

The Green State: Alternative Policy Pathways

The Sierra Club is concerned that their members are becoming overwhelmed and confused by the flurry of activity on climate change since the Obama administration took office, especially since so much of it is proceeding along non-traditional pathways. (1)

They have asked their Office of Public Relations to produce a 1 1/2-page, 1-1/2 spaced “fact sheet” outlining how efforts to address climate change are proceeding on four of the five alternative policy pathways. The office has tapped you to research and write the “fact sheet.”

The “fact sheet” should include a one paragraph introduction, one paragraph for each alternative policy pathway, and a concluding paragraph explaining which of these pathways seems most likely to generate progress on climate change most quickly.

Your goal is to explain very briefly each alternative policy pathway and to provide an example of how climate change reform is proceeding along that pathway. Note, the examples must be relevant to the Obama administration (you can’t choose an example that isn’t somehow current). Note, you may not use the same example for two pathways (even though some strategies involve more than one pathway).

Potential alternative policy pathways:

- * administrative rule-making
- * congressional budgeting and appropriations process
- * executive initiatives (treaties, executive orders, appointments, etc.)
- * courts
- * state-level initiatives

To research this fact sheet, please use the following sources:

1. White House’s website. The White House provides information regarding its administrative initiatives. <http://whitehouse.gov>
2. Library of Congress’s Thomas website. The Library of Congress site provides a comprehensive listing of legislation pending in the current Congress. <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
3. CQ Weekly. Excellent digest of political/policy activity in Washington. Available through the college library here: <http://0-library.cqpress.com.luna.wellesley.edu/cqweekly/>
4. Grist.org (use grist to find newspaper coverage): <http://grist.org>

For this assignment, please cite your sources as follows: First, number your bibliography and include those numbers in the body of your fact sheet to indicate which source is relevant to which sentence. (See the first sentence of this assignment, which models this citation). Second, include the following information for each website in the bibliography: Author, title of document, web address. Here is an example:

- (1) Sierra Club, “Clean Energy Solutions: Repower and Rebuild America,”
<http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/>