Global Warming: Actions Brewing at the Federal Level

Deborah Williams and Susanne Fleek
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Cap and Trade Model

Regulating SO$_2$ through Cap and Trade

- SO$_2$ emissions have declined by more than 6.5 million tons since 1980.
- Fully implemented, the cap reduces SO$_2$ emissions to 50% of 1980 levels by 2010.

EPA 2002
Finding #1: “Greenhouse gases accumulating in the atmosphere are causing average temperatures to rise…”

Finding #2: “There is a growing scientific consensus that human activity is a substantial cause of greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere.”

Finding #3: “Mandatory steps will be required to slow or stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.”

“It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact a comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory, market-based limits and incentives on emissions of greenhouse gases that slow, stop, and reverse the growth of such emissions …”

- Won on a 53-44 vote, with support of 12 Republicans
- Initiated new discussion on a national, mandatory program to reduce global warming pollution.
Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act

- Bipartisan: 12 co-sponsors in the Senate including: Bayh (D), Coleman (R), Salazar (D), Brownback (R), and Lieberman (D)
- 41 co-sponsors in the House.
- Mandates 2.5 million barrels in oil-savings in 10 years.
- Encourages hybrids, alternative fuels.
- Fuel efficiency standards for trucks.
- Fuel efficient replacement tires.
Socolow Wedges

- Increase fuel economy
- Reduced use of vehicles
- Increase energy efficiency of buildings
- Increase today’s coal power efficiency
- Increase efficiency of gas powered power plants
- Capture CO2 at power plant
- Increase renewable energy use (wind, biomass, solar)
Federal Solutions on the Table

- Renewable Portfolio Standard
  - Passed twice by Senate

- Power Plant 4 Pollutant Bills
  - Jeffords-Collins-Lieberman+17
  - Waxman-Boehlert+92
  - Carper-Chafee-Gregg-Alexander
  - Bass-Bradley-Cooper-Davis

- McCain-Lieberman

- Bingaman-Domenici
Federal Solution: McCain-Lieberman

- Limits emissions to 2000 levels in 2010 + 15%
- Market-based system modeled on acid rain program.
- Allows trading across companies, gases, sectors.
- Compliance costs less than $20 per household.
Based on recommendations of the National Commission on Energy Policy.

Recently posed several questions on how legislation should be structured.

- adaptation funds
- technology incentives
- who pays and when
Why is Alaska Important?

• We have a story to tell
• Senator Stevens
• Senator Murkowski
Where is the Administration?

- Research budget
- Voluntary programs
  - Climate Leaders Program
  - Asia-Pacific Pact
- Agency planning and decision-making
  - National Park Service
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - BLM
  - Minerals Management Service
  - US Forest Service
  - NOAA/NMFS
When Will We Jump?

SO THESE SCIENTISTS DID THIS EXPERIMENT THAT IF YOU DROP A FROG INTO BOILING WATER HE JUMPS OUT.

BUT IF YOU PUT HIM IN WARM WATER AND HEAT IT SLOWLY, HE JUST SWIMS AROUND UNTIL HE’S COOKED.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT EXPERIMENT?

BEATS ME.

SCIENTISTS. GO FIGURE.

PROBABLY THE SAME ONES STUDYING GLOBAL WARMING.

HEY, LET'S SWIM AROUND SOME MURGEL.

THANK YOU