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Research Topic and Question

Topic
- International carbon policy transfer

Our case study
- How does knowledge and experience with carbon policy in BC influence policy in Washington?
Justification for the Study

- Urgent need for climate mitigation policy.
- We understand little about how climate policy experiences in one jurisdiction impact another.
- Washington is a natural first mover.
- BC is a source of policy inspiration due to its carbon policy success and proximity to Washington.
States and provinces have begun taking action.

Actors in Washington

- CarbonWA
- Alliance for Jobs & Clean Energy
- Department of Ecology
Definition

- A process in which knowledge about policies in one time and/or place is used in the development of policies in another time and/or place (Dolowitz & Marsh, 1996).

Focus of studies in this field is typically on:

- Subnational entities (state-to-state)
- European Union (nation-to-nation)
Key Elements in the Policy Transfer Process

- Institutions
- Documents and Reports
- Actors
- Features of the policy
- Features of the policy context
- Process for learning and persuasion
- Select, revise, or reject
- Policy exporter
Lesson Drawing Steps

1. Recognize a problem
2. Evaluate suitability of existing policies
3. Agree that a policy is needed
4. Search and identify possible policy
5. Scrutinize policy
6. Select, revise, or reject
7. Implement
8. Evaluate

Process for learning and persuasion
Research Question

- How does knowledge and experience with carbon policy in BC influence policy in Washington?

Our methods include:

- Interviewing policy actors in BC and WA
- Qualitative coding software to analyze key reports
- Meeting regularly to discuss new findings
The mechanism for policy implementation (public initiative or legislative) shapes the policy learning process:

- Who participates
- Timing and timetable
- The salient topics
Case Study Results

- Emergent groups played key roles.
- Discussion in WA/BC was both different and similar.
- News stories are emphasized (not reports).
- Rational actors come to different conclusions.
No clear policy is dominant.
There is pressure toward uniformity.
As long as there are successful applications of Carbon Tax and Cap-and-Trade mechanisms, they will continue to compete.
Questions?