



Public perceptions of climate change and policy action in the UK, China, Sweden and Brazil

The following infographics show results from an online survey conducted between 28th August – 22nd September 2021 with 1,001 respondents in the UK, 1,001 in China, 1,023 in Sweden and 1,011 in Brazil. Quotas were set for gender, age, region, and

socioeconomic status to ensure that the sample is representative of the respective country's population. In addition, post stratification weights were applied. An associated briefing can be found here or email info@cast.ac.uk for more details on the survey.

What do people believe?

People are worried about climate change, and perceive it as a risk to themselves but more so for others in less developed countries.

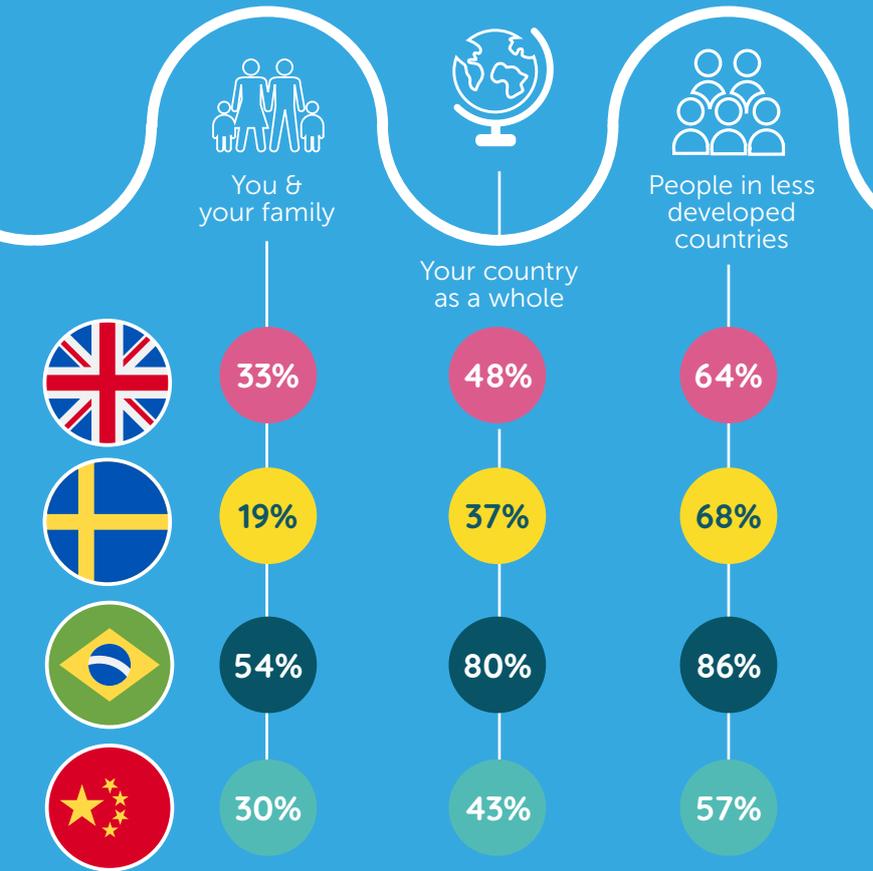
High levels of climate change worry in all countries...



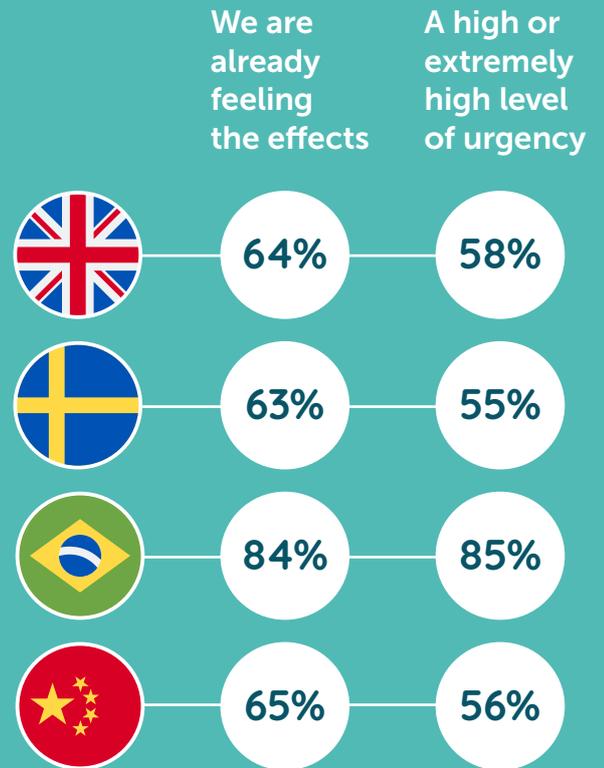
People in Brazil are more worried about climate change, have higher risk perception and feel a higher urgency for climate action than people in the UK, China and Sweden.



Climate change is a very serious or extremely serious threat to...



People in all four countries think that we already feel the effects of climate change and that it requires urgent and drastic action



In Sweden only **19%** of people feel that climate change is a very or extremely serious threat to them or their family.



To tackle climate change we as a society need to drastically change the way we live and how society operates...



What needs to happen?

Walking, cycling or using public transport is perceived as a very effective climate change response across all countries. Reducing consumption is not seen as an effective strategy in China. And reducing meat consumption patterns is not currently recognised as an impactful strategy across all four countries.

High levels of support for drastic measures on diet, transport, heating and consumption in all four countries.



Across all four countries there is majority support for the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees.

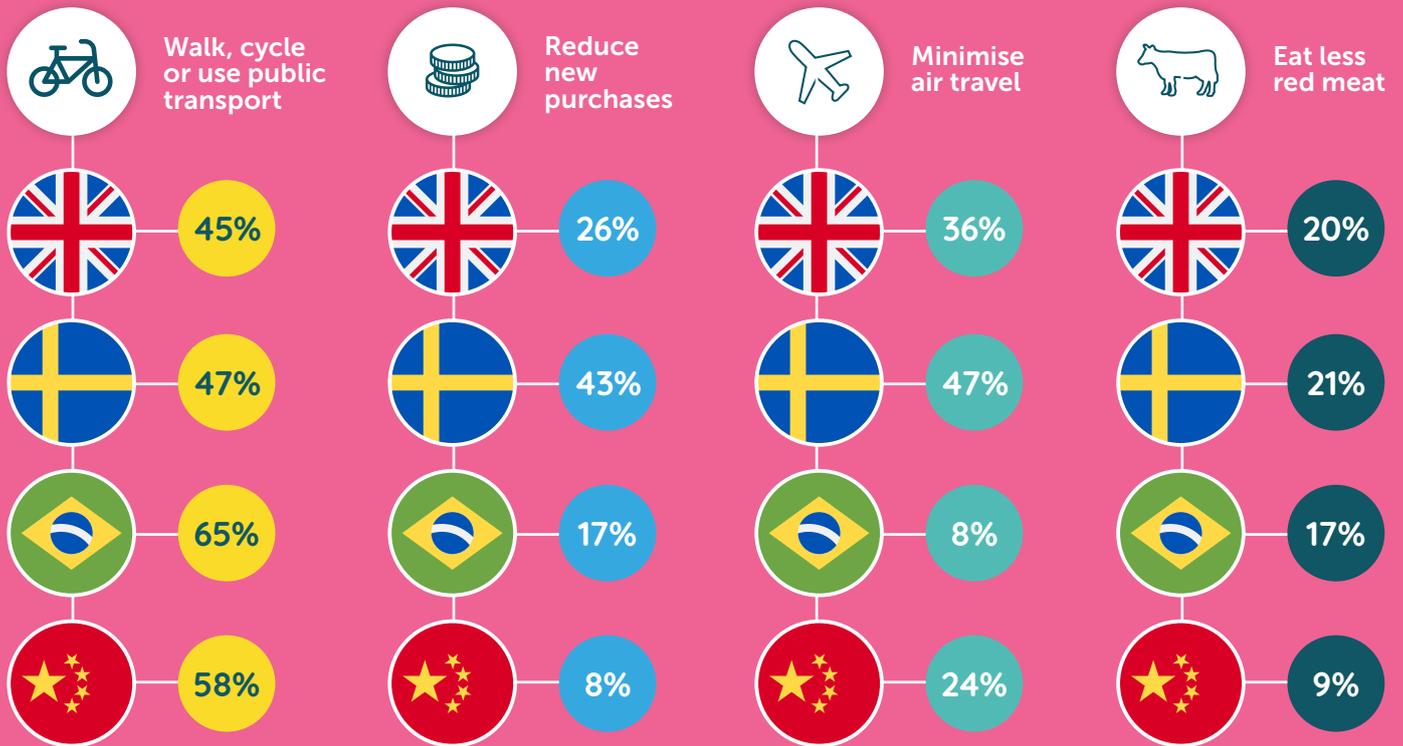


Citizen assemblies are perceived as a good political strategy in the UK, China and Brazil but is less popular in Sweden.



Perceived effectiveness of lifestyle changes

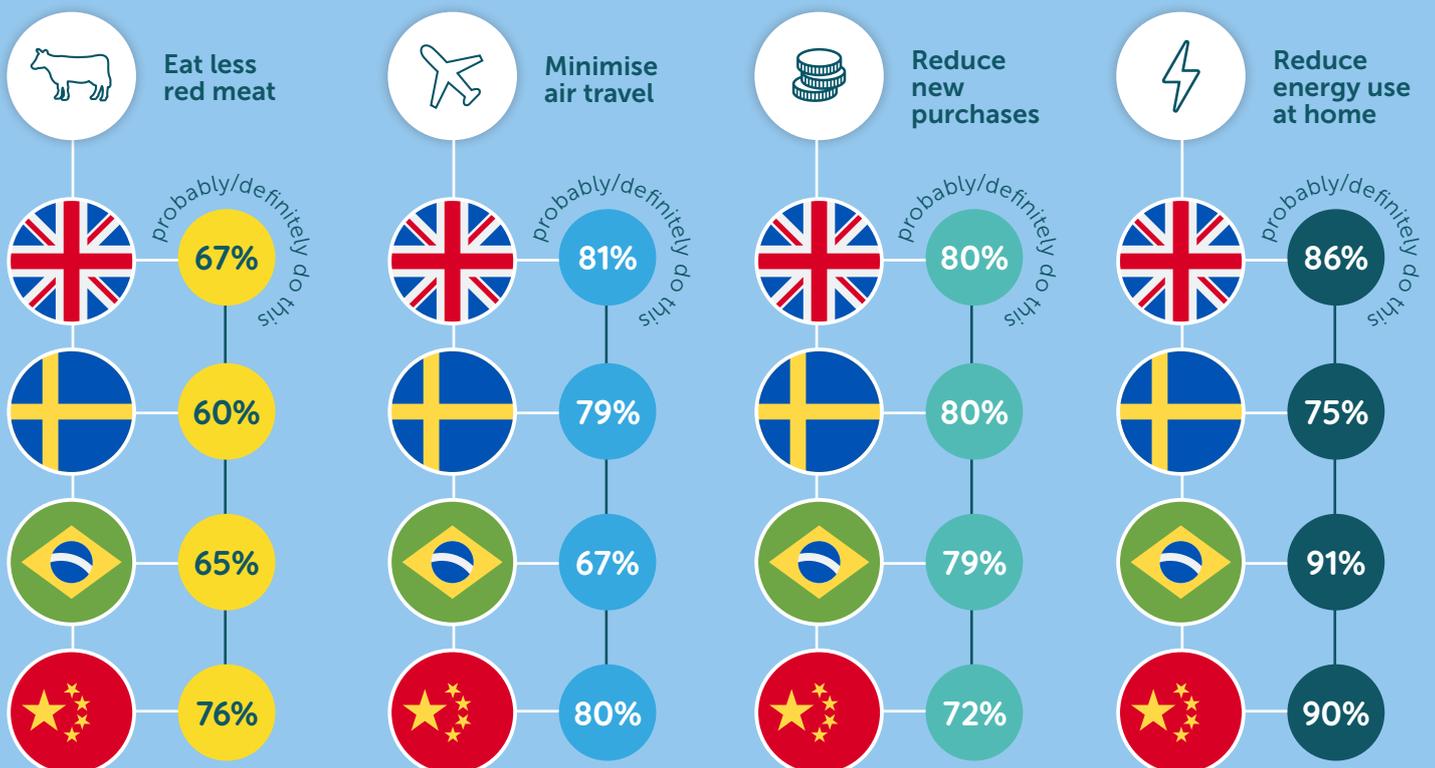
If everybody in the UK did the following, which would have the biggest impact on tackling climate change?*



*respondents picked up to three options out of a list of 8.

Perceived necessity of lifestyle changes

Thinking about the ways to limit climate change, to what extent do you think we should do the following?



Strong support for their country to be part of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise below 2 degrees



69%



66%



67%



76%



How much do you oppose or support politicians allowing citizens' opinions about climate change to directly feed into policy making (e.g. through citizen assemblies)?



How will it happen?

Climate action is seen as a joint responsibility between individuals, businesses and industry and government



Government action is seen as the first step towards change in the UK, Sweden and China by most people, followed by individual behaviour change second, before protests or business change

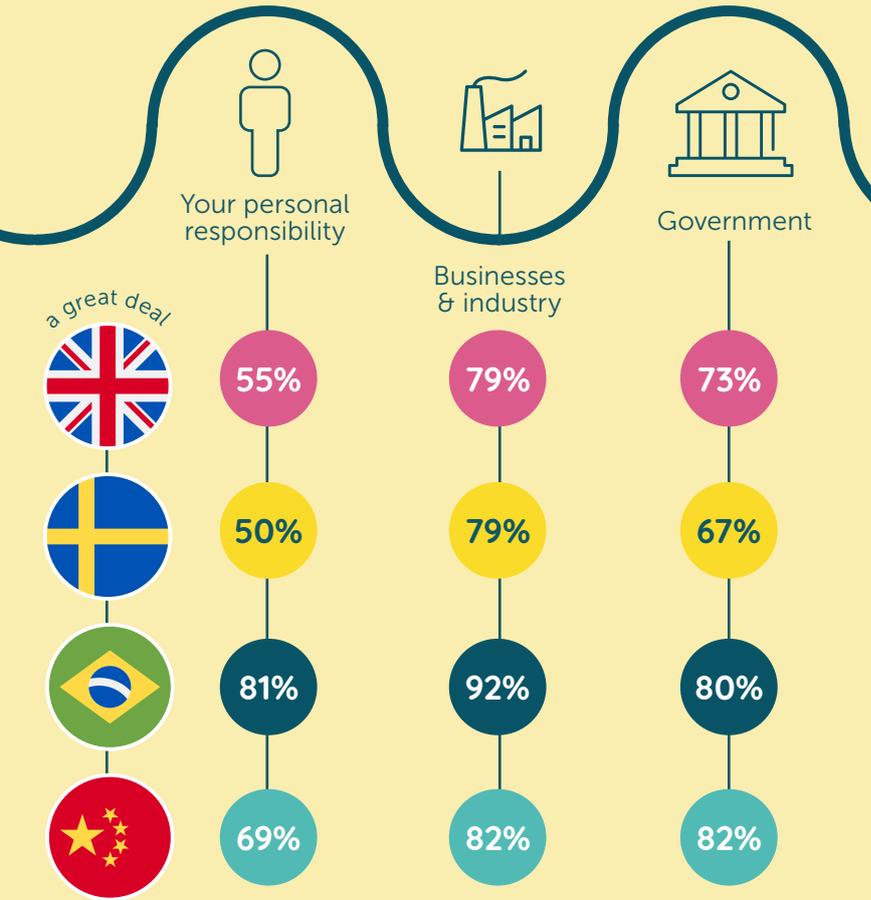


Brazilian respondents believe that individual climate action needs to come before government climate action.

Only around **one-third** trusts businesses and governments to take effective action on climate change in the UK, Sweden & Brazil (China excluded).



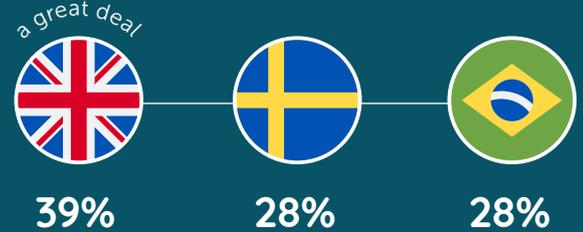
To what extent do you feel it is ... responsibility to reduce the risk of climate change?



What is your level of trust that businesses & industry will take action?



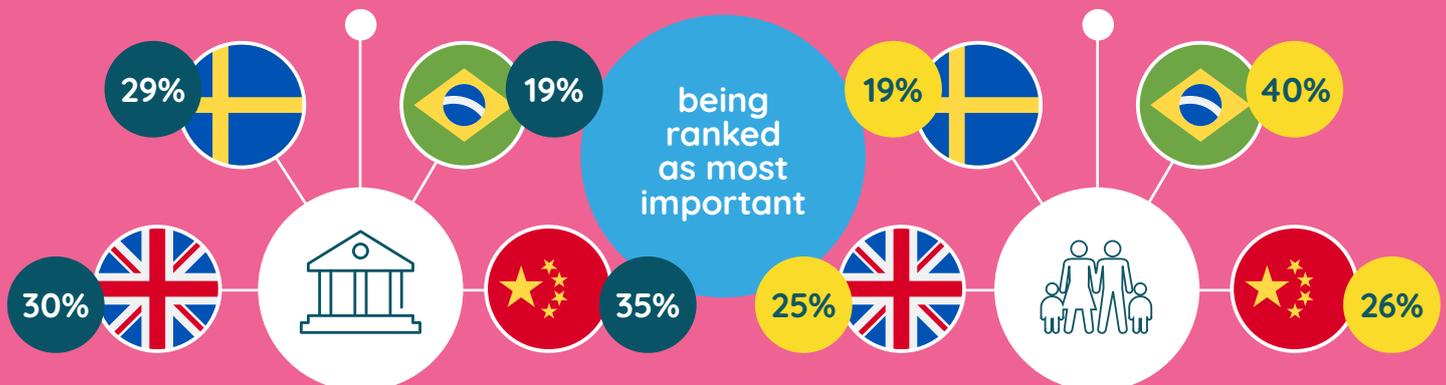
What is your level of trust that the Government will take action?



The most important steps to bring about drastic societal changes that help to tackle climate change

Government needs to start introducing far reaching policies such as raising taxes to pay for investments in a green economy.

Individuals will have to start making major changes to the way they live was selected as the first step.



Respondents ranked five options in order of importance.

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CAST (2021). Survey infographics: Public perceptions of climate change and policy action in the UK, China, Sweden and Brazil. Cardiff University.

Research conducted and infographic designed by DJS Research.

