



The Latest Research

This chapter has illustrated the ways many states have emerged as policy leaders on climate issues. For decades, the federal government was the driver on environmental policy, but lack of anything like consensus in Washington in recent years has allowed states to take various approaches (including none at all) to addressing climate change. Policy innovations among individual states and regional consortiums have provided frameworks not just for the erstwhile efforts of the Obama administration but for efforts at the provincial level in other countries as well.

States have sought ways of addressing climate change only over the past couple of decades, with many important laws passed only in the past few years. Perhaps for that reason, scholarship in this field has

emerged relatively slowly, certainly in comparison with other long-standing state and local government concerns, such as budgets, political parties, and crime. This has proven to be a robust field of inquiry nonetheless, as academics can grapple not only with policy innovations and their efficacy but also with a number of questions regarding federalism and intergovernmental relations, since climate is a topic that is inherently cross-jurisdictional in scope.

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- **Bierbaum, Rosina, Joel B. Smith, Arthur Lee, Maria Blair, Lynne Carter, F. Stuart Chapin III, Paul Fleming, et al.** “A Comprehensive

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