



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INITIATIVE

Highlights, 2010

A. EPI Profile

EPI is an interdisciplinary program, one of several Public Policy initiatives funded by the Office of Academic Affairs since 1999. It has more than 50 members from 8 colleges and the Glenn School, typically about 20 associate members (graduate students and post-docs), and about 40 affiliate members (nationally and internationally recognized collaborators, distinguished visitors, etc.). EPI programs include seed grants for research, working groups to prepare proposals in response to specific interdisciplinary RFPs, conferences that bring together the academic and policy communities to discuss environmental policy issues, distinguished visiting speakers, workshops, dissertation proposal grants, and travel grants for graduate students to present papers to professional meetings.

EPI's basic purpose is catalytic – to encourage and support environmental policy research, teaching, and outreach at Ohio State; and to build collaborative networks across the Ohio State community, and linking the Ohio State environmental policy community with practitioners in government, NGOs, and the private sector, and with the global research community.

EPI seed grants and working groups have yielded several major extra-mural research grants. EPI has collaborated with on-campus programs such as CCERI, CIRIT, the Center for Resilience, the Center for Mapping, and Women in Development, as well as with a broad range of OSU departments, colleges, and schools; and with government agencies, NGOs, and business organizations. EPI can point to tangible successes (e.g., a NSF Biocomplexity grant, \$1,400,000, 2004-2008), and intangible successes (e.g., EPI's catalytic efforts, along with those of several other cross-cutting programs, were crucial in establishing the credibility of the Carbon, Water, and Climate TIE proposal, which was highest-ranked and funded at \$11.5 million by OAA).

B. Activities

Seed Grants

No new seed grants have been initiated in 2010. No seed grants are presently active.

Working Groups

In 2010 EPI contributed to a proof of concept RFA titled: **An Integrated Approach to Adapting to Changes in Water Regime and Quality Driven by Climate and Land Use Change**. This working group and subsequent proposal were created to provide “proof of concept” for an integrated approach to adapting to changes in water regime and quality driven by climate and land use change. The project created by the group will test the degree to which integrated hydrologic and economic models can guide societal decisions on the relative merits and challenges of strategies to adapt to climate and land use change. The approach taken and lessons learned will be broadly applicable. The project is responsive to the national need for strategies to sustainably manage water resources and to respond to climate and land use change; gather information on water resources; to deploy cost effective flexible instrumentation platforms; train a diverse set of future scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students; work interdisciplinarily on fundamental issues at the intersection of science and policy; and communicate findings—including new technologies and tools—to the public, policy makers, and water professionals.

In 2010, EPI continued to work and provide support on an NSF grant dealing with coupled human and natural systems. This multi-disciplinary project involves experts from engineering, statistics and AED economics to study the life-cycle impacts of transportation fuels. This group meets on a weekly basis, year round and EPI attends and contributes frequently to these meetings. EPI specifically contributed work on the project’s stated preference survey work, from the design and development stages in late 2008/ early 2009, through implementation (March 2009) and is currently contributing to the analysis (2010). A publication is currently being worked on as a tangible output of EPI’s efforts.

Distinguished Visiting Speakers

Scheduled for Fall 2010:

Brian Murray, Nicholas Institute for the Environment, Duke University
Michael Obersteiner, IIASA, Vienna, Austria

Workshops

June 4th, 2010. 2009 grant recipients presented on the progress of their research.

Mike Betz (Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, Advisor: David Kraybill) “Soil and Water Conservation in Ugandan Agriculture”

Scott Stuckman (Environmental Science, Advisor: Jialin Lin)
“Future Freshwater Shortages in America and Implications for Policymaking”

Summer dissertation proposal grants

In 2010, EPI funded 3 Ph.D. students for 3 months during the writing of their dissertation proposals in environmental policy:

Caleb Gallemore (Geography)

Advisor: Darla Munroe

Topic: Viability and durability of commons governance institutions

Greg Howard (Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics)

Advisor: Brian Roe and Tim Haab

Topic: Analysis of Intergenerational Externalities in an Environmental Context

Divya Gupta (School of Environment and Natural Resources)

Advisor: Thomas Koontz

Topic: A Comparative Study of Environmental Management Policies

Graduate student travel grants

No Travel Grants were Issued in 2010.