

Who we are



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Funders



**Unilateral Action to Make a Global Difference:
Towards Horizontal Leadership and
Vertical Latitude for Germany & California**



Challenge

California and Germany are renowned frontrunners in environmental and climate policy. They are recognized as climate leaders, whose actions have influence beyond their borders, affecting other jurisdictions as well as their federal systems, the European Union and the United States.

A sustained conversation between Germany and California can help develop and share their lessons. A key question is **how to propagate their actions to other jurisdictions** and ultimately scale up action to their federal systems. Another important question is **how to achieve increasingly ambitious climate goals** in the future. This effort will present significant technological challenges, but also significant institutional, legal, and political challenges.

Objectives

AHEAD promotes **mutual exchange, learning and joint thinking among scientists and stakeholders** in California and Germany with the overall aim to

- develop a better scientific understanding of successful climate policy and
- synthesize lessons learned to inform policy making and the broader public debate.

More specifically, AHEAD aims to

- **systematically assess climate policies** in California and Germany, also in view of contributing to global assessments like the IPCC by developing, for example, metrics for measuring the level of climate policy effort or progress in transforming the energy system
- **develop scientifically sound insights** on past and current policies, as well as options for successfully tackling the transformational pathways ahead
- **compile a policy-driven synthesis** of these new insights that can be useful for policymakers and scholarship
- **expand scientific and stakeholder networks** to foster exchange & collaboration between California and Germany and strengthen their role as climate leaders

Activities

The project started in January 2016 and is planned to run over three years. It comprises **scientific research and exchange** in three work packages (WP1-WP3).

In addition, **four stakeholder workshops** hosted in Berlin, Brussels, Washington DC and San Francisco will serve to facilitate co-production of knowledge and ensure integration of different societal perspectives.

The project will also serve as a platform to leverage ongoing related research in the academia and policy by engaging researchers as **project associates**. Associates are offered the opportunity to add complementary expertise and additional perspectives to the project.



Scoping and assessing the overall policy landscape, including different policy mixes, instrument designs, governance options, political economies and the dynamic process of policy development in the context of ongoing climate policy debates



Renewable power integration (such as energy storage and demand side management) and the **broadening of the electricity sector** to space and water heating and transport, as examples of successful sectoral decarbonisation, including a focus on political economy obstacles to both integration and broadening across sectors



Climate policy mix and federal action, with the first especially examining carbon pricing, and the second examining opportunities to **propagate action to other jurisdictions in the federal systems**, including an understanding of political economy and other factors that facilitate diffusion