

Climate Change and Regional Land Use Planning: Incentives and Performance

Abstract

This paper explores how effectively the newly introduced planning process - SB 375 would achieve the regional GHG emissions target under the California policy and planning framework and how well incentive based environmental policy might perform. The new legislation creates a future growth scenario to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with incentives as an implementation mean of AB 32 – the Global Warming Solution Act of 2006 - includes five important policy and planning aspects: 1) the role of sustainable communities strategies (SCS) as one of key elements in their regional transportation plans; 2) planning for transportation and housing; 3) specified incentives for the implementation of SCS; 4) the regional planning approach toward reducing GHG emissions; 5) the role of California Air Resources Board to establish regional GHG emissions target. It has significant implications on regional and environmental planning process with incentives - resources allocation and approval process.