

New study finds options for climate change policy are well characterized

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Policy options for climate change risk management are straightforward and have well understood strengths and weaknesses, according to a new study by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Policy Program.

"Large gaps remain in society's consideration of [climate policy](#)," said Paul Higgins, the author of the study. "This study can help in the development of a comprehensive strategy for climate change risk management because it explores a much larger set of [policy options](#)."

The study identifies four categories of climate change risk management: 1) mitigation – efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; 2) adaptation – increasing society's capacity to cope with changes in climate; 3) geoengineering or [climate engineering](#) – additional, deliberate manipulation of the earth system that is intended to counteract at least some of the impacts of [greenhouse gas emissions](#); and 4) knowledge-base expansion – efforts to learn and understand more about the climate system, which can help support proactive risk management.

"As a policy challenge, climate change boils down to four issues," according to Higgins. "Climate is changing; people are causing climate to change; the societal consequences of climate change are highly uncertain but include the potential for serious impacts; but there is a wide range of responses that can meaningfully help reduce the risks of climate change."

The full report is available at the American Meteorological Society

Policy Program web site at <http://www.ametsoc.org/studies>.

Provided by American Meteorological Society

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