

**Student:** Elmira Rezagholizadeh.62004297

**Supervisor:** Ivo Ponocny

**Program:** Sustainable Development, Management and Policy

**Title:** On the Gap between awareness and voting behavior: Are US citizens who believe in climate change voting for Green parties?

**Abstract:**

Climate change has emerged as a major concern, capturing worldwide attention, and sparking significant discussion. Given its tremendous effect and worldwide importance, it is reasonable to wonder how public awareness of this phenomena impacts political behaviors like voting. The goal of this research is to perform a thorough assessment of the complicated relationship between awareness of public about climate change and its influence on election choices, particularly environmentally conscious voting. The research gathered both quantitative and qualitative data from a sample of 112 American participants through the administration of the questionnaire. The collected data were subsequently subjected to statistical analysis by PSPP software. The findings indicate that despite the participants' heightened awareness and significant concern about climate change, their voting behavior was influenced by a multitude of different variables, including economic stability, civil rights, healthcare, and education, rather than solely by environmental awareness. Despite most participants recognizing the severity of climate change, the conclusion of the study indicates that there is a divide between public awareness and voting behavior. This divide was linked to variety of issues, including the lack of power of green parties, the rivalry between Democrats and Republicans, economic recovery, discontent with the lack of change, and the conviction that technology and a strong economy would solve the problem. The research emphasizes the need for politicians and proponents of climate change for developing policies that account for the diverse concerns of the electorates. In addition, the study investigates the intricate interplay of factors and elements that can have influence on the perception of individuals about climate change and their voting behavior such as demographics, political views, personal experiences of natural disasters, and climate change perspectives. The results have significant implications for the policymakers, climate change campaigners, and government officials while emphasizing on the needs for a diversified strategy for dealing with climate change and also involving the public successfully.

