

## Public Abstract

First Name:Nathan

Middle Name:James

Last Name:Madden

Adviser's First Name:Lael

Adviser's Last Name:Keiser

Co-Adviser's First Name:Leslie

Co-Adviser's Last Name:Schwindt-Bayer

Graduation Term:SS 2013

Department:Political Science

Degree:PhD

Title:It's Not Easy Being Green: Veto Players, Climate Policy Adoption, and Outcomes in OECD States

Countries are adopting climate policy to reduce their ecological impact. Do political institutions impact of climate policy adoption in advanced industrial democracies? Is this influenced by the cost structure and significance of the policy? Do climate policies reduce greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions? I find that having more political institutions reduces climate policy adoption and more climate policy activity effectively reduces GhG emissions. I distinguish climate policies according to the costs they impose - whether they concentrate on heavy emitters of GhGs or distribute across the population. I also differentiate climate policies according to if they are major or minor. I then link climate policy to the veto players theoretical framework. The premise of the theory is that states with more institutions adopt less policy. This logic extends to concentrated cost and major climate policies as opponents seek to prevent their adoption. I find that more political institutions reduce overall and major climate policy adoption. Climate policies are adopted to affect outcomes. I contend that more policy activity, as well as heavier usage of concentrated cost and major climate policy will reduce emissions more effectively. I find evidence supporting my thesis for overall climate policy and for major policy. Policy activity is linked to effectiveness, meaning veto players reduce effectiveness by preventing policy adoption. My research carries practical implications. Climate policy advocates need to have comprehensive institutional penetration to increase policy adoption and effectiveness. Policy advocates should spend less political capital on controversial policy battles and focus on passing more policies.