



CBS NEWS POLL
For release: April 22, 2010
7:00 AM (EDT)

THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE NEXT GENERATION

March 29-April 1, 2010

With Earth Day approaching and the U.S. Senate poised to begin debate on the direction of the nation's energy policy, many Americans are skeptical that the condition of the environment will be any better for the next generation. Just 16% think so, while half thinks the environment will get worse and a third thinks it will stay the same.

Still, Americans are slightly more optimistic than they were three years ago. In April 2007 just 11% thought the environment would be better for the next generation and 57% said it would be worse.

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, WILL THE ENVIRONMENT BE...?

	Now	4/2007
Better	16%	11%
Worse	49	57
The same	33	29

Americans under 45 are more pessimistic than their older counterparts: 54% of Americans under 45 think the environment will be worse for the next generation compared to 44% of those over 45.

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, WILL THE ENVIRONMENT BE...?

(By age)

	Under 45	Over 45
Better	15%	17%
Worse	54	44
The same	30	35

Men are slightly more optimistic than women, as are wealthier Americans.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 858 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone March 29-April 1, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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q39 Do you think the condition of the environment for the next generation will be better, worse, or about the same as it is now?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS		
		***** AGE *****	
	Total	Under 45	Over 45
	%	%	%
Better	16	15	17
Worse	49	54	44
Same	33	30	35
Don't know/No answer	2	1	4

Total Respondents 858