Feb 2nd, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Research Poster: Climate change survey of public agencies and organizations

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Repository Citation
Kauneckis, Derek and Cuffe, Orion, "Research Poster: Climate change survey of public agencies and organizations" (2010). 2010 Annual Nevada NSF EPSCoR Climate Change Conference. 6.  
https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/epscor/2010/feb02/6

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Climate Change Survey of Public Agencies and Organizations
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Study Background:
Research from the discipline of political science points to the important role that local government plays in the formulation and implementation of public policy.

• State and municipal governments have emerged as primary agents for policy experimentation and innovation, especially in the areas of climate change and environmental policy.
• Public policy in the areas of environmental and resource management usually require implementation at the local, regional, and state levels.
• Local governments are the jurisdictional unit that most closely matches local needs for climate change adaptation.
• Local governments often lack both the resources and the timely and accurate scientific information necessary to implement policy effectively.
The Climate Change Survey seeks to collect data from state and local government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations, that will help to answer the research questions.

The first phase of the study is sending the survey out to all relevant state and local governments and non-profit organizations in the State of Nevada. The survey is administered in three formats: online, by mail, and by phone interview.

The second phase of the study will expand the administration of the survey to the Western Region of the U.S. States to be included are: California, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming.

Research Questions:

• How do local organizations and sub-federal agencies perceive the priority of climate change impacts to their mission and activities?

• Have they incorporated climate change into their organizational planning?

• Do the sources from which they obtain information about climate change affect their perceptions of and ability to plan for climate change?

• Does the capacity of local organizations and sub-federal agencies affect their ability to plan for climate change?

• What institutional constraints do they face in the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies?

• What opportunities exist to improve coordination of activities and sharing of information between local organizations and sub-federal agencies?