

Transatlantic Survey Report: More Than Half of Germans and Americans Believe in the Economic Potential of More Ambitious Climate Protection Policies

55 percent of Americans and 52 percent of Germans believe that a more ambitious climate protection policy by their government would present more economic benefits than risks, among others in terms of labour market and export potential. This is the result of a survey conducted by IPSOS on behalf of Das Progressive Zentrum, which the think tank published shortly before the state elections in Eastern Germany and the U.S. presidential elections in November. It is crucial to the respondents that the positive impact of such benefits is noticeable in their daily lives. Only 37 percent and 29 percent, respectively, are optimistic about a positive economic development in their region under the current circumstances.

47 percent of Americans and 44 percent of Germans agreed with the statement that their government is not doing enough to tackle climate change. In both countries, half of the respondents also support massive investments in the climate-friendly transformation of existing industries, particularly in industrial heartland regions. At the same time, the survey shows that the cost of living and the economy are by far the main concerns of respondents in both the U.S. and Germany. The results underscore the importance of short-term economic relief and a long-term planning and investment strategy. If an effective combination of tangible financial relief in daily life and long-term climate protection measures can be achieved, the survey results indicate majority support in both countries.

Just over a third of Americans believe that Bidenomics provide the right incentives to boost the US economy and will benefit US citizens. Meanwhile, 14 percent of Americans do not know the main policies of Bidenomics, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act as well as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and another 14 percent do not know whether they are in fact the right measures.

52 percent of Germans and 55 percent of Americans support an economic policy that sees the path to climate neutrality as an opportunity for growth and future viability, rather than promoting the current models of industrial production and value creation. It will be crucial for policymakers to clarify how these investments will specifically benefit households and communities.

For the representative survey, IPSOS interviewed 1,500 people in the U.S. and Germany each via online interviews in February and March 2024. The survey is part of the project ["Transatlantic Dialogue on the Industrial Heartlands: Shaping the Future."](#) which Das Progressive Zentrum is conducting together with the Progressive Policy Institute (Washington, D.C.), the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the BMW Center for Contemporary German and European Studies at Georgetown University.

The **full survey report** can be found [here](#).

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