



UTCM TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



Vedlitz Participates in National Energy and Climate Policy Conference Formed to Advise President Obama

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In recent years, many respected organizations have tackled the challenge of formulating a new energy and climate policy for the United States. However, none of their reports have addressed in detail the process of designing, assessing, proposing, enacting, and implementing a national energy security and climate policy. In an effort to address those details and fulfill President Obama's goal of transparency within agencies, a diverse coalition of professionals gathered in Washington, D.C. on June 18-19, 2009 to participate in a conference entitled, "Formulation of Energy and Climate Policy: Toward an Open and Transparent Process."

UTCM Executive Committee Member and Researcher Dr. Arnie Vedlitz, Director of the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy at Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government and Public Service, was invited by the Howard Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars to help organize and participate in the groundbreaking conference.

Dr. Vedlitz's participation was partially supported by the UTCM project, "Transportation Planning, Policy and Climate Change: Making the Long Term Connection." Dr. Jeryl Mumpower, Director of the Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) Program at the Bush School, also attended and participated in this important conference.

"The purpose of the workshop was to get everyone focused on looking at the issues of climate policy from a holistic perspective," says Vedlitz. "We talked a lot about interactions of the various elements – the scientific community, economic realities, the public's wishes, what people will actually use, what people are willing to pay for, and what kinds of government responses are going to be necessary in the form of infrastructure or taxation changes."

One of the afternoon sessions focused on low carbon transportation options. This session explored what kinds of scientific and engineering solutions could merge with



Dr. Vedlitz is introduced as chair of a panel entitled "Energy and Climate Policy and Stakeholder Domains: Goals, Perspectives, and Interconnections." Panelists included (l to r) Vedlitz, Bob Simon (Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources), Sharon Burke (Vice President for National Security, Center for a New American Security), Bracken Hendricks (Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress) and Anthony Janetos (Director, Joint Global Change Research Institute).

governmental and economic realities to produce vehicles that save more energy while polluting less. "One of the things discussed in this session was an option that is actively being explored at Texas A&M, and that is the possibility of a plug-in hybrid vehicle, so that was a major source of information," says Vedlitz.

This two day conference is the second event in the "Joint Program on Presidential Policy-Making: Formulating a Bipartisan Energy and Climate Policy for America." The joint program was formed to explore how best to assist policymakers in understanding the implications of various energy and climate policy options.

The next step for the 15 organizers and sponsors of the workshop is to recommend persons for participation in a group of some 500 major stakeholders, scientists, and government officials. The group will meet via real-time conferencing to share ideas and propose solutions. Following this conference, the group will submit a final report to President Obama.

Related information and links, including the conference program and streaming video of all sessions, is available on the UTCM website at http://utcm.tamu.edu/technology_transfer/t2news.stm#080609.



This technology transfer activity involved the collaborative efforts of:

"This workshop did a great job of bringing together people from engineering, science, public policy, psychology, economics, from government and universities, private companies and think tanks. Everyone put aside political differences to work toward the goal of finding a solution to this complex issue."

Dr. Arnie Vedlitz

UTCM Executive Committee Member and Researcher

Conference Organizers:

- Tim Anderson, University of Florida
- Scott Campbell, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
- Kent Hughes, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- Charles Kennel, University of California, San Diego
- Terry Michalske, Sandia National Laboratories
- Michael Natch, Berkeley University
- Doug Rotman, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Tim Valentine, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
- Arnie Vedlitz, Texas A&M University
- Erik Webb, Sandia National Laboratories

