

Changing Climates in US & North American Politics: Networks, Policymaking and Multilevel Governance

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US & North American Climate Politics

- Accelerating Political action at multiple levels of governance (“Multilateral climate governance”)
- Public, private & civil society initiatives
- Networked activism & governance across levels and sectors

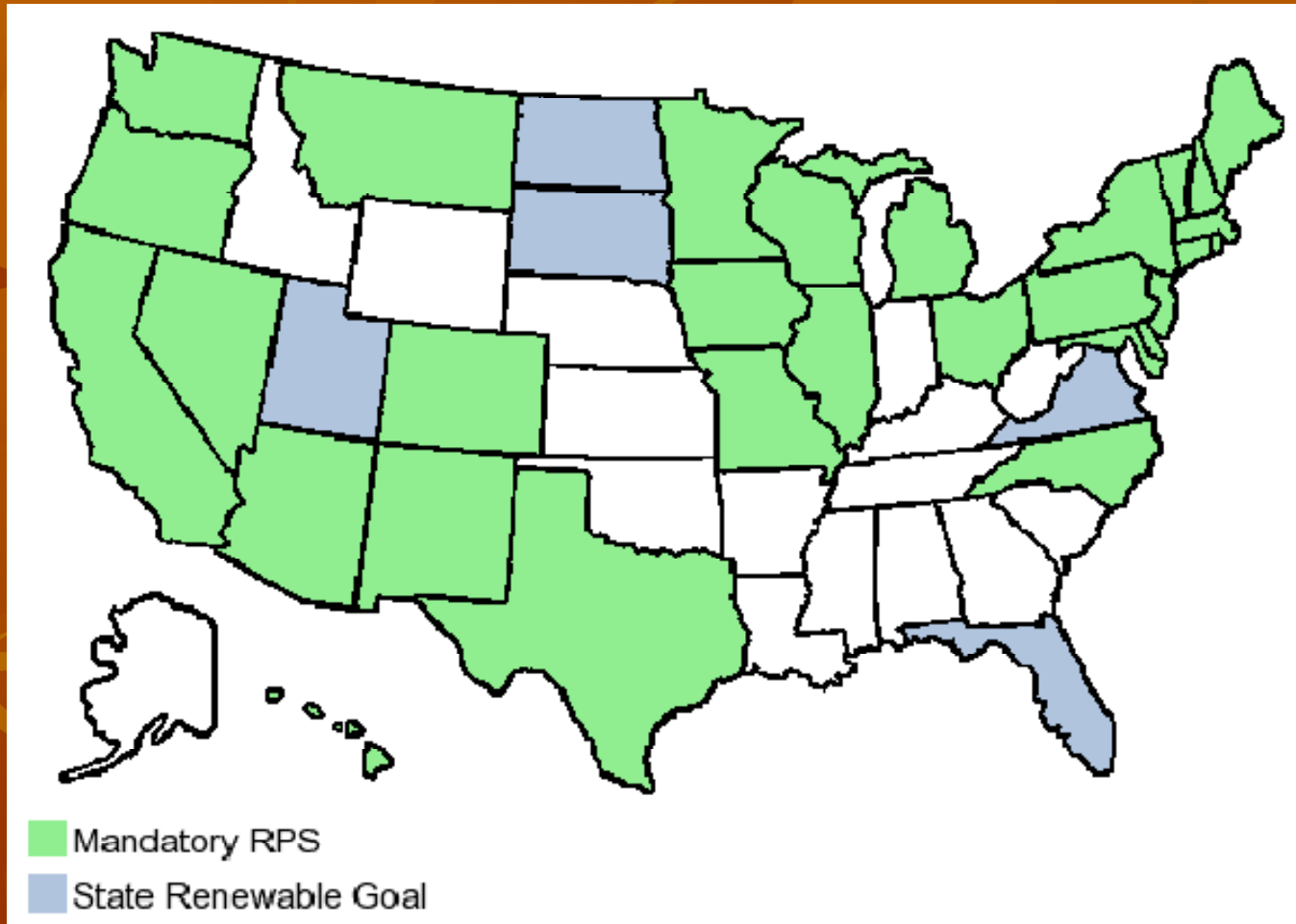
Policy Options, Broadly

- Property Rights/Market Creation (Cap & Trade, Renewable Energy credits, product market expansion)
- Regulation (product standards, emissions, building/construction, land-use, transportation, etc.)
- Taxes (emissions, energy, consumption, particular products or practices, etc.)
- Subsidies (R & D, renewable energy, greener purchasing, mass transport, etc.)

Networks and Organizations

- There are a host of important local, regional, national and continental networks
- Networks use old and new organizations to facilitate interaction, including:
 - NEG-ECP (and other governors grouping)
 - Trans-jurisdictional civil servant networks and professional organizations
 - ICLEI
 - U.S. Conference of Mayors
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities
 - The Climate Registry

Renewable Portfolio Standards



Different Frames in Different States and for Different Political Actors

- Rationales for state action
 - GHG reductions
 - Environmental co-benefits
 - Job creation/investment driver
 - Domestic/secure energy
 - Energy diversification
- Combinations of strategic and moral logics

REGIONAL RESPONSE #2: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

- Initiated with leadership of NY Gov. Pataki to Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states Governors.
- Signed by 7 Governors on December 20, 2005
- 7 states “in” plus addition of Maryland and 2 states (MA, RI) “observing”
- States committed to links (CA)
- Other states encouraged to join and program is designed to be expandable



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

Purpose: power sector GHG “Cap-and-Trade” system

- Environment and energy officials from each state
- Not a voluntary program – by regulation in each state
- Reduce CO₂ with flexible, market-based program for least cost reductions
- Build on successful NO_x and SO_x programs
- Create a model for a federal program
- Maintain electricity affordability, reliability and fuel diversity

Importance of Bottom-Up Pressure

- Networked actors exercise influence within and across different levels of political authority
- Local level policy making is likely to have an impact on future federal policy
- RGGI setting important precedents for GHG emissions trading
- California developing a portfolio of policy responses, including for energy and vehicles

Pathways of Policy Change

- Climate change networks influence policy developments at various levels of authority through four pathways of policy change:
 - (1) Strategic demonstration of action feasibility
 - (2) Market creation and expansion
 - (3) Policy diffusion and learning
 - (4) Norm creation and promulgation

THANK YOU

- Q & A
- Stacy.vandever@unh.edu
- Buy my books! 😊

The background of the slide is a solid dark brown color with a pattern of lighter brown, semi-transparent autumn leaves scattered across it. The leaves vary in size and orientation, creating a textured, seasonal feel.

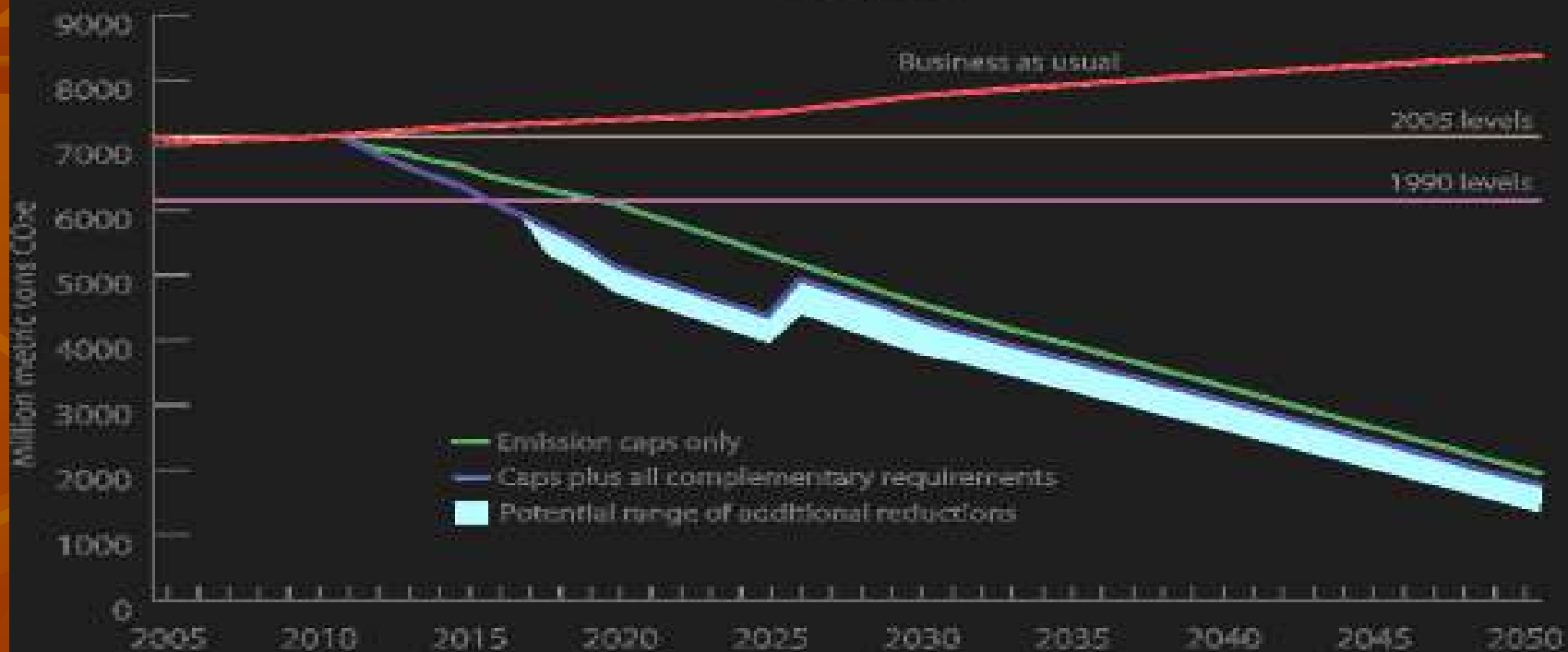
**ANNEX (Extra) Slides
for Question/Answer**

US Federal – Status May 2009

- New Auto CAFE standards
- National RPS still in discussion/debate
- Waxman/Markey (US House) out of Ctte
 - Economy wide & power sector
 - Power sector Cap & trade – (only) 15% auction
 - -3 % (of 2005) by 2012
 - -17% by 2020 (slightly less than 1990 levels)
 - -42% by 2030 (25-30% less than 1990)
 - -83% by 2050 w/interim goals (80% from 1990)
 - A host of complimentary measures (beyond cap & trade)

WRI's Emission Reduction Comparison Estimates

Emission Reductions Under H.R. 2454,
the American Clean Energy and Security Act, 2005-2050
May 19, 2009



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

This analysis reflects the uncertainty in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2454 released on May 18, 2009. For a full discussion of underlying methodology, assumptions and references, please see http://www.wri.org/publications/2009/05/1909_01. WRI does not endorse this proposal.