



## Surveys Find Majority of Arizonans Concerned About Climate Change

Phoenix (Sept. 6, 2017) – Overall, two-thirds of Arizona residents (65 percent) are concerned about climate change with 25 percent saying they are very concerned, according to a statewide survey commissioned by Arizona Forward. Only 14 percent of respondents think the state of Arizona is doing a good job addressing this issue. Results also revealed that Arizonans are concerned about other environmental issues, including water availability, renewable energy, wildland fire and air and water pollution.

More than 1,100 Arizona residents were polled in two telephone surveys conducted by WestGroup Research for the 48-year-old business-based environmental public interest organization. One was conducted before the U.S. pulled out of the Paris climate accord and the second after the nation's withdrawal from the international agreement. The same questions were asked in both surveys, and many of the answers were statistically similar. Results show that 58 percent of residents accept that climate change is related to human activities. In addition, respondents prioritize local, observable environmental challenges over more global concerns. Here are some key findings:

- Water availability had the highest level of concern; 67 percent of residents selected it as a top-three concern for Arizona.
- More than two-thirds (67 percent) support restricting carbon dioxide emissions.
- A total of 64 percent of residents support funding for climate change research.
- Phoenix residents are significantly less likely to say water availability is a top concern compared to those in Tucson, Flagstaff and outlying cities (60 vs. 72 percent).
- Tucson residents are more likely to be "very concerned" over climate change compared to Phoenix residents (34 vs. 26 percent).

One question asked respondents to suggest what Arizona leaders could do to better address their environmental concerns but there was no consensus, with answers varying significantly.

"It's clear that Arizona residents acknowledge that our state faces environmental challenges that are certain to affect our quality of life if left unaddressed," said Diane Brossart, president & CEO of Arizona Forward. "Still, we need to better understand the link between state environmental issues such as water availability, forest health, and air and water pollution with the over-arching problem of climate change. We need to offer guidance on actions we can take on a state, local and individual level that will impact the global environmental situation."

### ABOUT ARIZONA FORWARD

Arizona Forward mobilizes business leaders and policymakers to leverage their collective power to influence how we best grow our communities, stimulate our economy and enhance our environment. Its diverse membership of large corporations and small businesses, along with municipal, county and state agencies, educational institutions, related nonprofits and concerned citizens help ensure smart growth and development, efficient transportation, improved air quality, responsible water management, energy alternatives and meaningful education.