ESD.10 Meta-Learning Objective: Appreciate the political, social, and institutional context of technological systems

Current issues in technology and policy

Learning to see:
- Goals (equity, efficiency, security, liberty)
- Problem framing (symbols, numbers, causes, interests)
- Policy solutions (inducements, rules, facts, rights, powers)

Learning to analyze:
- Policy analysis toolkit (positions, powers, resources, channels, windows, technology constraints and enablers)
- Economics (cost-benefit analysis, pareto optimality, utility)
- Term Project (conceive, design, execute a policy research project)

Learning to articulate:
- Writing (policy memos, policy research studies)
- Dialogue (recitations, class discussions)
- Presentation (term project, group homeworks)

“Real world” experiences of policy practitioners
Applying technology and policy analysis techniques

- Examine 6 drawers in the tool chest using an example technology and policy area
  - Telecommuting

- Read stage setting article
“Drawers” in your tool chest for technology and policy analysis

- Issue Framing
- Stakeholders
- Technology/Policy Interactions
- Powers & Resources
- Channels
- Windows
Issue framing

- What fundamental goals are in play?
- What are the bounds of the issue?
- How is the issue cast?
  - Economic (cost-benefit), safety (risk-benefit), interests (sides), control, conspiracy, victimization, causes
Stakeholders

- Who cares about the issue? What are their motivations?
- What are their core beliefs and values?
- How are stakeholders arrayed on the issue?
- What coalitions exist?
Technology and policy interactions

- How does the technology constrain or enable policy?
- How does the policy constrain or enable technology?
Channels

- What channels exist for taking action on the issue?
  - Electoral, legislative, legal, administrative, media, grassroots…
- What are the costs and benefits of using various channels, now and in the future?
Powers and resources

- Who has formal and informal power to take action?
- Who has resources to put to the issue?
- Who can influence those that take action / have resources?
- How can people with power/resources/influence be mobilized?
Which focusing events could be imagined that would put the issue on the agenda?

Are there institutional routines for moving the issue?