

# **Municipal Climate Planning in Regions under Cap-and-Trade**

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2013

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As both state-level cap-and-trade policies and municipal-level CAPs (Climate Action Plans) are increasingly prevalent strategies in climate change governance in the U.S., it is necessary to examine their interactions. Cities in regions under cap-and-trade are limited in their ability to contribute to aggregate emission reductions below the cap level because of the "emissions floor" effect. This study seeks to assess whether these cities modify their CAPs according to this constraint. Using a sample of 20 Californian CAPs, since California is under the Western Climate Initiative cap-and-trade program, and 20 CAPs from states not regulated by cap-and-trade, I quantitatively analyse the emission reduction targets allocated to different sectors; I complement this by a qualitative review of the Californian CAPs. I find no significant difference in how cities under cap-and-trade assign mitigation efforts between capped and non-capped sectors, compared to cities not under cap-and-trade. I discuss the implications of this, and recommendations to facilitate the successful coexistence of cap-and-trade and CAPs.