

U.S. Climate Legislation: State of Play

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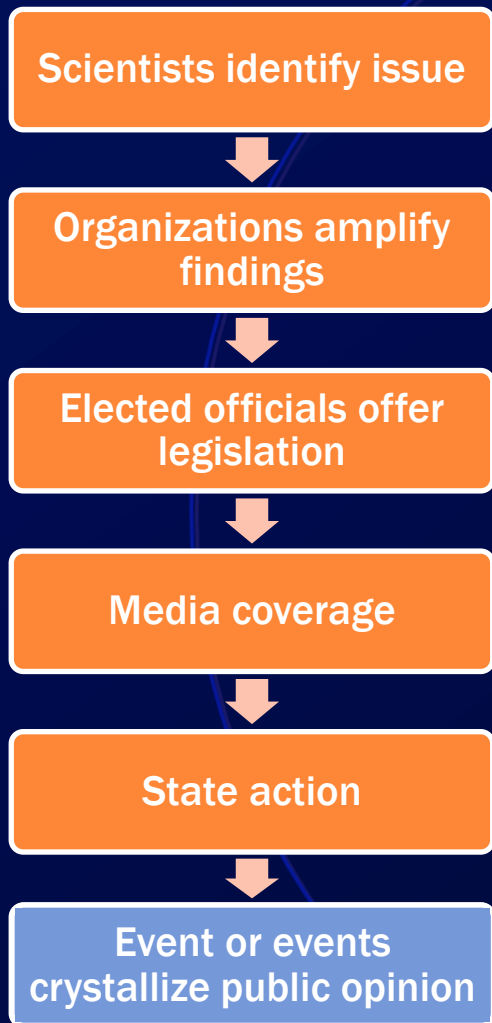
Presentation Overview

- **Introduction to the Pew Center on Global Climate Change**
- **Environmental Protection Context**
- **Context for Transportation**
- **Climate Change Action, 2009-2010**
 - U.S. Congress
 - States
- **Future Prospects**

Pew Center Overview

- **Founded in May 1998**
- **Independent, non-profit, non-partisan**
- **Divided into five major program areas:**
 - **Science and Impacts Analyses**
 - **Solutions**
 - **Communications**
 - **Domestic and International Strategies**
 - **Outreach Activities**
- **Work closely with Business Environmental Leadership Council**

History of Environmental Protection



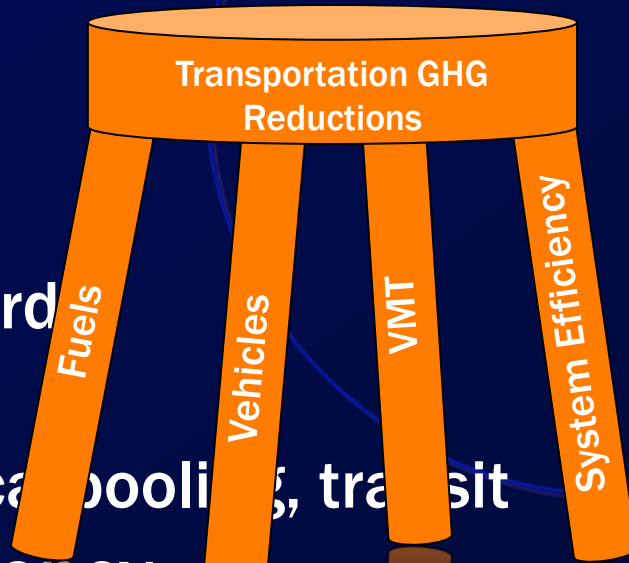
- **Event Examples: Dust Bowl, Santa Barbara oil spill, Love Canal, Cuyahoga River fire**
- **Climate Change Catalyzers?: Gulf Oil Spill, Hurricane Katrina, 2010 Russian heat wave**

Key Challenges For Climate Policy

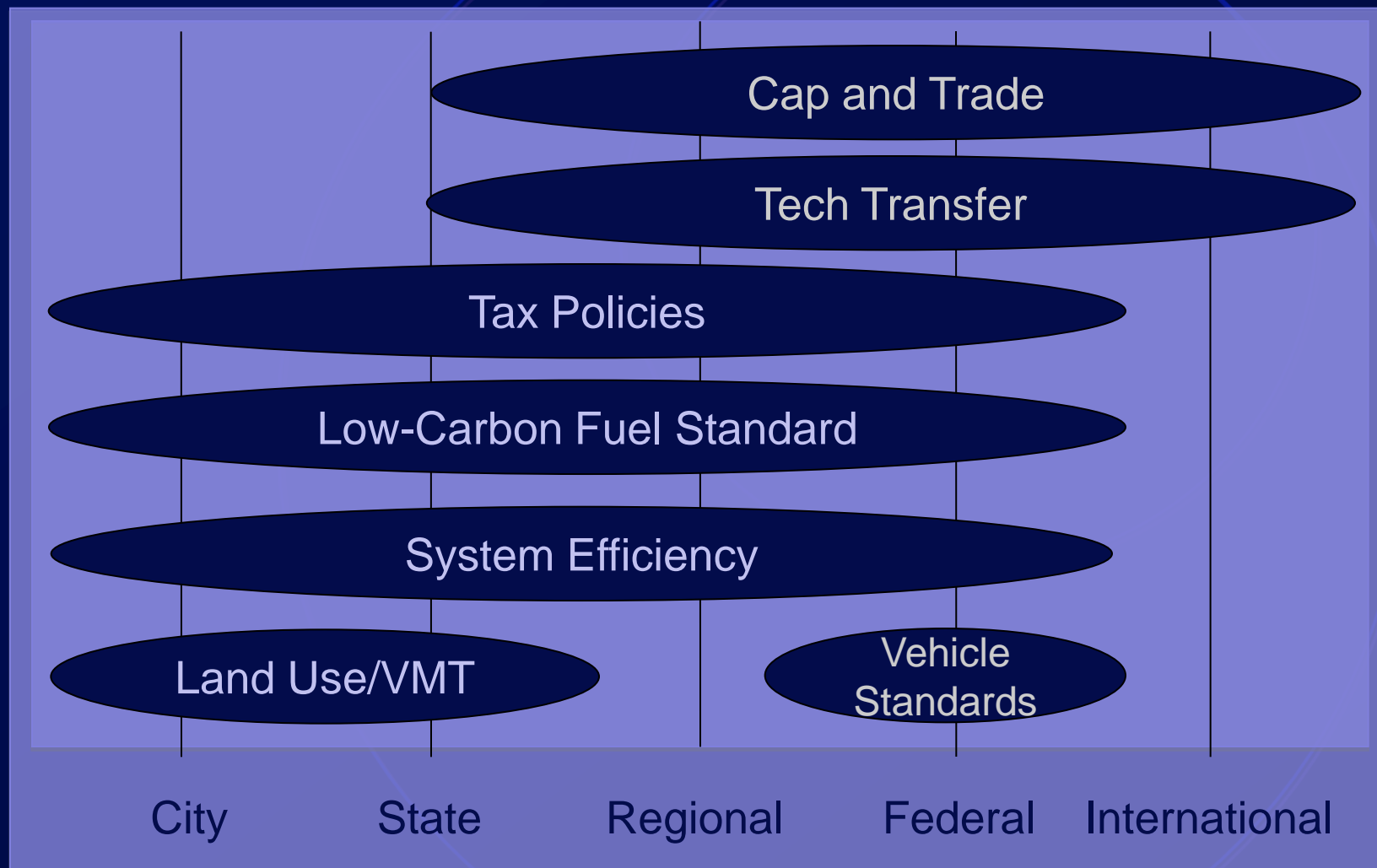
- The economy
- Energy policy is regional
- Most Americans appreciate importance of climate action, but not urgency
 - “Merchants of Doubt” have made inroads
- Competing priorities mean limited attention from Obama Administration and Congress

Transportation Policy Options

- Fuels
 - Covering fuels in cap-and-trade
 - LCFS
- Vehicles
 - CAFE
 - GHG Standard
- VMT
 - HOV lanes, carpooling, transit
- System Efficiency
 - Public spending on smarter transportation system



Multi-level, Multi-pronged Approach



Climate Policy In 2009 And 2010

- **Climate change has had most serious consideration ever in Congress**
- **Action in the states: clean energy and transportation still going strong; climate policy per se more mixed**
- **House passage of bill with GHG cap-and-trade**
- **Major businesses (e.g., USCAP) advocating for GHG cap-and-trade**

Climate Bills In Congress

House

- Waxman-Markey passed in summer of 2009, 219-212
- 8 Republicans voted for legislation, 44 Democrats voted against

Senate

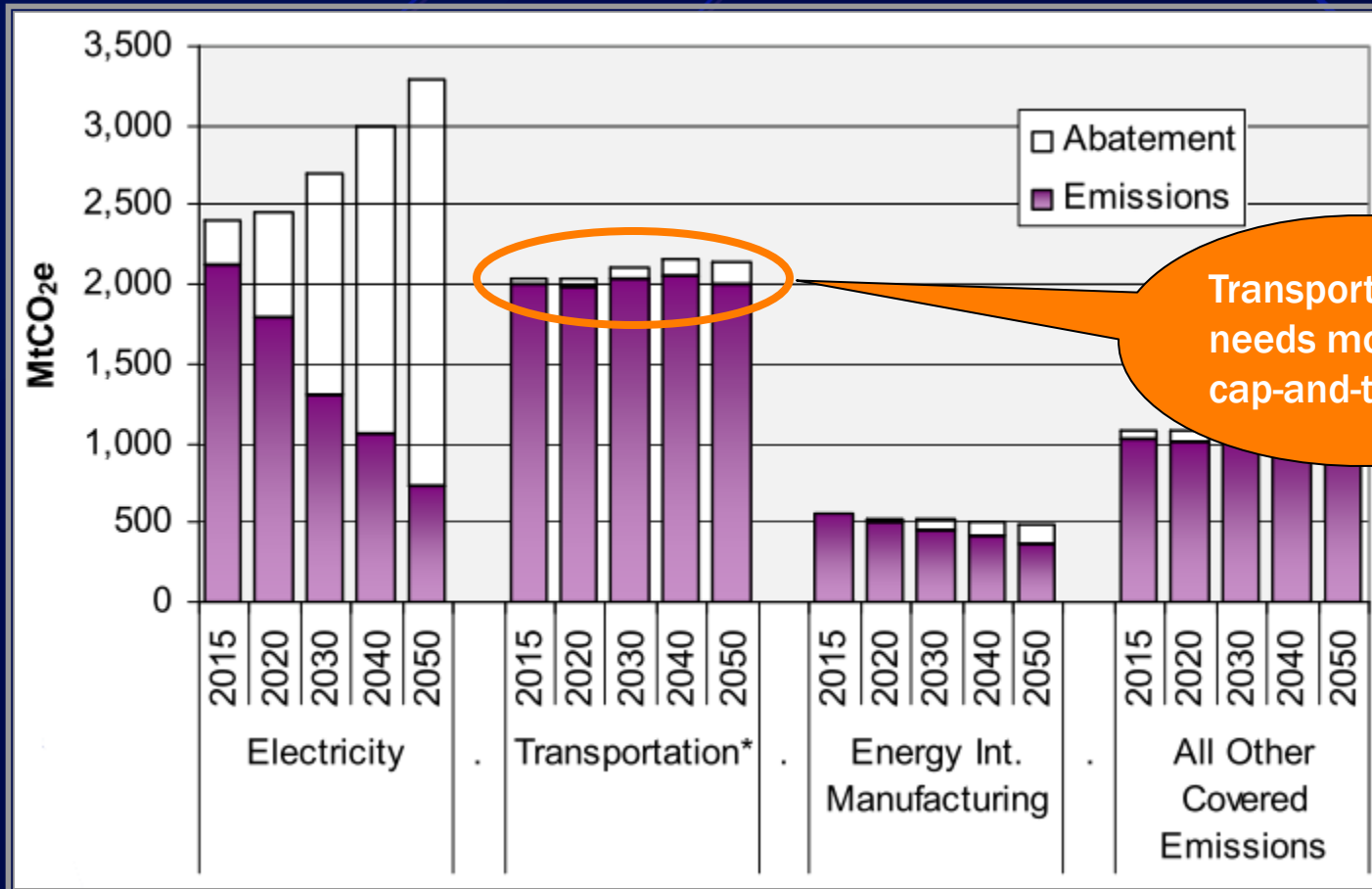
- Many Energy/Climate Bills
 - 60 Senators needed including Republicans
 - Needs Administration support
 - Energy legislation in the fall possible but unlikely

Debate in Washington

- “Climategate” fueled opposition
- Weather ≠ climate
 - DC snow storms and Al Gore’s Igloo
 - Recent NAS studies reaffirm science
 - Russian & U.S. heat waves, Pakistan floods
- Term cap-and-trade out of favor
- Interest in utilities first



Abatement From Waxman-Markey



Source: U.S. EPA

Recent State Action

2009

- RGGI compliance begins
- Kansas sets 20% RES by 2020
- Hawaii sets RPS to 40% by 2030
- Nevada sets RPS to 25% by 2025
- California set RPS to 33% by 2020

2010

- California adopts LCFS
- Colorado increases RPS by 50%
- Oregon initiates sustainable transportation systems
- Maryland and Maine enact bills for clean energy

RPS: Renewable Portfolio Standard

RES: Renewable Energy Standard; same as RPS

LCFS: Low Carbon Fuel Standard

Support For Plug-In Electric Vehicles

- **Passenger vehicles are 60% of GHGs from transportation**
- **Enjoys bipartisan support**
- **Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) will hit the market in late 2010**
 - **All-electric Nissan Leaf**
 - **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Chevrolet Volt**
- **Climate benefits depend on the carbon intensity of the power sector**

Comparing PEV Provisions

- Pew Center Comparison ([handout](#))
 - ACES: Waxman-Markey Climate Bill
 - ACELA: Bingaman Energy Bill
 - APA: Kerry-Lieberman Climate Bill
 - EVDA: Electric Vehicle Deployment Act
- Support PEVs and PEV infrastructure deployment
- Varying funding levels and DOE involvement
- EVDA is most comprehensive
 - Includes workforce development, tax policy

+ Future Prospects

- + • Climate change is *still real*
- + • Businesses need regulatory certainty for planning and investment
- + • Price on carbon is needed for competitiveness in growing clean energy export market
- + • Many avenues to transportation-related legislation that affects climate change
 - + – PEV Legislation
 - + – Energy-only Legislation
 - + – Transportation Reauthorization

For More Information Visit

www.pewclimate.org