

Researching topic #23 -- SOCIETAL RESPONSES – POLICY – STATES, REGIONAL, LOCAL/CITIES (U.S.) [last revised 3/14/2021]

This prompt offers two kinds of help:

- A brief overview of the kinds of questions you might wish to explore as you study how climate change is likely to affect the food supply;
- A suggested strategy for how to search the literature as you prepare to write your paper.

OVERVIEW – SOCIETAL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE – POLICY – STATES, REGIONAL, LOCAL/CITIES (U.S.)

In contrast to what has – not – happened at the level of the federal government, we have been witnessing some promising policy initiatives at lower levels of American government, in some States, regional governments, city and county governments.

States

What are some significant initiatives in States that have taken the lead on climate policy? (California has been a leader in passing and implementing climate policy. There may be others who have, similarly, moved forward, not waiting for federal action.)

Look for activity at the level of individual States, and also by several States meeting together to coordinate action.

At the other end of the policy response spectrum, some States have explicitly blocked even mentioning climate change in their official documents. (See, for example, North Carolina's bill, H.B. 819.) Which States have explicitly tried to block climate action?

Cities, Counties

One can also see forward movement by some city and county governments, both individually and in joint, coordinated action with other cities and counties.

Which cities have taken the lead? What are they doing or proposing to do?

SUGGESTED STRATEGY FOR SEARCHING THE LITERATURE

I recommend the following sequence for searching the literature:

- 1 Start with a search of the most recent **reports from top scientific bodies and government agencies**;
- 2 Search **academic articles** using Google Scholar (scholar.google.com);
- 3 Do a **more general search** using Google or another search engine;
- 4 Search the **best newspapers** and **reputable climate websites**.
(NOTE that I do not suggest using Wikipedia.)

1 Search the most recent **reports from top scientific bodies and government agencies**

(NOTE: There are many excellent reports one can consult. You will find a lot of repetition, so you do not need to consult every source. Here I start with a handful of the most recent reports, followed by a more complete list.)

These publications should, in most cases, supply you with all you need:

IPCC's most recent full set of reports:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/>

EPA: https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-society_.html

U.S. Global Change Research Program:

<https://science2017.globalchange.gov/> (the science)

<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/> (the impacts)

American Meteorological Society:

www.ametsoc.net/sotc2017/StateoftheClimate2017_lowres.pdf

A more complete list of best scientific and governmental sources:

International

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
World Meteorological Organization

Agencies of the U.S. federal government

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
U.S. Global Change Research Program

Scientific bodies – U.S.

National Academic of Sciences
Climate Change at the National Academies (climatechange@nas.edu)
National Science Foundation

Other professional bodies – American Meteorological Society

2 Search **academic articles** using Google Scholar (scholar.google.com)

(NOTE: Narrow and focus your search by using several phrases in quotes – such as “climate change”. For example, if you are searching for how climate change will increase the frequency of extreme weather events, don’t just enter “climate change,” search, instead for” “climate change” AND “extreme weather events”)

Search terms to use (you may certainly choose others):

“climate change” AND x, where x can be:

- State initiatives
- State coalitions
- State policy
- State cooperation
- City initiatives, etc.

(NOTE: For some citations you find on Google Scholar, you can directly download the PDF. For other citations, you may be able to find and download PDFs if your University library offers on line access to academic journals.)

3 Do a **more general search** using Google or another search engine

Use the same search terms to do a general search on Google or another search engine.

This will bring up information more recent than you find on scholar.google.com (it takes several years for research to be published in academic journals).

4 Search the **best newspapers** and **reputable climate websites**

New York Times, Washington Post, The Guardian

On line sources

- Climate Central
- GRIST
- Society of Environmental Journalists
- The Daily Climate
- Climate Nexus
- InsideClimate News
- DeSmogBlog
- Skepticalscience.com
- Yale 350

(NOTE about on line sources: You will run into a lot of denialist disinformation on the internet, on websites, on blogs, on youtube. FYI, skepticalscience.com has a comprehensive list of denialist talking points (and refutations of those talking points).

See, for example: <https://www.skepticalscience.com/argument.php>)

And, finally, here are some recent news articles to help you get started:

<https://grist.org/briefly/cities-all-over-the-u-s-are-pledging-to-go-100-percent-renewable/>

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-climate-cities-idINL1N1EG17M>

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/01/climate-alliance-washington-california-new-york-239038>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-usa-climatechange-idUSKBN18X068>

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/05/31/stories/1060055344>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/climate/jerry-brown-california-climate-summit.html>

<https://psmag.com/environment/california-regulators-move-to-protect-the-states-fuel-efficiency-standards>

www.climatecentral.org/news/us-climate-policy-under-trump-20866

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/07/climate/hawaii-climate-paris-trump.html>

http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/alaska-gov-walker-signs-climate-change-action-plan/article_558d4a80-bea0-11e7-9c12-4fc7e51e3714.html

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/01/climate/american-cities-climate-standards.html>

2018 elections:

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2018/10/26/18026074/koch-industries-bp-colorado-washington-sustainability-anti-fracking-carbon-tax>

https://insideclimatenews.org/news/29102018/election-2018-washington-carbon-fee-ballot-initiative-price-carbon-big-oil-opposition?utm_source=twitter%26utm_medium=social

https://grist.org/article/midterms-election-cleared-way-for-bold-climate-policy-in-6-states-michelle-lujan-grisham/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

https://grist.org/article/what-washington-and-oregon-taught-us-about-climate-action-at-the-ballot/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

new useful links, March 2021

https://grist.org/article/new-map-shows-all-the-cities-leading-the-world-in-climate-action/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/02072019/mayors-vote-carbon-tax-green-new-deal-climate-change-fossil-fuel-lawsuits>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24012019/great-lakes-governors-climate-change-clean-energy-pipelines-michigan-illinois-attorney-general-clean-power-plan-lawsuits>

<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/420276-new-governors-plan-aggressive-climate-steps>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/dc-historic-climate-bill-renewable-power_us_5c195218e4b08db990587aea?qw8

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/12/18/landmark-agreement-mass-eight-other-states-vow-cut-transportation-emissions/kzsX7xUw3l5R2x5AIC47UK/story.html>

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060120293>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/20122018/climate-change-solutions-transportation-cap-and-trade-northeast-states-washington-california-model-rggi>