

Title: Stimulating Changes in Environmental Policy

Host: Frank DiSalvo and Drew Harvell

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Discussion with Nate Loewentheil, Yale Law School, Drew Harvell and Frank DiSalvo

Abstract: Many decades have passed since current environmental policies were established. There is a growing concern that science informed changes are needed. Where do we want to go from here and how do we get there? The discussion is intended to draw out ideas and start a conversation about ACSF's and Cornell's role in moving forward. We might consider the following questions, as well as others that pertain to this issue.

What is the relationship between social and political movements and environmental policy change? Can we have a meaningful discussion about changing US policies without discussing public engagement on environmental issues?

What are current social and political trends most likely to empower the environmental movement in the years ahead? From what sources will a new generation of environmental activism be born? Examples might be the slow food/organic food movement, the evangelical christian movement, farmers concerned about climate change, coastal communities concerned about sea level rise, etc.

What public narratives might help shift public opinion at the national level? Currently climate change is a toxic issue politically; should the environmental movement be focused on public health instead? Should it be constructing a narrative that equates America's natural wealth with our history and our future (i.e. making conservation patriotic)? What stories will help Americans reconnect with the natural world?