A
Policy Analysis for Environmental Economics

Instructor: *Nancy Olewiler*
       School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada
       (Also Resource Person for EEPSEA and member of Scientific Committee for LACEEP)

Using a 'learning by doing' process, I focus on practical aspects of policy analysis and build on the theoretical foundations provided by the disciplines of economics, political science, and research methods. The goals of the training are to help you think critically about policy analysis, develop policy analysis skills using current policy issues as examples, and incorporate policy analysis in a systematic and rigorous way in environmental economics research.

Steps in policy analysis
The pragmatic approach to policy analysis follows a series of 10 steps around which the short course is structured.

1. Define and frame a public policy problem (also known as problem definition or identification)
2. Use a variety of policy models to research the policy problem
3. Identify key stakeholders and stakeholder perspectives
4. Identify relevant criteria and measures to evaluate policy options (alternatives)
5. Establish possible policy options including the status quo
6. Collect additional evaluative data to assess policy options
7. Assess the **outcome** of each policy option according to each criterion
8. Assess the possible tradeoffs among options, and rank options
9. Recommend an action based on your policy analysis
10. Communicate your recommendation and reasoning to decision-makers

Course format, requirements, and grading philosophy
Class sessions combine lectures, discussion, class exercises, presentations, and interactive work. A high level of student participation is essential for successful completion of this course.