

# Public Attitudes to Climate Change, Energy Security, and Energy Preferences

## Abstract:

Climate change is arguably the greatest environmental threat the world is facing. Fundamental shifts in the way energy is used and produced are needed to mitigate its risks to natural and economic systems. This proposal will address the public component of the transition to a low-carbon Europe by making a systematic and detailed comparison of attitudes to climate change, energy security and energy preferences. This proposal uses Stern's Value-Belief-Norm model (2000) as a general framework, covering the four broad areas of (1) beliefs on climate change, (2) concerns about climate change and energy security, (3) personal norms, efficacy and trust, and (4) energy preferences. The module is specifically designed to fit within the core ESS questionnaire to create a comprehensive dataset that directly contributes to a better understanding of the situated nature of environmental attitudes in this area. This module will help to make robust comparisons of Europeans' perceptions of climate change, energy security and energy preferences; increase our understanding of how they are shaped by national socio-political factors; examine the role of socio-political values and engagement; and examine the relative importance of individual-motivational versus national-contextual variables in public energy preferences.

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