



WOODS INSTITUTE
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STANFORD UNIVERSITY

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT BRIEF SUMMARY



Grand Challenges for California's Response to Climate Change

This summary proposes a list of nine of the highest priority policy and research challenges confronting efforts to address climate change in California. These "Grand Challenges" require both research (to increase understanding of the issue, potential obstacles, and the merits of various policy options) and the application of the findings of that research in policy and decision-making.

By formulating these issues as policy challenges, rather than more narrowly as research agenda items, the relevance of the research to the needs of policy makers is explicit and interactions between researchers and policy-makers in governments, business and the public are encouraged. This list was developed through discussions among members of the Advisory Board of the CA Climate Change Project - representing government, business and NGOs – and researchers at Stanford University, UC Berkeley and UC Davis.

Goal I: Increase individual and political commitment to act

Challenge #1: Shift public attitudes and norms of behavior to support greater personal and political action on energy and climate.

Challenge #2: Maximize economic and employment benefits from climate and energy policies.

Challenge #3: Prevent harm to vulnerable communities from climate change impacts and policies.

Goal II: Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses

Challenge #4: Increase investment in the research, development and deployment of technologies that meet energy needs with reduced emissions of greenhouse gases.

Challenge #5: Establish economic incentives for GHG emission reductions.

Goal III: Build capacity to adapt to impacts of climate change

Challenge #6: Increase public and decision-makers' understanding of likely impacts of climate change and of options for adaptation.

Challenge #7: Develop and implement adaptation plans in areas/sectors of high vulnerability, including water supply and coastal zones.

Goal IV: Catalyze action outside of California

Challenge #8: Identify and establish policies and procedures that will catalyze complementary actions by other states, the federal government and other nations.

Challenge #9: Undertake outreach and establish partnerships that will help to promote complementary actions outside of California.

Grand Challenges Development

The Grand Challenges for California's Response to Climate Change are a product of the California Climate Change Project of Woods Institute for the Environment in collaboration with the project advisory committee. They were reviewed by researchers from Stanford, UC Berkeley and UC Davis during the Climate Change Policy Workshop in Sacramento, May 18-20, 2006.

Advisory Committee for Grand Challenges

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The California Climate Change Project is an inter-university collaboration to facilitate the use of university research and analysis in the design, adoption and implementation of effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. Sponsored by Woods Institute and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the project works to build bridges between scholars and decision-makers through targeted forums, collaborations, publications and education. <http://environment.stanford.edu/ideas/cccp.html>