Current events

How Does the U.S. Govern Waste?

Toxics

The dimensions of the problem

Toxic Waste: The Issue-Attention Cycle

Love Canal

Times Beach, Russell Bliss and Dioxin in Eastern Missouri
Command & Control:

Regulating toxics from cradle to grave

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 1976
- Toxic Substances Control Act, 1976
- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund), 1980

Problems with toxics regulation

- Power flows to discretion
- Delays in regulating hazardous chemicals.
- Cost
- Litigation: two video examples

Brownfields: Recovering toxic land parcels in cities
Climate Change

Ask questions.

1. The problem: What we know
   
   Ice core evidence
   
   The Keeling Curve
   
   The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

2. Standpoints: Public opinion
   
   Political Polarization & Climate change
   
   How not to talk about climate change (video)
3. Important political concerns

(Remember, climate change is a common pool problem, and too much CO2 is a negative side effect)

Who goes first?

Environmental Justice?

Cost? Who pays it?

4. Solutions

Technology

Cap and Trade

Command and Control: The Clean Air Act

Massachusetts v. EPA
5. Elections matter

The 2008 election allows Cap and Trade to make progress in Congress

The 2010 election shifted the House to oppose action on climate

The 2012 election allowed Obama to push his climate agenda from the White House

The 2014 election shifted the Senate to oppose action on climate

The 2016 gave control of the executive and legislative branches to opponents of action on climate change

2018?

6. Federalism Matters

“Blue” states like California take the lead against climate change

“Red” (Republican) states fight back bitterly

State Attorneys general