



School of Public Policy

**“Climate Change and Agenda Setting at
Multiple Levels of Government:
Findings from Applied and Theoretical Research”**

by

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Abstract: Policy responses to potential climate change impacts, in particular adaptation, are being considered to varying degrees at all levels of government. This situation presents a practical question of who is doing/not doing what and why in regard to policy responses. From a theoretical perspective, agenda setting can help us better understand the dynamics associated with the complex public policy context of climate change. The agenda setting framework considers what issues among many attract serious policy attention and what policy alternatives are being considered as solutions. It was initially applied at the federal level but has also been shown to be applicable at sub-national levels. The research presented here focuses on all levels of domestic policy making including regional compacts. Does the common theoretical thread of agenda setting provide insight into how multiple levels of government are addressing climate change as an issue? What does this framework tell us about the potential for successful adoption and implementation of climate change adaptation policy? This presentation includes a synthesis of related projects and suggests areas for further research.

The USDOT study on climate change and transportation. Chapter 5 provides the conceptual framework for decision making.

<http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/sap/sap4-7/final-report/sap4-7-final-all.pdf>

The SWUTC report on regional climate change and decision making.

<http://swutc.tamu.edu/publications/technicalreports/167165-1.pdf>

The ISTPP report for NOAA – the federal climate change interview chapter is the relevant section.

<http://bush.tamu.edu/istpp/environment/projects/NOAA2FullFinalReport.pdf>

Local agenda setting article.

http://bush.tamu.edu/istpp/scholarship/journals/AgendaSetting_PSJ.pdf

Monday, January 10, 2011

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Kelley Engineering Center, Room 1003