

Russians See Pollution as a Greater Threat Than Terrorism – Poll

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Nationwide protests rocked Russia in 2019 over unpopular plans to build landfills in remote parts of the country to take in waste from more populous areas. **Sergei Bobylev / TASS**

Russians believe that environmental pollution poses a greater threat to humanity than terrorism, according to the results of an independent Levada Center survey [published](#) Thursday.

Russia's government [says](#) that climate change is heating the country faster than the rest of the world, [predicting](#) epidemics, drought and mass hunger if it's left unchecked. Levada conducted its poll in late 2019, a year marked by devastating wildfires in Siberia, flash floods in Far East Russia and lack of traditional snow coverage in Moscow.

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When asked to identify humanity's greatest threats in the 21st century, 48% of Levada's respondents named environmental pollution.

Forty-two percent of respondents pointed to terrorism, while 37% named armed conflicts and wars as the main global threats. Global warming (34%) and manmade disasters and accidents (31%) were also named among the world's top five threats.

Two-thirds of respondents told Levada they believe that human activity causes global warming, while 25% attributed it to natural processes.

Asked to specify which environmental issues affect Russia specifically, most respondents named air pollution (26%), waste disposal (17%) and nuclear waste (11%). Nationwide protests rocked Russia in 2019 over unpopular plans to build landfills in remote parts of the country to take in waste from more populous areas.

Air pollution was also the top answer in Levada's 2010 poll, when 29% of Russian respondents called it a country-specific threat, followed by water pollution (15%) and genetically modified products (9%).

Levada conducted the survey among 1,608 respondents in 50 Russian regions between Dec. 12-18.

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