

Kaleidoscopic Federalism in U.S. Climate Policy

Summary

This chapter argues that United States climate policy follows an overall pattern of kaleidoscopic federalism. First, it describes the most important climate policies that U.S. state governments have adopted over the last few decades in six areas: target setting, emissions trading, renewable energy, motor vehicles, appliances, and power plants. Second, it analyzes how those efforts relate to federal policies, and argues that the United States' kaleidoscopic federalism in climate policy includes at least eight types of intergovernmental relations between state and federal governments: compensatory, unilateral federal, cooperative, friendly competitive, complementary, iterative, unfriendly competitive, and coercive. Third, it describes the recent acceleration of climate policy adoption by California and the federal government. Fourth, it analyzes how state and federal governments have affected each other's climate policies, identifying patterns that vary by presidential administration and policy area. Fifth, it assesses the overall impact of U.S.-style federalism on climate policy.

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