

Title: Policy Analytic Capacity for Sustainability: An Analysis of Government and Non-Government Actors in Colorado Climate and Energy Issues

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Abstract:

Governing sustainably at the state and local levels in climate and energy issues requires that government and non-government policy actors have the capacity to generate, process, and act upon technical information. This paper assesses the policy analytic capacity of government and nongovernment policy actors involved in Colorado climate and energy issues using a 2011 questionnaire. The results are analyzed by different categories of policy actors: local, state, federal government officials, nonprofits, energy industry, and researchers and consultants. The findings show that government is not as “hollowed out” as expected but that technical and information capacity varies across government institutions and among non-government organizations. While actors from academia and consulting firms may have higher analytic capacity than government in conducting research, government is higher across most other measures. Nonetheless, nearly all respondents agree that government needs higher levels of policy analytic capacity to address climate and energy issues.