Londoners are worried about climate change - and don't trust government to fix it

A new poll conducted by the Mile End Institute at Queen Mary University of London shows 68 per cent of Londoners are worried about climate change and its effects – with 31 per cent being very worried and 37 per cent fairly worried. Only 17 per cent and 11 per cent of Londoners, respectively, are either not very or not at all worried.

There are important partisan differences in concern over climate change among Londoners. Our poll shows that while only 57 per cent of Londoners who voted Conservative in 2019 are currently worried about climate change and its effects, 80 per cent of those who voted Labour and 75 per cent of those who voted Liberal Democrat in 2019, respectively, report feeling this way.

We also observe a clear, and steep age gradient in views on climate change among Londoners. While less than one fifth of 18–24 year olds who live in London (18 per cent) are currently not worried about climate change and its effects, nearly double the proportion of those aged 65 or over say the same (38 per cent).

Although Londoners are generally worried about climate change and its effects, the figure below demonstrates they are not convinced that the government’s Net Zero pledge will tackle their climate concerns. Just 16 per cent of those living in London are confident that the government will achieve its target of Net Zero emissions by 2050 – and only 3 per cent are very confident about this. This compares to almost three quarters of Londoners (72 per cent) who are not confident that the government will achieve this target (37 per cent are ‘not very confident’ and 35 per cent are ‘not at all confident’). Clearly there is work to be
done for the government in convincing Londoners, and the rest of the UK population, that it can meet its target of achieving Net Zero by 2050.

Data tables are available here: QMUL_LondonOnly_Tabs_Oct23.xls (live.com)

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from fieldwork conducted by YouGov Plc for the Mile End Institute (which should be credited as the commissioner and designer of the survey). Fieldwork was conducted online between 12th - 17th October 2023. Total sample size was 1,066 adults living in inner and outer London. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults living in London (aged 18+). YouGov is a member of the British Polling Council and abide by their rules.