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ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines stakeholder preferences regarding how climate change is characterized, the policy frames and processes, and components of a national climate change policy. An electronic questionnaire is used to survey stakeholders. Data from the questionnaire is analyzed using Q Methodology. Two clusters of views are identified and characterized. The two groups characterize climate change very differently and use different policy frames to evaluate the issues. One group supports mandatory requirements and focuses on energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, and increased vehicle fuel mileage. The Second group supports voluntary requirements, and primarily focuses on carbon sequestration and research and development. This study is important because it indicates that views on climate change are more varied and complex than the literature suggests. In addition, the study demonstrates that climate change meets the characteristics of a "wicked problem".