

Decoding Carbon

#DECODINGCARBON

Activity: What role can policy play in building a low carbon future?



Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand what is policy
- Students will understand how policy can regulate negative externalities in a market
- Students will learn about Canadian climate policies and laws

Curriculum Connections

- Grade 10 Science
- Grade 10 - 12 Environmental Science in British Columbia
- Grade 10 - 11 Social Studies in Alberta
- Grade 12 Canada & World Studies in Ontario

Length of Activity

1 – 1.5 hours

Materials List

- Topic Backgrounder
- Marking Rubric
- Internet Enabled Device

Activity: Step 1

Begin by watching a video on the introduction to policy. **(5 minutes)**

[What is Policy?](#)

Activity: Step 2

Continue on to watch the video below on internalizing externalities in a market. **(15 minutes)**

[Internalizing Externalities](#)

Activity: Step 3

In groups or individually, complete the following activities:

1. After watching the video on internalizing externalities, students will have a class discussion on the importance of government intervention to regulate climate change as a negative externality. **(10 minutes)**
2. Students will use a tool provided by Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment to explore the following:
 - a. The different laws and policies that Canada has adopted to address climate change, [click here for the link to the tool.](#) **(20 minutes)**
 - b. Students will compare Canada's climate laws with other countries around the world, [click here for the link to the tool and scroll down for the map.](#) **(15 minutes)**
3. Students will make a personal journal entry reflecting on, "Do you think Canada has enough laws in place to combat climate change compared to other countries, why or why not?" **(10 minutes)**

