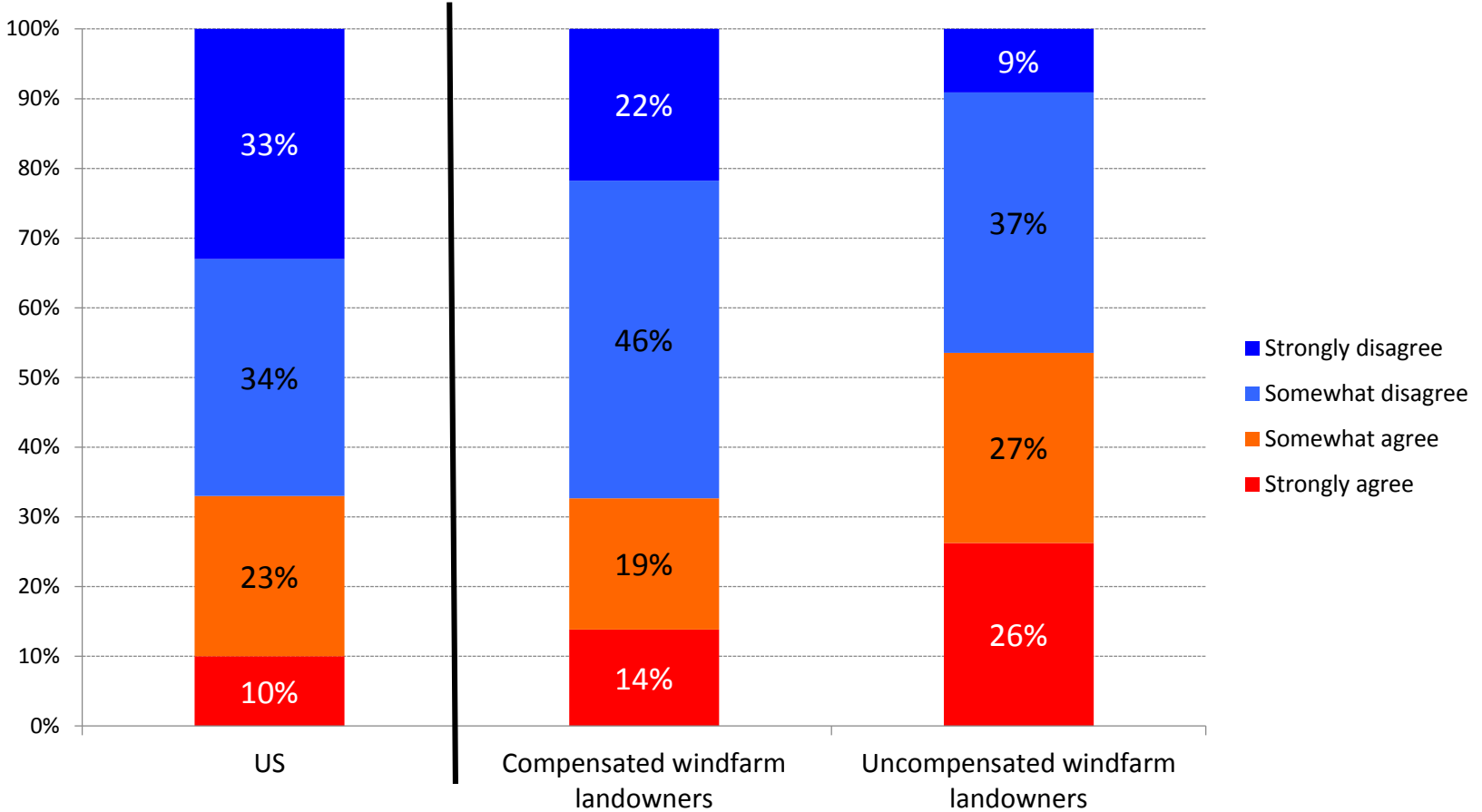
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Impacts depend on where you sit: Wind turbines create noise pollution



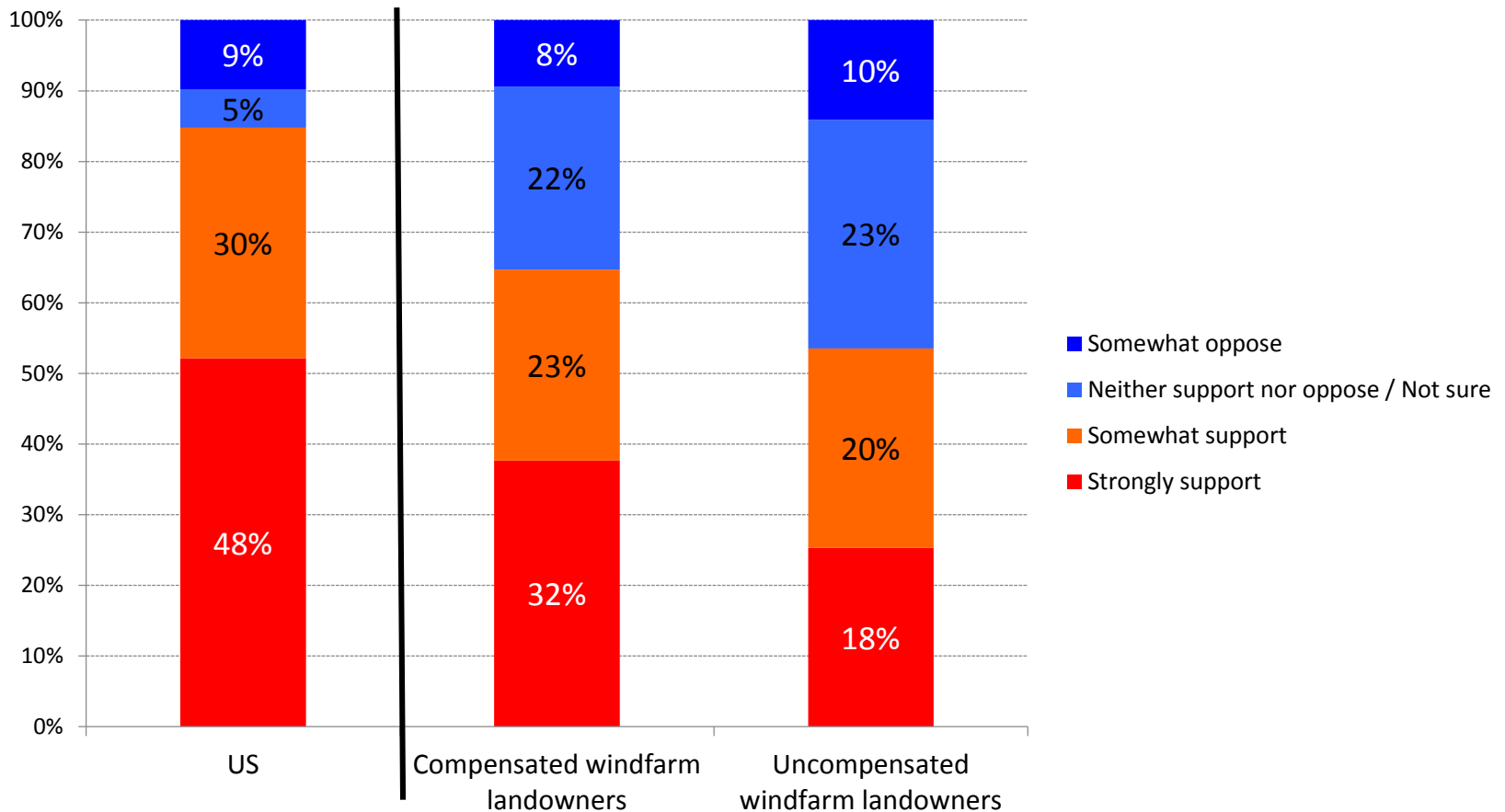
“For each of the following statements I read about the impacts of wind turbines, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.”

Impacts depend on where you sit: Wind turbines produce visual or aesthetic problems



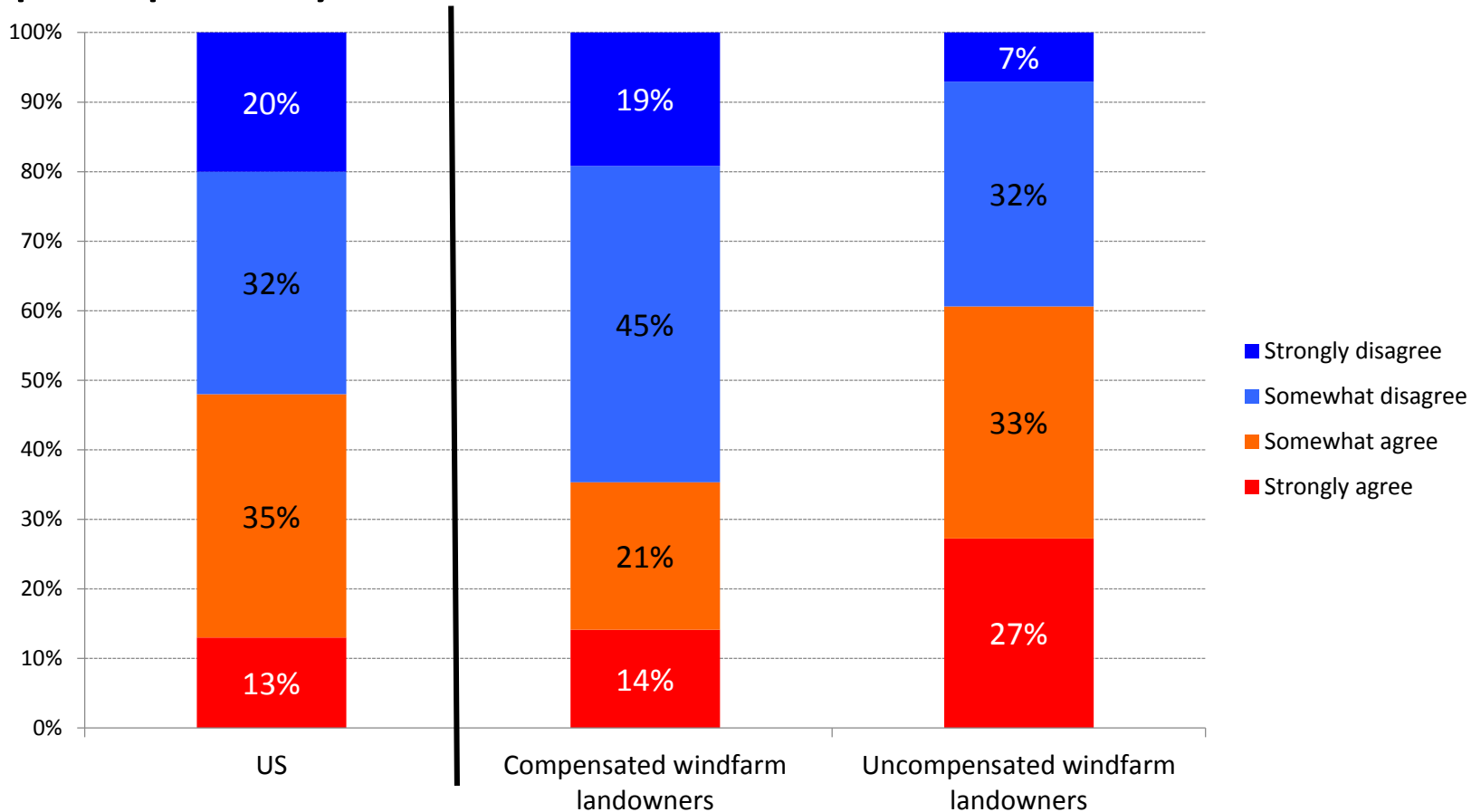
“For each of the following statements I read about the impacts of wind turbines, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.”

Impacts depend on where you sit: Wind turbines create jobs



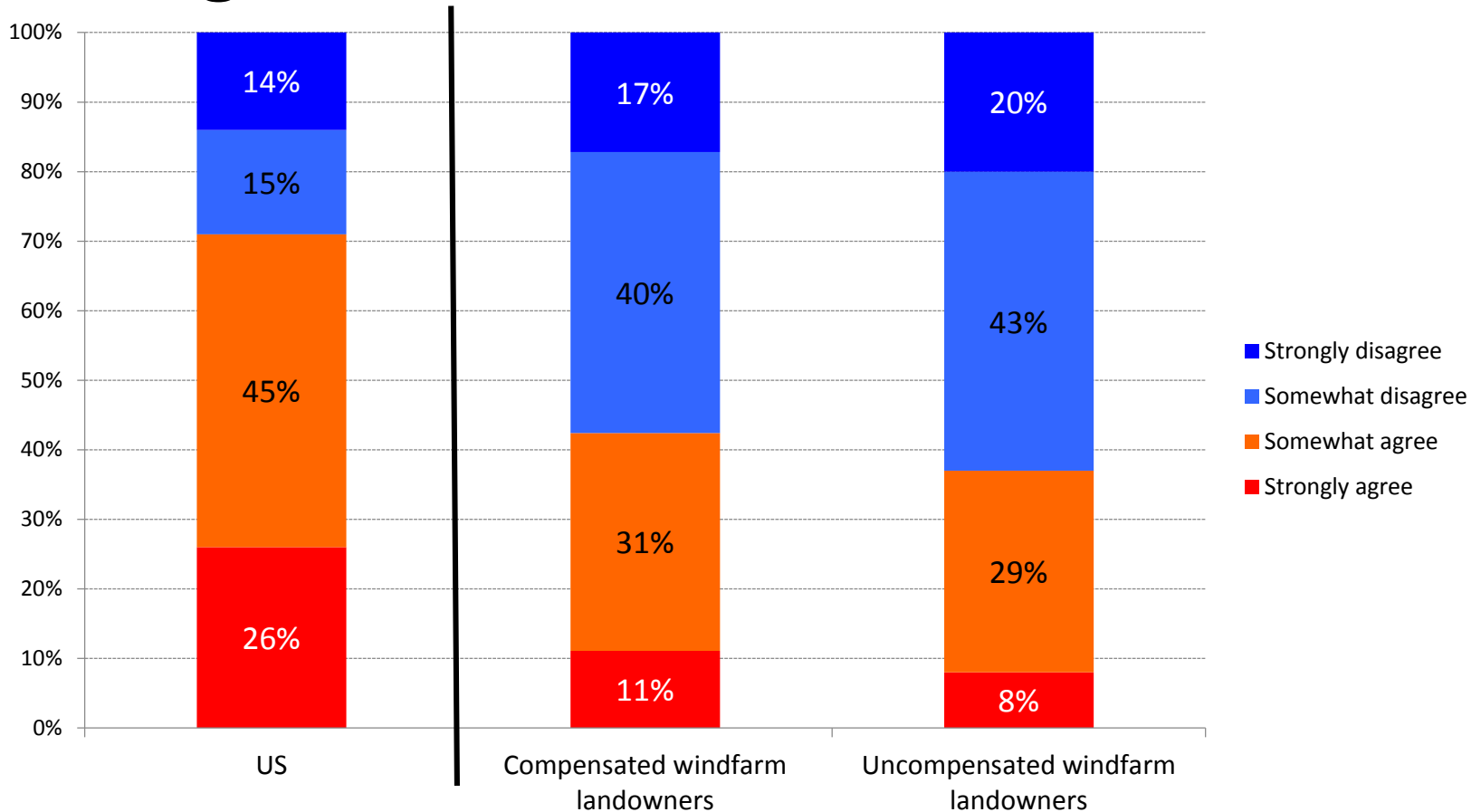
“For each of the following statements I read about the impacts of wind turbines, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.”

Impacts depend on where you sit: Wind turbines reduce nearby property values



“For each of the following statements I read about the impacts of wind turbines, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.”

Impacts depend on where you sit: Wind turbines limit help climate change



“For each of the following statements I read about the impacts of wind turbines, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.”