

By Jasper Cantrell

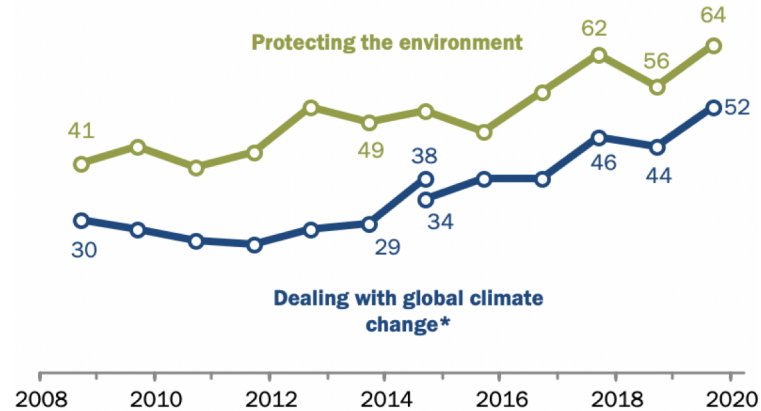
*CLIMATE
CHANGING
ATTITUDES*

Why another climate change study?

- Support for climate change and environmental protections have never been higher and I would like to know why.
- Is this change at all linked to the rise in more frequent and severe natural disasters?
- How does modern environmental philosophy apply to our current situation?

Increased support for prioritizing policies on the environment, climate change since 2011

% U.S. adults who say ____ should be a top priority for the president and Congress



*In 2014 and earlier, respondents were asked about dealing with "global warming." In 2015 half the sample was asked about either "global warming" or "global climate change"; 34% called "global climate change" a top priority while 38% said this about "global warming." Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

"As Economic Concerns Recede, Environmental Protection Rises on the Public's Policy Agenda"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- To what effect is the rise in support for environmental policy a product of more people experiencing environmental disaster?
- People who experience environmental disasters (hurricanes, wildfires, floods) will be more in favor of environmental policy than those without those experiences.

Frequency and severity of environmental disasters.



Level of favor towards environmental policy.

Research Question & Hypothesis

Key Environmentally Philosophical Concepts

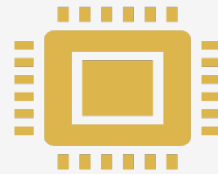


Gardiner's *A Perfect Moral Storm*

Dispersion of cause and effect over time and space

Fragmentation of Agency

Global Institutional Inadequacy



Heidegger's *Technological Gestell*

Technology within our society is “fundamentally enframing”.

Humanity has turned technology from a means to an end into a mode of existence.

Climate change is the challenge to the Gestell we find ourselves within.

Political Literature

My study was inspired by that of Laurie Rudman, *When Truth Is Personally Inconvenient, Attitudes Change*.

Followed a group of New Jersey residents before and after hurricanes Sandy and Irene.

Participants were given a group of fictional politicians who had varying degrees of support for environmental policy.

"Those who were significantly affected by Hurricane Sandy were especially likely to implicitly prefer the green politician"

Environmental Disasters as Risk Regulation Catalysts? By Matthew Kahn supports Gardiner's *Perfect Moral Storm*

Shows that representatives are less likely to vote on bills tied to environmental disasters as they are controversial and they do not want to upset or create any divide within their constituents

"[Environmental Disasters] have a catalytic effect of generating massive media coverage that galvanizes the public"

Methodology and Study



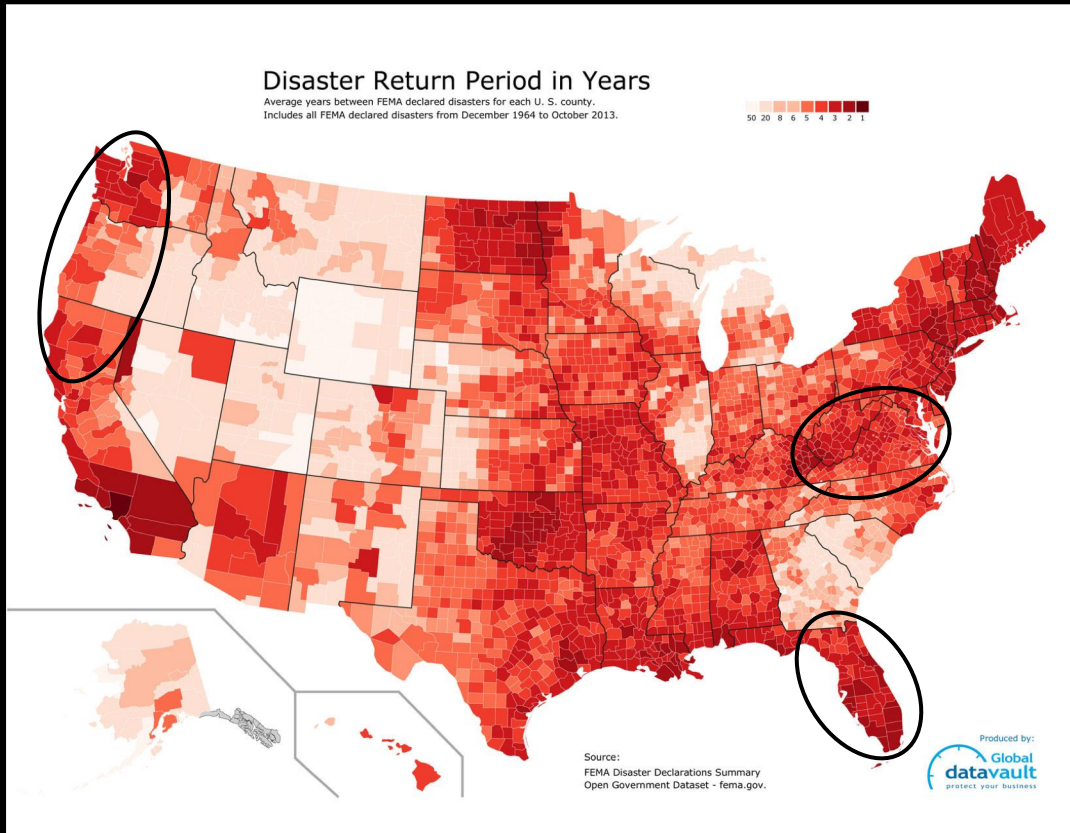
A literature review was done as a concrete base to jump off for research and what questions to ask.



A survey was to be released in order to gain answers to those questions and then broken down into several sections such as political, philosophical, and area based differences.



Finally based on those results the data is to be broken down so as to answer the political and philosophical questions stated previously.



Research Design

Survey was to be released to college students due to their reliability of response and ease of access.

20 question survey asking about experiences and if that person had been affected negatively by a hurricane, wildfire, or flood.

To acquire data for hurricanes survey was released to students at participating colleges on the East coast, North Carolina University and University of Florida.

Students would also be asked their opinion on several pieces of environmental policy, and to rank their feelings on the importance of environmental legislation and climate change.

Unfortunately, due to the SARS-COVID-19 epidemic my data became less than conclusive with my East coast schools no longer allowing my study to be sent to their students with many being hesitant to send out or participate in more online material.

Therefore the data I did receive is inconclusive at best with 4 responses from hurricane affected individuals and only slightly more for wildfires and floods.

Results(almost)

Conclusion

Overall, based on the literature and philosophy reviewed I can conclude that this is a divisive issue with much more data needed.

I hope to continue my research and a conclusive answer to my question in the future.