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For Immediate Release

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The Asahi Glass Foundation Announces the Results of the 35th Annual Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind

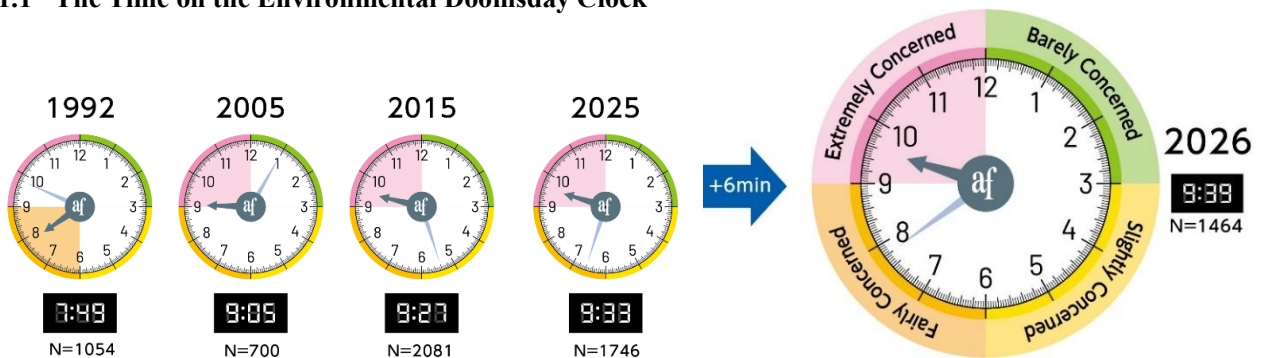
- The Environmental Doomsday Clock ticked forward six minutes for the second consecutive year to 9:39 in 2026, whereas the time varied between regions.
- The highest percentage of respondents selected “Climate Change” (33%) as the issue considered to determine the time.
- Progress in the “Transition to a decarbonized society” received lower scores. Progress in the “Conservation and restoration of wildlife habitats” is considered even slower.
- As key factors for solving global environmental issues, the highest percentage of respondents selected “Government environmental policies and leadership,” followed by “International cooperation and global governance.”

The Asahi Glass Foundation (Chairman: Takuya Shimamura) has conducted an annual survey with environmental experts around the world since 1992. This year, we sent out the questionnaire to about 45,000 experts in 210 countries (including Japan) and received responses from 1,464 in 123 countries.

*Detailed survey results are available on the Asahi Glass Foundation’s website from September 8 at 3:30 p.m.

1 Level of the Crisis Facing Human Survival - The Environmental Doomsday Clock

1.1 The Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock



Changes in the Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock

- The Environmental Doomsday Clock moved backward for four consecutive years from 2021 to 2024. Yet it ticked forward six minutes in 2025 from the previous year, and another six in 2026, to reach 9:39. (Fig. 1)

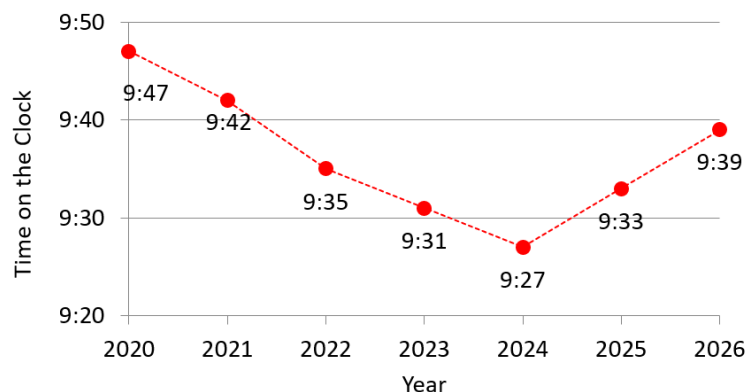


Fig. 1. Changes in the Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock over the Last Seven Years

- The Clock moved forward in many regions, namely Asia; Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean; South America; Africa; the Middle East; and Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union. Notably, the Clock advanced significantly in Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean (20 minutes), Africa (52 minutes), and Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union (27 minutes). It is now past 10:00 in Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union.
- The Clock moved significantly backward (17 to 25 minutes) in Oceania, North America, and Western Europe, although it remained past 10:00.
- In the open text field, many respondents mentioned the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and in the Middle East, and other military tensions. Some respondents offered the opinion that protracted wars and conflicts have brought international cooperation and policy responses to a standstill, forcing national governments to prioritize military and security, rather than environmental measures.
- In addition, some respondents noted that multiple environmental issues—including climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource-related challenges—are interconnected and difficult to address separately.
- This year, as we revisited our survey framework, we did not conduct the conventional survey regarding China and Taiwan.

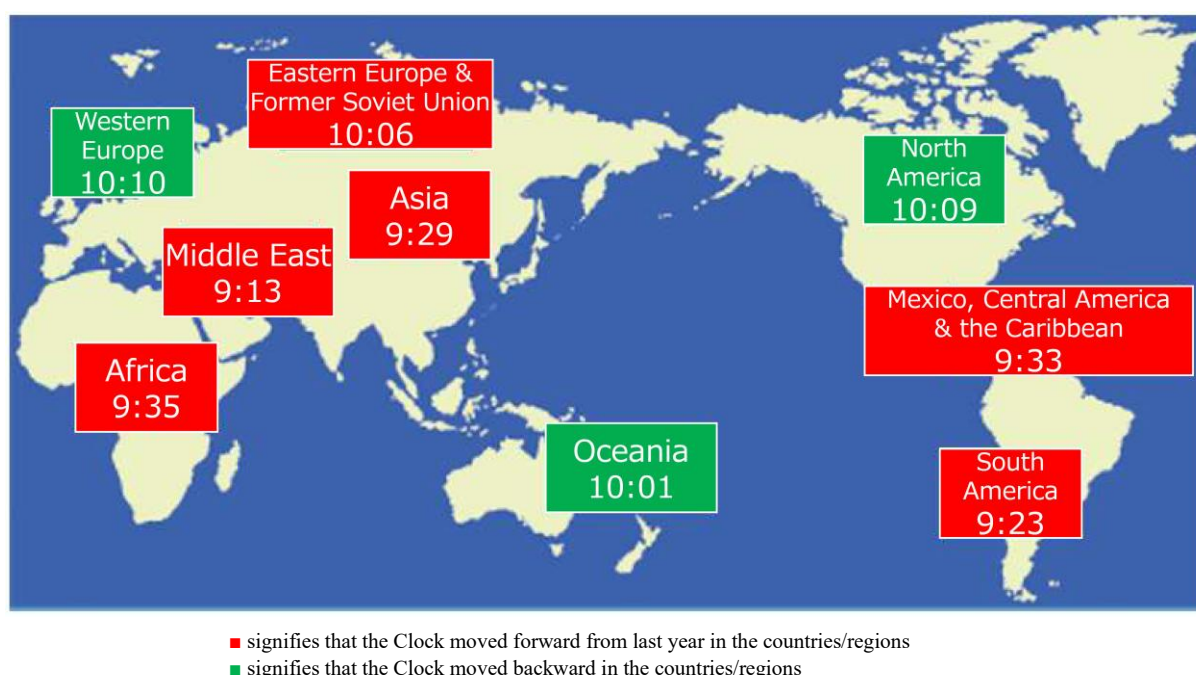


Fig. 2. Regional Times on the Environmental Doomsday Clock

- Changes in the time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock from the start of the survey show that the Clock has been ticking between 9:00 and 10:00, the area of “Extremely Concerned,” since 1996, except for 2000. (Table 1 and Fig. 3)

Table 1 Changes in the Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock since 1992

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Time	-	7:49	8:19	8:47	8:49	9:13	9:04	9:05	9:08	8:56
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Time	9:08	9:05	9:15	9:08	9:05	9:17	9:31	9:33	9:22	9:19
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Time	9:01	9:23	9:19	9:23	9:27	9:31	9:33	9:47	9:46	9:47
Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026				
Time	9:42	9:35	9:31	9:27	9:33	9:39				

Since the inception of the survey, ■ represents the lowest sense of crisis, while ■ represents the highest.

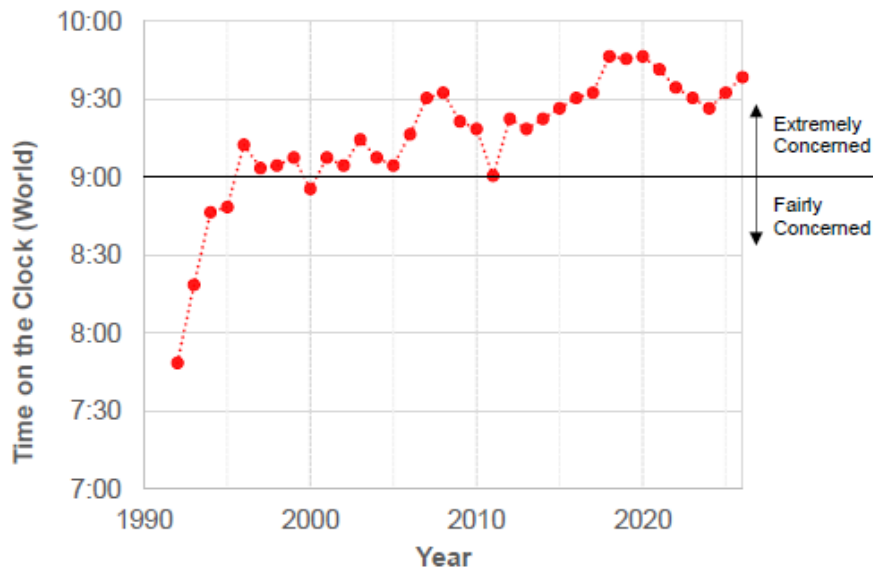


Fig. 3. Changes in the Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock Since 1992

1.2 Changes in the Selected Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock by Age Group (2017 - 2026)

- The older age groups tended to select advanced times (e.g., a greater sense of crisis). Meanwhile, looking at changes over time, among respondents in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s, the time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock has moved forward since 2024, indicating a growing sense of crisis. (Fig. 4)

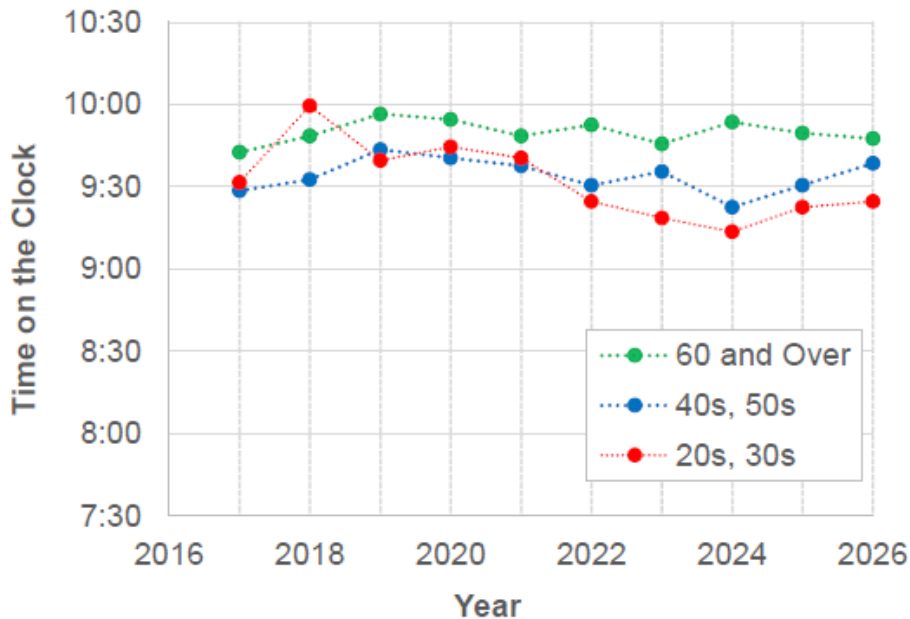


Fig. 4. Changes in the Selected Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock by Age Group

2 Environmental Issues to be Taken into Account to Determine the Time on the Clock

The questionnaire presented the nine environmental issues to be taken into account below and asked respondents to select three most pressing issues in order of importance for the country or region where they reside to determine the time on the Clock. (See the Annual Report for further details.)

Nine Environmental Issues to be Taken into Account:

1. Climate Change
2. Biosphere Integrity (Biodiversity)
3. Land-system Change (Land Use)
4. Biochemical Flows (Pollution/Contamination)
5. Water Resources
6. Population
7. Food
8. Lifestyle (Consumption Habits)
9. Society, Economy and Environment, Policies, Measures

2.1 Weighted Average Selection Percentages for the Nine Environmental Issues

- In terms of the percentage of respondents selecting each issue to determine the time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock, “Climate Change” was the highest at 33% of the global total, followed by “Biosphere Integrity (Biodiversity)” at 16%. These rankings were the same for the ninth consecutive year. (Fig. 5)

2.2 Weighted Average Time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock of the Nine Environmental Issues

- When the environmental issues to be taken into account were arranged by selected time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock, “Biosphere Integrity (Biodiversity)” (9:52), “Climate Change” (9:45), and “Society, Economy and Environment, Policies, Measures” (9:42) were ahead of the global average (9:39). (Fig. 5)

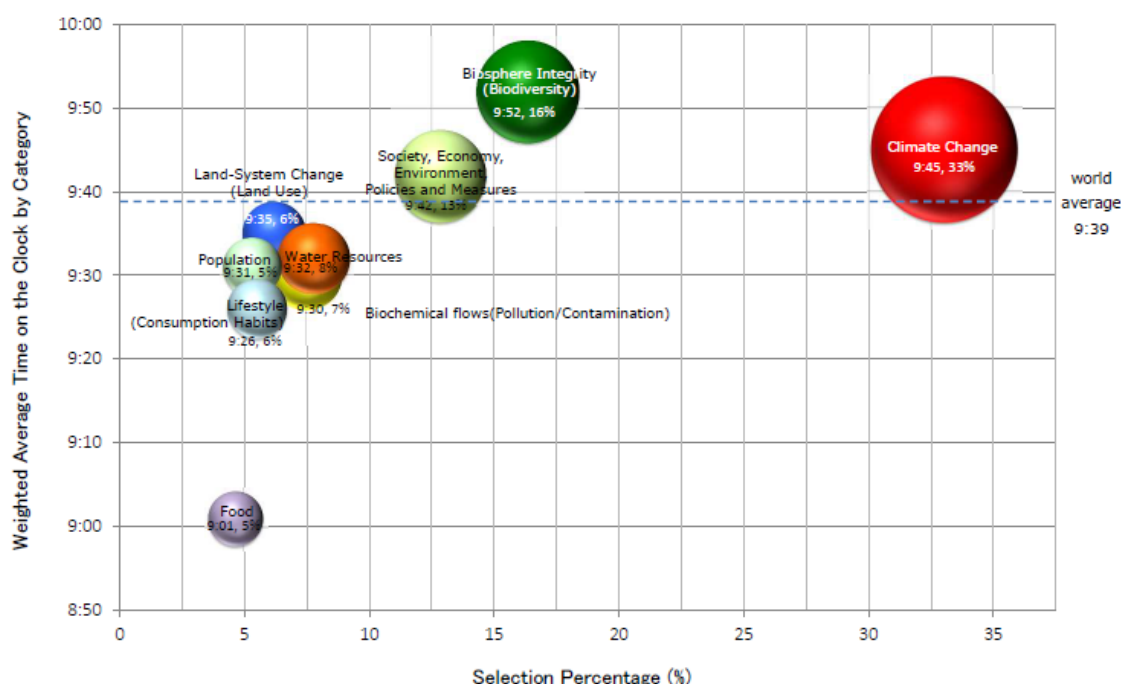


Fig. 5. Distribution of the Environmental Issues Taken into Account

3 Awareness of the Issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

In connection with climate change and biodiversity loss, the survey asked respondents how they viewed the progress in the “Transition to a decarbonized society” for the mitigation of global warming and in the “Conservation and restoration of wildlife habitats” in their respective countries from the three perspectives of “Public awareness,” “Policies and legal system,” and “Social infrastructure (funds, human resources, technologies, facilities).”

(Average scores were calculated by assigning the following values: –2 for “Not improved at all,” –1 for “Somewhat not improved,” ‘0’ for “Neither improved nor not improved,” +1 for “Somewhat improved,” and +2 for “Definitely improved.”)

3.1 Awareness of Progress in the Transition to a Decarbonized Society

- Scores for the “Transition to a decarbonized society” dropped across all perspectives in 2026. Respondents believe that less progress has been made in “Policies and legal system” and “Social infrastructure (funds, human resources, technologies, facilities)” than in “Public awareness.” This view is the same as before. (Fig. 6 prepared based on Table 8 in the Annual Report)

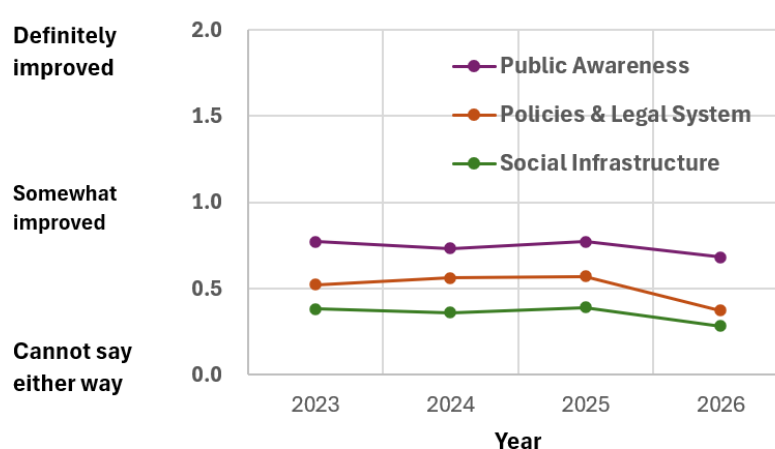


Fig. 6. Progress in the Transition to a Decarbonized Society: Changes in Average Scores from Three Perspectives

3.2 Awareness of Progress in the Conservation and Restoration of Wildlife Habitats

- Relatively few people believe that the “Conservation and restoration of wildlife habitats” is making progress. It is also generally considered to be lagging behind the “Transition to a decarbonized society.” The scores were lower than those in 2025 across all perspectives.
- More respondents in their 20s and 30s believe that the “Conservation and restoration of wildlife habitats” is making progress than the other age groups. (Table 2 prepared based on Table 9 in the Annual Report)

Table 2 Progress in the Conservation and Restoration of Wildlife Habitats: Region and Generation

Progress in the Conservation and Restoration of wildlife habitats		Public Awareness		Policies and Legal System		Social Infrastructure	
		2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
Region	World Average	0.50	0.28	0.43	0.19	0.17	0.00
	Asia	0.50	0.25	0.62	0.28	0.33	0.09
	Oceania	0.84	0.69	-0.16	0.26	-0.03	-0.11
	NorthAmerica	0.34	0.19	-0.41	-0.46	-0.55	-0.16
	Mexico, Central America, & the Caribbean	0.53	0.29	0.16	0.46	-0.11	-0.06
	South America	0.39	0.32	0.04	0.26	-0.39	-0.09
	Western Europe	0.55	0.39	-0.04	0.05	-0.07	-0.42
	Africa	0.53	0.36	0.44	0.62	-0.07	-0.42
	Middle East	0.73	0.36	0.42	0.28	-0.04	-0.12
	Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union	0.29	0.38	0.18	0.29	0.41	-0.29
Generation	20s, 30s	0.90	0.69	1.05	0.65	0.74	0.54
	40s, 50s	0.33	0.16	0.20	0.13	-0.04	-0.09
	60 and Over	0.19	0.16	-0.07	-0.02	-0.30	-0.24

Region ■: Max value of the year, ■: Min value of the year

4 Awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

From the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the survey asked respondents to choose the three most likely to be achieved in their countries or regions by 2030, and the three least likely to be achieved. Tables 3-1 and 3-2 show the results of the above question. Data by country/region are available in the 2026 Annual Report of the Survey.

Table 3-1 Three Goals (out of the 17 SDGs) That Will Have the Highest Level of Realization in 2030

1st	(There are no goals with any material level of realization in 2030)
2nd	9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
3rd	4. Quality Education

Table 3-2 Three Goals (out of the 17 SDGs) That Will Have the Lowest Level of Realization in 2030

1st	1. No Poverty
2nd	10. Reduced Inequalities
3rd	13. Climate Action

- As the goals most likely to be achieved by 2030, the highest percentage of respondents selected “There are no goals with any material level of realization” (25%), followed by “9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” (24%) and “4. Quality Education” (23%).
- As the three goals least likely to be achieved by 2030, many respondents selected “1. No Poverty” (35%), “10. Reduced Inequalities” (31%), and “13. Climate Action” (31%).

We asked respondents to evaluate the progress made by their countries/regions or the world as of 2026 toward achieving the 17 Goals by 2030, using a value from 5% to 100% in 5% increments, with 100% representing the achievement of all Goals.

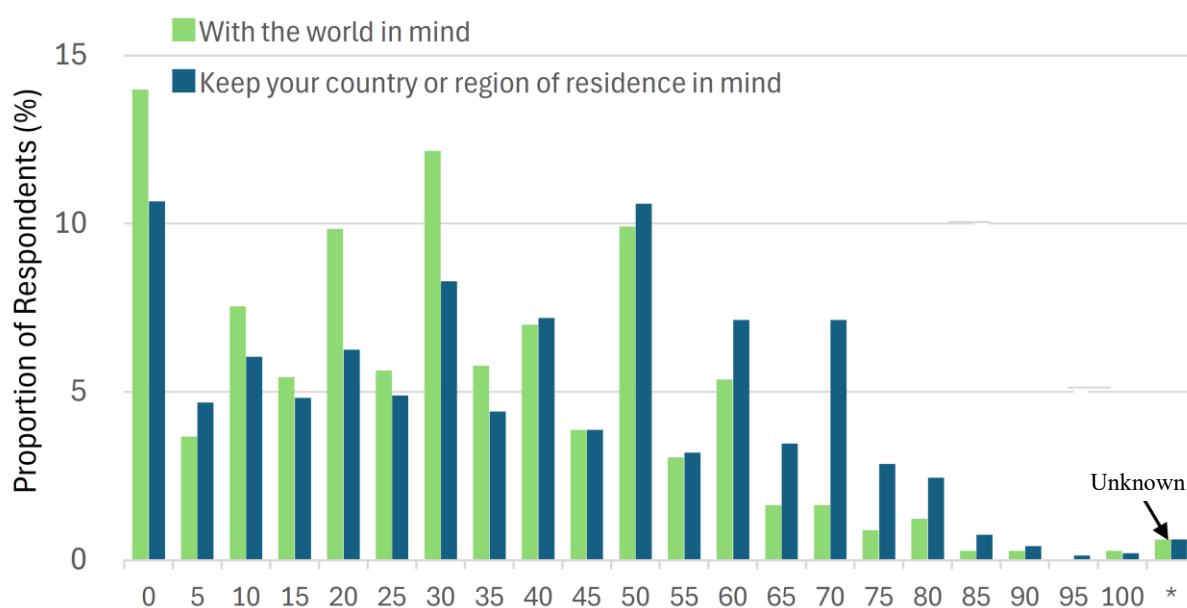


Fig. 7. Distribution of the Perceived Levels of Progress Toward Achieving the SDGs (%) as of 2026

- While 10% or more of respondents rated the level of progress toward achieving SDGs at 0% for both their own country/region and the entire world, very few rated it at 75% or higher.
- As shown in Figure 8 of the 2026 report, for both their own country/region and the world, respondents in their 20s to 40s perceive greater progress toward achieving the SDGs than those in their 50s and older, indicating substantial differences across age groups in perceptions of progress toward achieving the SDGs.

5 Important Factors for Solving Global Environmental Issues

We asked respondents which of the given factors are vital to solve environmental issues. Figure 8 shows the percentages of selected factors by region.

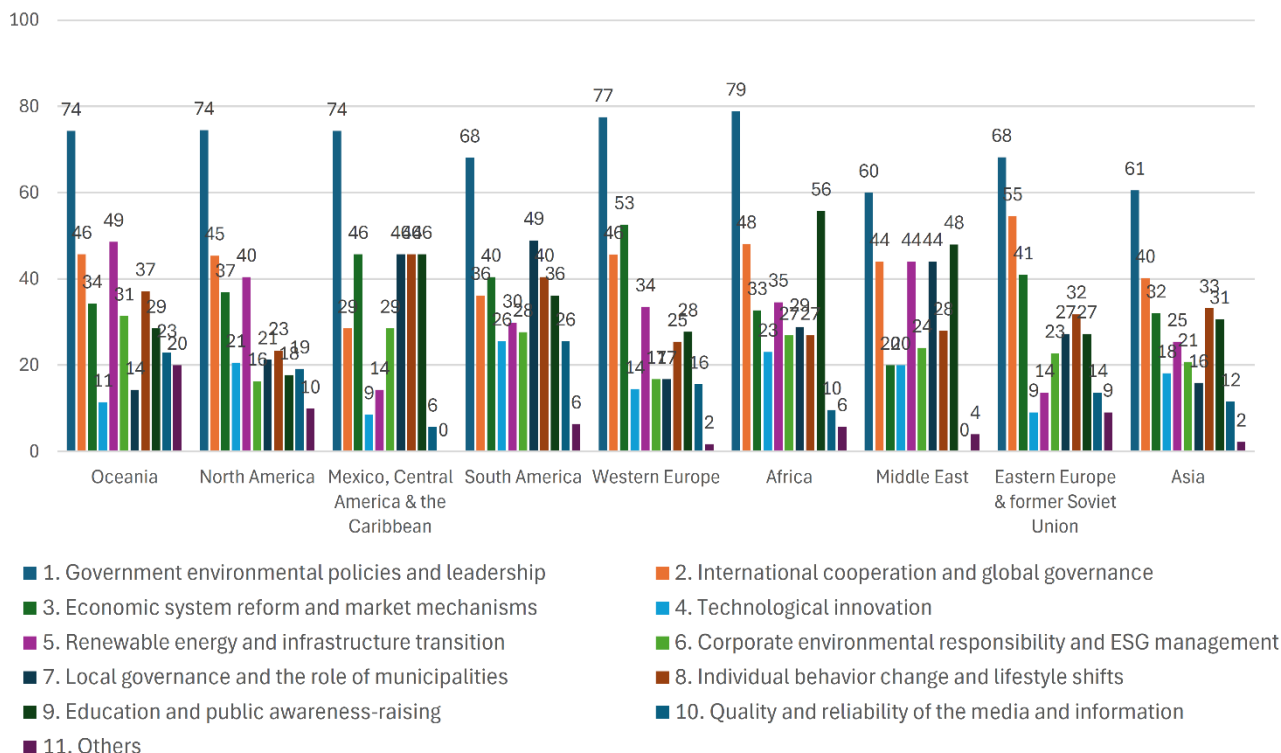


Fig. 8. Key Factors for Solving Environmental Issues (by Region)

- Across all regions, the highest percentages of respondents selected “Government environmental policies and leadership” (60% to 79%). This is similar to the result that the highest percentages of respondents across all regions chose the answer “Central Government” to Question 5 “Who plays the most important role in solving environmental issues?” in the 2025 survey.
- “International cooperation and global governance” was also chosen by as high as 40% to 50% of respondents in many regions.
- To list notable responses by region, many respondents selected “Renewable energy and infrastructure transition” in Oceania, North America, and the Middle East, and “Economic system reform and market mechanisms” in Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean; Western Europe; and Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union.
- Only limited proportions of respondents chose “Technological innovation” in many regions.
- In Africa, as high as 56% of respondents selected “Education and public awareness-raising.” 48% in the Middle East and 46% in Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean also chose this factor.

The questionnaire includes an open text field where we ask respondents to describe the current situation regarding environmental issues in their countries/regions, along with their opinions and suggested improvements. This year, we received many meaningful opinions and comments, together with survey responses, as always. Excerpts from these open-ended responses will be published on the Asahi Glass Foundation’s website on September 8 at 3:30 p.m. Please visit the website for candid opinions offered by environmental experts.

https://af-info.or.jp/en/ed_clock/result.html

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Appendix

● About the Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind

Since 1992, the Asahi Glass Foundation has conducted an annual survey of experts tackling environmental issues around the world. These experts work for central/local governments, universities and research institutes, NGOs, corporations, and the mass media, among others. The questionnaire is prepared in five languages (Japanese, English, Korean, Spanish, and French) and sent out in April each year. Responses are returned by June. We compare and analyze opinions from around the world to publish survey results in September.

This year, we sent out the questionnaire to 210 countries (including Japan) and received responses from 123 countries. The largest proportion of respondents work for universities/research institutes, followed by NGOs/NPOs, central/local governments, and corporations. (Fig. 9 and Table 4)

Table 4 Number of Countries from Which Responses Were Received

Region	Number of Countries
Africa	28
Asia	20
Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean	14
Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union	12
Western Europe	19
Middle East	13
North America	2
Oceania	6
South America	9
Total	123

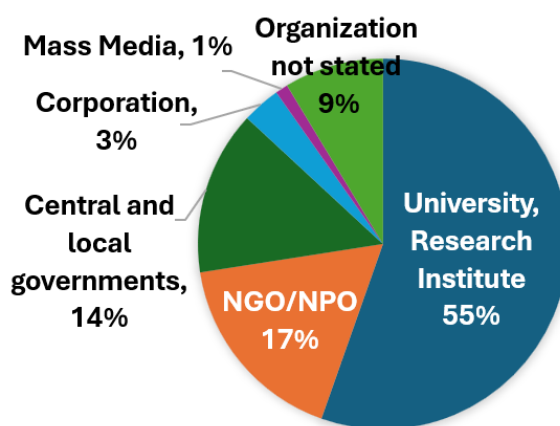


Fig. 9. Breakdown of Respondents by Organization

● Facts about This Year's Survey

Survey period: April to June 2026

Respondents: Environmental experts who work for central/local governments, NGOs/NPOs, universities and research institutes, corporations, and the mass media around the world (based on the Asahi Glass Foundation database)

Number of questionnaire recipients: approx. 45,000 (42,500 overseas, 2,500 in Japan)

Number of respondents: 1,464

Response rate: approx. 3.3%

Table 5 Number of Respondents by Region

Region	Number of Respondents	%
Africa	51	3.5
Asia	935	63.9
Mexico, Central America & the Caribbean	35	2.4
Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union	22	1.5
Western Europe	173	11.8
Middle East	25	1.7
North America	141	9.6
Oceania	35	2.4
South America	47	3.2
Total	1464	100.0

● About the Environmental Doomsday Clock

The Asahi Glass Foundation has created its own Environmental Doomsday Clock, which uses its hands to display the level of crisis facing human survival as perceived by survey respondents, and we conduct an annual risk perception survey using the Clock. 00:00 to 03:00 denotes "Barely Concerned," 03:00 to 06:00 "Slightly Concerned," 06:00 to 09:00 "Fairly Concerned," and 09:00 to 12:00 "Extremely Concerned."