

**Boston University** Initiative on Cities



# Climate Change and Mayoral Leadership

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# Cities May Be Our Greatest Hope in the Face of Climate Change and the Pandemic

**Cities Are Scolding Countries at UN Climate Conference to Cut Emissions**

**Walsh Promises To Continue Bold Climate Action As New Chair Of National Climate Mayors Group**

**The US Is Ready For 100% Clean Energy — 10 Cities Model How To Get There**

**Cities lead the way on curbing carbon emissions**

**On Eve of Global Climate Summit, 19 U.S. Cities Launch Electric Car Effort**



# Cities Joining Ranks: New Momentum



**1990:** [ICLEI](#) - Global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future

**2005:** [C40](#) – C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. Network of the world’s megacities (et al – 90 total) committed to addressing climate change

**2013:** [100 Resilient Cities](#) –Created by Rockefeller Foundation to support 100 cities committed to becoming more resilient to physical, social, and economic challenges

**2014:** [GPC](#) - Final version of the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) published by WRI, C40 and ICLEI

**2014:** [Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance](#) – Collaboration of 20 leading global cities focused on deep decarbonization; Working to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% or more by 2050

**2014:** [Climate Mayors](#) – 470+ U.S. mayor to mayor network committed to reducing GHG emissions and supporting binding federal and global-level policymaking

**2014:** [Compact of Mayors](#) (merged with **Global Covenant of Mayors** in 2016) - Global coalition of 9,000 mayors and city officials committed to reduce local GHG emissions, enhancing resilience to climate change and tracking progress publicly.

**2016:** [Sierra Club Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Initiative](#): 170+ cities and towns publicly pledge to work toward 100% renewable energy, supported by Sierra Club

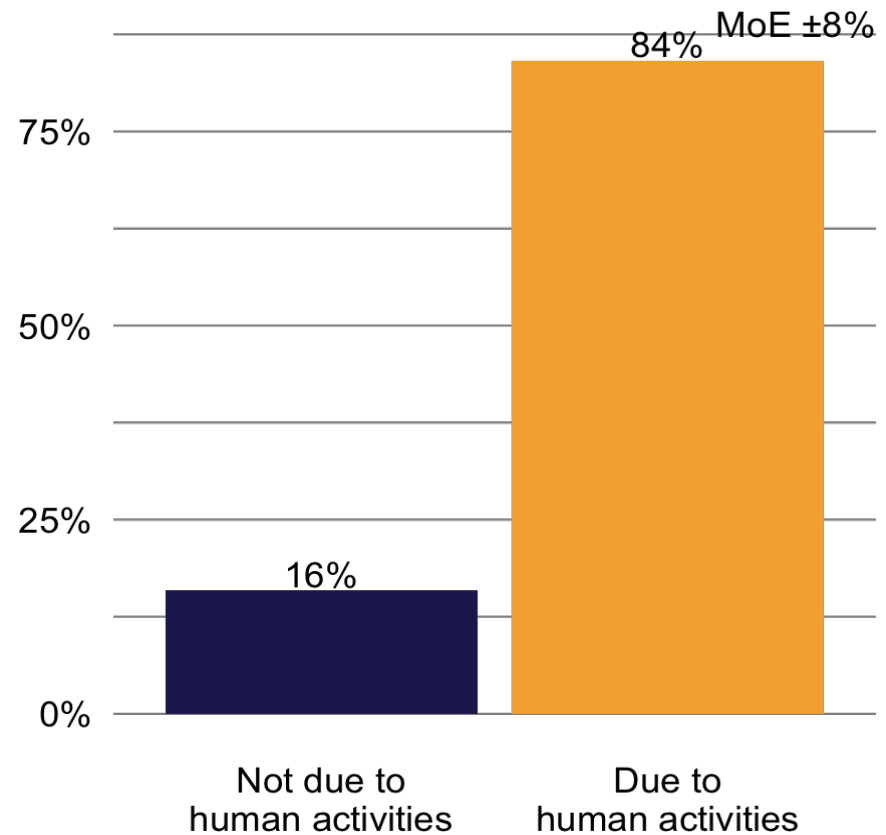
**2017:** [We’re Still In](#), [America’s Pledge on Climate](#) created in response to Trump administration decision to withdraw from Paris Agreement; 240+ city signatories

**2018:** Bloomberg launches [American Cities Climate Challenge](#), pledging \$70 million competition for 100 largest US cities to tackle climate change.

## BU Menino Survey of Mayors:

84% of US mayors believe that climate change is due to human activities.

Higher than the general public (68%)

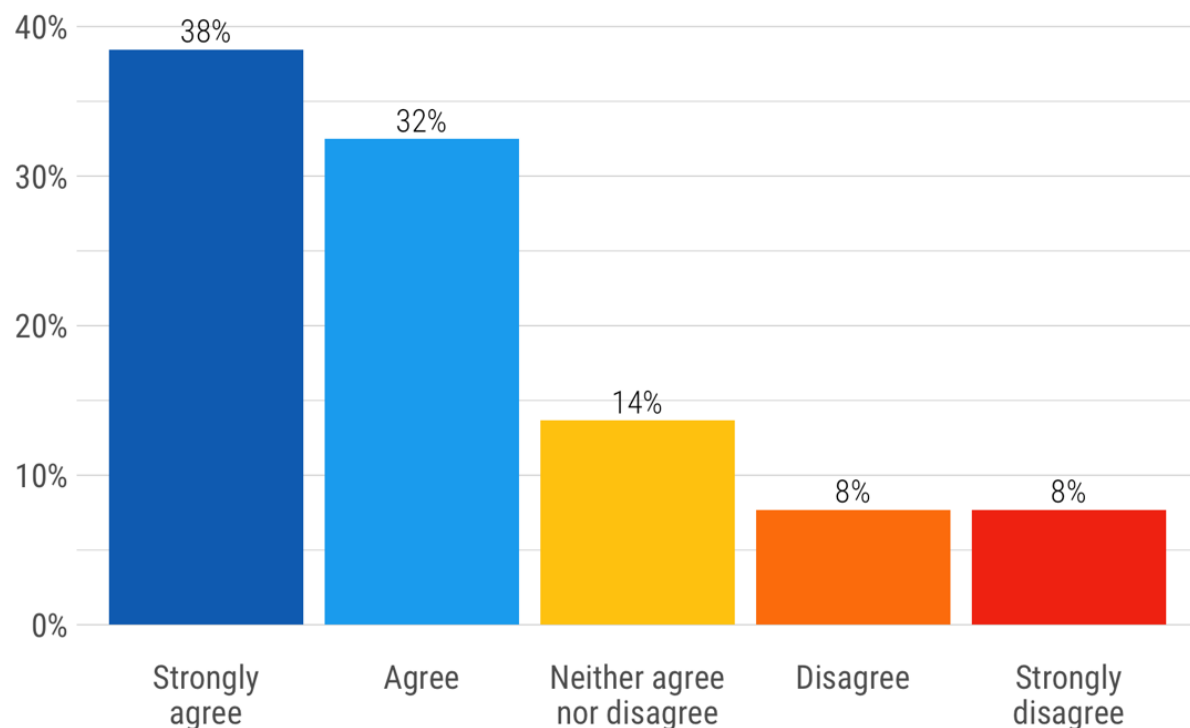


2017 BU Menino Survey of Mayors: N=115  
Gallup Poll, 2017

*Do you believe that increases in Earth's temperature over the last century are due more to the effects of pollution from human activities or natural changes in the environment that are not due to human activities?*

## BU Menino Survey of Mayors:

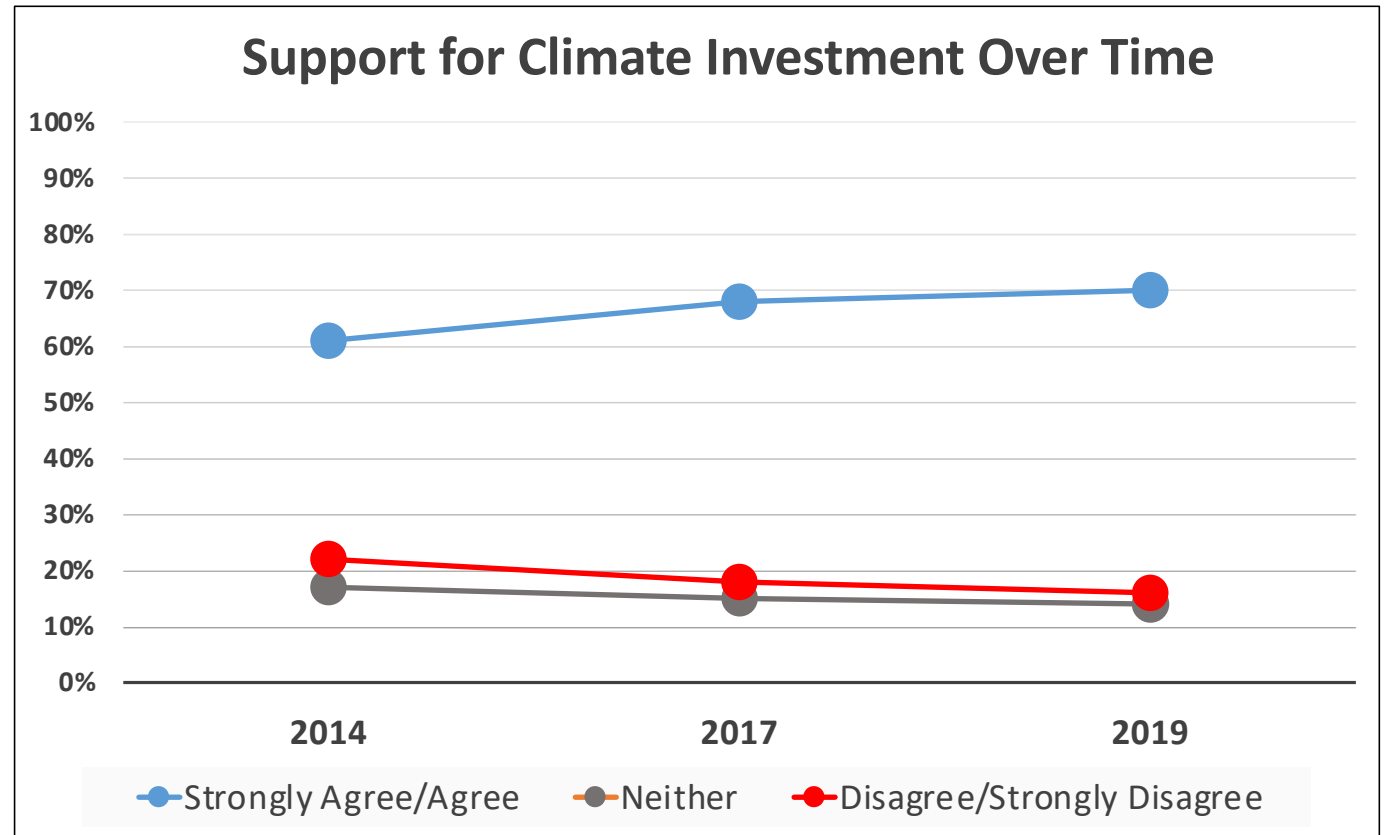
70% of mayors support financial investment and fiscal sacrifice to address climate change in their community.



*Please rate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement:  
Cities should play a strong role in reducing the effects of climate change, even if it means  
sacrificing revenues and/or expending financial resources.*

## Investing in Climate Action:

Mayoral support  
holding steady  
over time



2014: BU Mayors Leadership Survey. N=69

2017 BU Menino Survey of Mayors. N=115

2019 BU Menino Survey of Mayors: Forthcoming. N=119

*Please rate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement:  
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## City Climate Concerns:

Flooding, heat and drought top the list of climate impacts observed by city leaders.

62% observing more frequent, longer heat waves in last five years.

2020: Center for Climate and Energy Solutions  
N = 157 city leaders

U.S. Cities Reporting Change in Frequency, Intensity or Location of Climate Impacts Over Last Five Years

