



KLEINMAN CENTER *for* ENERGY POLICY

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Our provocation

- Cities and some States have a “charge-of-the-light-brigade” impulse on progressive sustainability goals and innovation
- Cities and especially Mayors joyfully accept the implementation lead on other people's goals like COP21 and 80x50
- But mobilizing a sustained coalition of state and local interests requires a different question: not feasibility, but optimality? not can we, should we?

Cautions on 80x50

- Textbook concern: Same numerical target for every place?
- Brutal logic: Nearly all the benefits of climate change mitigation by cities and states occur outside their borders (and the inverse is true of climate change adaptation)
- Cruel irony: subnational governments will under-invest in mitigation compared to adaptation or, more generally, compared to policies driven by local net benefits. To the extent that these produce emissions reductions as a co-benefit (rather than as the organizing goal), selfish strategies are likely to produce more reductions than 80x50 strategies!

Sketch of policy and research questions

