




# ENVS 3521

## Climate Politics & Policy



University of Colorado-Boulder ~ Spring 2012  
Component III – April 5



reminders & announcements:



Thursday, April 5 – regional and state-level climate action

Tuesday, April 10 – City/County of Boulder climate policy action  
w guest Jonathan Koehn

Thursday, April 12\* – Colorado climate policy action  
w guest Alice Madden

\*activity #2 presentations will be postponed to Thurs, April 26

# climate governance & scale



**Does the scale of the challenge match the scale of responses?**



“radical changes..will be needed for a low carbon society” – Fawcett (2010, 6875)

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# Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)



cap-and-trade program  
focused on power plants

seven states participating

capping emissions at 2009  
levels & then reducing  
emissions 10% by 2019

initiated in Dec 2005



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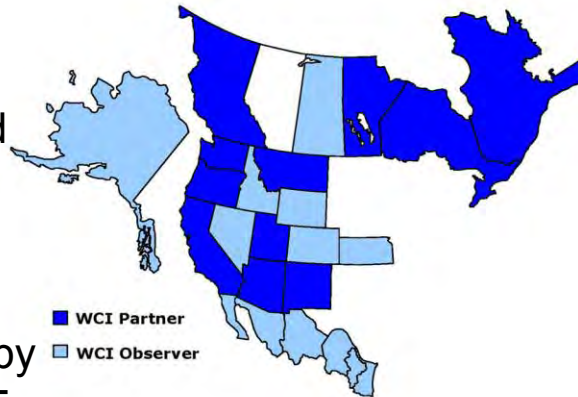
## Western Climate Initiative (WCI)



cross-sectoral program

seven states and four Canadian provinces

reducing GHGs by 15% from 2005 levels by 2020



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## Midwest GHG Reduction Accord (MGGRA)



cross-sectoral program

seven states and Manitoba

no explicit targets – designed to synch with state-level plans

initiated in Nov 2007



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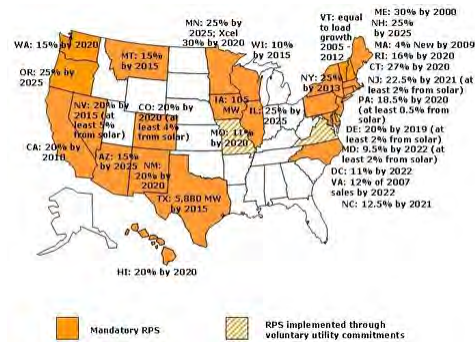
## State-level climate governance



### Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)

→ CO: 30% by 2020

### Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification system



Pew Center for Climate Change (2011)

“The sheer volume and variety of state climate initiatives is staggering, difficult to measure with precision, and subject to expansion.” ~ Barry Rabe, in Selin & Vanderveer

## California & climate governance



### Global warming solutions act (AB32)

- reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (approx 25%)
- reduce GHG emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050



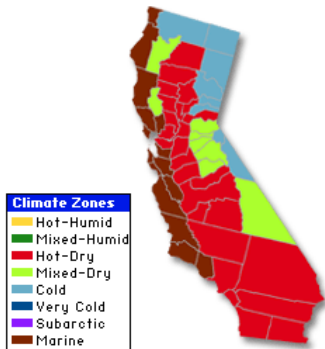
“The continuing expansion of the states’ role in US climate change policy underscores the importance of examining both national and subnational engagement in evaluating policy responses from multilevel systems of government.” ~ Rabe, in Selin & Vanderveer

## California & climate governance



### AB 1493 – CO<sub>2</sub> reductions in personal autos (2002)

- specifics determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- proposed 36% by 2016



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## State-level climate governance



“...there may be two distinct challenges facing continued or expanding state involvement on climate policy, some unique to the American context.” ~ Rabe (2009), in Selin & Vanderveer

- (1) consortium of well-funded organizations hostile to any action – e.g. Heartland Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute
- (2) various interest groups and the federal government may join forces in challenging many state climate policies on constitutional grounds – e.g. the ‘Commerce Clause’

## local-level climate governance



factors shaping municipal actions (Gore & Robinson, 2009):

- (1) scalar connections to nat'l/int'l networks
- (2) recognition that global problems resonate locally
- (3) strategic obligations (reputation)
- (4) urban sustainability goals



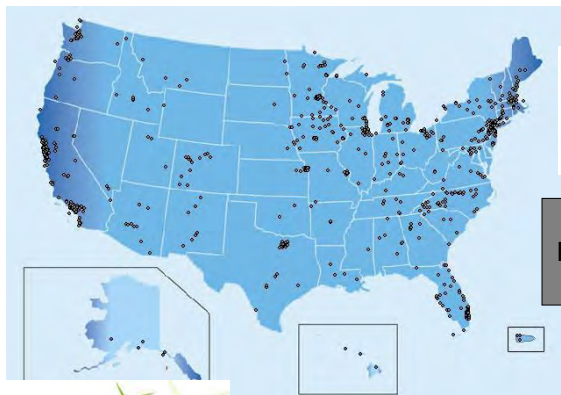
### 'Dillon's Rule'

"all politics is local" Tip O'Neill

## US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement



- agreements to meet or beat Kyoto target locally
- by 2011, over 1,000 cities have committed to participate (represents over 88 million people)



ICLEI  
Local Governments  
for Sustainability

MAP OF  
PARTICIPATING  
US CITIES



[usmayors.org/climateprotection](http://usmayors.org/climateprotection)

top themes in Nisbet & Kotcher (2009)



## ***A Two-Step Flow of Influence? Opinion-leader campaigns on climate change***

- two major routes through which citizens can take action
  - cognitive engagement
  - consumer behavior (pp. 330-332)
- three types of opinion leaders inspiring ‘political mobilization’
  - issue-specific
  - charismatic (influence as personality strength)
  - as ‘influentials’ and social networks
- “opinion leaders should be trained *not* as educators disseminating information about climate change, but as communication strategists initiating conversations, deliberations, etc...” (p. 339)
- new/social media and false sense of efficacy (p. 346)