

**Fielding Dates: March 17-26  
719 Registered Virginia Voters**

[READ] Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling for the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University. We are conducting a public opinion survey about environmental and public policy issues among residents of Virginia and I would like to ask you some questions. We are not trying to sell you anything and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation. We are only interested in your opinion.

**I. Current and Prospective Assessments**

1. [READ] How would you rate the economic condition in Virginia today, would you rate it as VERY GOOD, SOMEWHAT GOOD, SOMEWHAT POOR, or VERY POOR?

Very good	2.4%
Somewhat good	45.0%
Somewhat poor	37.2%
Very poor	14.9%
Unsure (vol.)	.6%

2. [READ] How about you personally, would you rate your personal financial condition today as VERY GOOD, SOMEWHAT GOOD, SOMEWHAT POOR, or VERY POOR?

Very good	11.7%
Somewhat good	59.3%
Somewhat poor	19.2%
Very poor	6.3%
Unsure (vol.)	.6%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	3.0%

3. [READ] And how anxious are you about your personal financial condition, would you say you are VERY ANXIOUS, SOMEWHAT ANXIOUS, or NOT ANXIOUS at all?

Very anxious	17.9%
Somewhat anxious	48.5%
Not anxious	31.1%
Unsure (vol.)	.2%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	2.2%

4. [READ] Now, using a letter grade of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F," how would you grade the overall quality of the natural environment in VIRGINIA today – A grade of "A" means excellent and a grade of "F" means very poor. What grade would you give Virginia's environment?

**Comparison 2009 VEAS**

A, Excellent	6.1%		8.0%	
B	31.9%		37.0%	
C	51.1%		40.6%	
D	7.3%	Average = 2.4, excluding (vol.)	7.8%	Average = 2.6, excluding (vol.)
F, Very Poor	1.3%		3.5%	
Unsure (vol.)	1.5%		1.7%	
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.7%		1.4%	

5. [READ] Thinking ahead 10 or so years from now, do you think the natural environment in VIRGINIA will be much better, about the same, or much worse?

Much better	17.5%
About the same	57.9%
Much worse	19.3%
Unsure (vol.)	3.6%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	1.7%

**II. Virginia’s Environment and Natural Resources - Most Important and Problem Areas**

6. [READ] When you think about Virginia’s environment and natural resources, which ONE of the following is MOST important to you personally? [rotate list]      7. [READ] And which ONE would be your second choice?

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Combined
The Chesapeake Bay and its coastal tributaries	30.1%	17.2%	47.3%
Historic rivers such as the James, York and Potomac	19.3%	18.4%	37.7%
Mountain ranges such as the Appalachian or Blue Ridge	13.1%	17.8%	30.9%
Parks and open spaces	11.1%	13.9%	25.0%
The Atlantic Ocean and its barrier islands	8.5%	11.8%	20.3%
Forests and public lands	9.3%	10.9%	20.2%
All are equally important (vol.)	7.5%	8.4%	15.9%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	1.1%	1.6%	

8. [READ] I’m going to read that list again. As I read each item, tell me on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 representing VERY POOR and 5 representing VERY GOOD, how you personally would rate the health of the item. Here is the first one... [rotate list]

8a. The Chesapeake Bay and its coastal tributaries

1, Very Poor	8.0%
2	19.7%
3	47.3%
4	9.3%
5, Very Good	2.6%
Unsure (vol.)	9.3%
DK/no answer (vol.)	3.8%

Average = 2.8, excluding (vol.)
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8b. The Atlantic Ocean and its barrier islands

1, Very Poor	2.6%
2	17.4%
3	45.4%
4	20.8%
5, Very Good	2.9%
Unsure (vol.)	7.9%
DK/no answer (vol.)	2.9%

Average = 3.0, excluding (vol.)
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8c. Historic rivers such as the James, York and Potomac

1, Very Poor	8.1%	
2	22.7%	
3	42.4%	
4	15.2%	Average = 2.8, excluding (vol.)
5, Very Good	2.9%	
Unsure (vol.)	6.2%	
DK/no answer (vol.)	2.5%	

8d. Mountain ranges such as the Appalachian or Blue Ridge

1, Very Poor	1.4%	
2	6.3%	
3	29.5%	
4	36.7%	Average = 3.7, excluding (vol.)
5, Very Good	15.2%	
Unsure (vol.)	8.3%	
DK/no answer (vol.)	2.7%	

8e. Forests and public lands

1, Very Poor	2.7%	
2	10.5%	
3	34.6%	
4	39.7%	Average = 3.4, excluding (vol.)
5, Very Good	7.9%	
Unsure (vol.)	3.5%	
DK/no answer (vol.)	1.2%	

8f. Parks and open spaces

1, Very Poor	1.4%	
2	9.9%	
3	38.1%	
4	37.7%	Average = 3.5, excluding (vol.)
5, Very Good	10.6%	
Unsure (vol.)	1.3%	
DK/no answer (vol.)	1.0%	

14. [READ] When comparing where you live with the rest of Virginia, do you generally think that problems related to the environment and the state's natural resources are worse where you live, worse in other parts of the state, or about the same?

Worse where I live	13.4%
Worse in other parts of the state	39.8%
About the same	44.1%
Unsure (vol.)	1.8%
DK/no answer (vol.)	.8%

15. As you know, Virginia has had its most severe winter in many years this year, including record snowfalls. Has this year's winter made you feel [LESS] concerned about climate change, [MORE] concerned about it, or has it made no difference in your views about whether climate change is happening or not? [rotate choices]

Less	4.8%
More	27.9%
No change	66.2%
Unsure (vol.)	.8%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.3%

**III. Approaches to Dealing with the Environment and Climate Change**

16. [READ] Ok, shifting focus a bit, how much responsibility do you think Virginia's government has to create policies that could address the issue of climate change and improve the state's environment? Would you say a GREAT DEAL of responsibility, SOME responsibility, LITTLE responsibility, or NO responsibility?

Great Deal	37.2%
Some	40.5%
Little	12.3%
None	8.3%
Unsure (vol.)	.9%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.7%

17. [READ] If Virginia's government were to focus right now on creating policies that would address issues related to climate change and improve the state's environment, which ONE of the following approaches would you MOST want it to focus on? [rotate list]      18. [READ] And which would be your second choice?

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Combined
Helping the state become more energy efficient	34.3%	15.2%	49.5%
Creating more clean jobs	18.8%	25.5%	44.3%
Cleaning up the state's environment	14.3%	16.5%	30.8%
Helping Virginian's reduce energy consumption	10.8%	11.7%	22.5%
Improving the health of the state's environment	8.5%	11.9%	20.4%
Encouraging greater environmental stewardship	4.9%	8.9%	13.8%
All of them (vol.)	5.6%	6.3%	11.9%
None of these (vol.)	2.4%	2.4%	
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.4%	1.7%	

[READ] Many people believe that in order to address the issue of climate change and improve Virginia's natural environment we will have to deal with the issue of energy. I'm going to read several statements about climate change and energy. For each one, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, DISAGREE, or STRONGLY DISAGREE with it.

Ok, here is the first one...

19. [READ] Slightly higher energy costs today are worth the investment if they lead to energy that is cleaner, reliable, affordable, and safer down the road.

Strongly agree	25.4%
Agree	56.0%
Disagree	12.4%
Strongly Disagree	4.6%
Unsure (vol.)	1.4%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.2%

20. [READ] Taking smart, effective action now to develop new energy sources will result in energy that is cleaner, reliable, affordable, and safer in the long run.

Strongly agree	31.9%
Agree	56.9%
Disagree	7.6%
Strongly Disagree	1.6%
Unsure (vol.)	1.8%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.2%

21. [READ] Regardless of whether there is or isn't climate change, it is still in Virginia's best interest to develop new sources of energy that are cleaner, reliable, affordable, and safer.

Strongly agree	42.4%
Agree	48.8%
Disagree	5.7%
Strongly Disagree	1.4%
Unsure (vol.)	1.7%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.1%

22. [READ] Ok, thanks. I'm now going to read a list of environmental and economic goals for the future. Please tell me which ONE goal should be the MOST IMPORTANT goal for Virginia going forward [rotate list].

23. [READ] And which would be your second choice?

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Combined
Creating new jobs and business opportunities in renewable energy and conservation	42.1%	22.3%	64.4%
Helping end our dependence on foreign oil	27.3%	31.0%	58.3%
Reducing pollution of our air and water	14.7%	34.3%	49.0%
Doing our part to reduce the causes of climate change	12.9%	7.6%	20.5%
Unsure (vol.)	1.7%	2.5%	
Dk/no answer (vol.)	1.3%	2.3%	

**Note: Questions 24-26 held for separate study**

**V. Demographics**

[READ] And now just a few more questions to be sure we've included a good mix of people in the study:

27. Please indicate the group that includes your age:

18 – 24	12.5%
25 – 34	17.2%
35 – 44	20.7%
45 – 54	19.9%
55 or older	29.7%

28. What is the last grade of school or college you had the opportunity to complete?

High school or less	19.4%
Some college	27.3%
Vocational or technical training	4.8%
College graduate	27.7%
Graduate study or more	20.7%
Dk/no answer (vol.)	.2%

29. Would you consider yourself to be:

White	74.8%
Black	19.0%
Hispanic/Latino	.2%
Asian	.8%
Multi-racial	1.8%
Other	2.0%
DK/no answer	1.4%

30. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent? (IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT) Would you call yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or not a very strong (Republican/Democrat)? (IF INDEPENDENT) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democrat Party?

Strong Republican	14.4%
Republican	10.7%
Weak Republican	11.1%
Independent	13.5%
Weak Democrat	8.5%
Democrat	12.7%
Strong Democrat	22.3%
Neither/other (vol.)	6.8%

Sex: [interviewer code]

Male	48.2%
Female	51.8%

Region: [interviewer code]

Northern Virginia	33.0%
Richmond	16.9%
Hampton Roads	23.1%
Western/Southwestern	27.0%

Thank you very much for your help with this survey.

#### Survey Methodology:

The Virginia Environmental Attitudes Survey is provided as a public service to the citizens of Virginia by the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University under a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment. It is a public opinion survey of 719 randomly selected registered Virginia voters conducted by telephone between March 17-26, 2010. The data reported here are weighted on sex, age, and region of residence to reflect as closely as possible the demographic composition of Virginia adults 18 and older. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Results for the full sample have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6% at the 95% confidence level. This means for the full sample we can be 95% confident that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.6%. In addition to sampling error, the other potential sources of error include non-response, question wording, and interviewer error. Where percentages for subgroups are reported, the margin of error would be higher. The poll was designed by the Wason Center for Public Policy and conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion at Muhlenberg College. For information or requests, contact Dr. Quentin Kidd, at (757) 594-8499 or [qkidd@cnu.edu](mailto:qkidd@cnu.edu).