



NEWS RELEASE
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How Should Government Handle Climate Change?

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., Dec. 3, 2008—The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia will host the **National Conference on Climate Governance** on **Thursday, Dec. 11 and Friday, Dec. 12**, in Charlottesville, Va.

Science has long dominated the conversation about climate change, overshadowing consideration of policy strategies to cope with it. But critical questions remain:

- What role should local, state, and federal government each play?
- How do these national and sub-national units of government manage an inherently international problem?
- What policy options are most likely to gain political support and be implemented?

The Miller Center will also release a **national poll** conducted by Muhlenberg College, measuring public attitudes about climate change, the government's role in dealing with it, and viable policy options. It is an expanded version of the **Virginia Climate Change Survey** released in October.

"Given the challenges the new administration faces on the environment, this conference is an excellent opportunity to look at how government can make decisions to deal with climate change," said Barry Rabe, Miller Center Visiting Scholar from the University of Michigan. "We will also consider what strategies and policy options are viable, in the context of regulation, economics, and the global landscape."

This academic conference, featuring leading scholars and practitioners, will produce a policy report and an edited, peer-reviewed book to help guide the new Presidential administration and Congress.

Given space limitations, attendance is invitation only (not open to the general public). **All sessions are open to the press.** It will be **webcast live** and archived online at www.millercenter.org.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Location for all sessions: The John and Rosemary Galbraith Forum Room, Miller Center of Public Affairs, U.Va.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008

**9:45–11:45 a.m. Session One:
Framing the Issue of Climate Governance**

Climate change has conventionally been portrayed as a global challenge necessitating an international governing regime. This was clearly the animating principle behind the Kyoto Protocol more than a decade ago. But the subsequent reality in the U.S. and abroad has been far more complex, with an unexpectedly large role for sub-national units of governments, such as American states and localities. This experience has also emerged internationally, even among nations ratifying Kyoto. This session will help frame the current climate governance challenge by examining the intergovernmental realities posed by such bottom-up policy development. This session will also consider key findings from the **2008 National Survey on American Public Opinion on Climate Change and Policy Options** commissioned for this event.

Panel Chair:

Sidney Milkis, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia

Authors:

Martha Derthick, University of Virginia

Compensatory Federalism

Paul Posner, George Mason University

Regulatory Federalism: Challenges in Integrating State and Federal Responsibilities

Christopher Borick, Muhlenberg College

American Public Opinion and Climate Change

Discussants:

Anne Khademian, Virginia Tech

Suellen Keiner, State of the USA, Inc.

**Noon–1:15 p.m. A Luncheon Colloquy with United States
Senator John Warner**

**1:30 – 3:15 p.m. Session Two:
Regulatory Approaches to Climate Governance**

Many policy options could achieve reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, including those that impose firm governmental regulations on various sectors of the economy. In some instances, these policies already exist either nationally or sub-nationally but may well be expanded in the coming years. This session will emphasize regulatory options in

the transportation and electricity sectors. It will also consider the question of adaptation and whether there are viable governance strategies to confront climate changes already occurring and those anticipated in the future.

Panel Chair:

Brian Balogh, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia

Authors:

Ian Rowlands, University of Waterloo

Encouraging Renewable Electricity to Promote Climate Change Mitigation

Pietro Nivola, Brookings Institution

The Long and Winding Road: Automotive Fuel Economy and American Politics

Marc Landy, Boston College

Adaptation vs. Migration Strategies

Discussants:

Judith Layzer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Daniel Fiorino, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

3:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Session Three:

Market Approaches to Climate Governance

Abundant literature in the economics field documents the merits of market-based systems of environmental protection, with perhaps the most celebrated innovation involving the so-called “cap-and-trade” program established for sulfur dioxide emissions in the 1990s. This session will examine the governance challenges of two oft-discussed alternatives that take a market approach, namely cap-and-trade and taxation schemes for carbon emissions meant to deter the use of fossil fuels.

Panel Chair:

Vivian Thomson, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia

Authors:

Leigh Raymond, Purdue University

The Emerging Revolution in Carbon Emissions Trading Policy

Barry Rabe, University of Michigan

The “Impossible Dream” of Carbon Taxes: Is the “Best Answer” a Political Non-Starter?

Discussants:

Timothy Conlan, George Mason University

Christopher James, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.

Friday, Dec. 12, 2008

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Session Four:

Are Federal Institutions Up to the Challenges of Climate Change?

Climate change was first discussed by an American President in the 1960s, and a decade later it became the subject of Congressional hearings. But little subsequent federal legislation or policy development has occurred. This session will consider the capacity of the three branches of the federal government to address climate change and respond to likely policy challenges. This will include a review of the federal judiciary, the U.S. Congress, and the likely lead unit of the executive branch: the Environmental Protection Agency.

Panel Chair:

Jonathan Cannon, School of Law, University of Virginia

Authors:

Kirsten Engel, University of Arizona

Courts and Climate Policy, Now and in the Future

Barry Rabe, University of Michigan

Can Congress Govern the Climate?

Walter Rosenbaum, University of Florida

Pursuing Governance Without Overtaking It: Congress, EPA, and Climate Warming Legislation

Discussants:

Donald Kettl, University of Pennsylvania

Susan Gander, National Governors Association – Center for Best Practices

11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m. Session Five:

Reconnecting the United States with the World

Any unilateral American efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions face inherent limits in deterring climate change, raising the question of multinational or international collaboration. State experience suggests ever-expanding commitment to policy experimentation, while also anticipating the expansion of federal involvement. This session will draw lessons from outside the U.S., most notably from the European Union, and consider the prospects for regional and international re-engagement in a post-Kyoto world.

Panel Chair:

Daniel Plafcan, College of Engineering, University of Virginia

Authors:

Stacy VanDeveer, University of New Hampshire

Global and Continental Climate Governance Challenges and Opportunities

Henrik Selin, Boston University

Transatlantic Multilevel Relations and Climate Change Politics

Discussants:

Kathryn Harrison, University of British Columbia

Alastair Totty, First Secretary, National Climate Change Team, British Embassy (DC)

1:15–1:30 p.m.

Concluding Remarks

Governor Gerald L. Baliles, Director, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia

The **National Conference on Climate Governance** will take place at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia (2201 Old Ivy Road, Charlottesville, VA 22904), and will be webcast live at www.millercenter.org.

The Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution aimed at bringing together engaged citizens, scholars, members of the media, and government officials to focus on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with a special interest in the American presidency.

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