AGRON 504 – Term Paper Outline

Tentative Title:

GHG Emissions Reduction Challenges:
Legislative Barriers to Implementing a Carbon Tax in the U.S.

Paper Outline

a. What and why of a carbon tax?
   i. 1997 Kyoto Protocol - GHG emissions mitigation strategy.
   iii. What is a carbon tax really? Who pays? How does it work?
   iv. What counties (Finland, Netherlands, etc.) have a carbon tax and results of implementation?
   v. EU alternative: carbon trading system

b. Specific Barriers to U.S. policy on carbon tax implementation
   i. 1997 U.S. bill “Climate Stewardship Act”.
   ii. 2005 Energy Policy Act legislated
   iv. U.S. already using cap-n-trade for “other” emissions/pollutants.
   v. Affect of previous failure of “BTU tax” in 1993 (Clinton).
   vi. Discussion of literature review’s four principal criteria for evaluating environmental policy: environmental effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, distributional considerations, and institutional feasibility.
   vii. Political barriers to a carbon tax, and results of recent study on hypothetical impacts of tax (2007).

c. Alternatives to Carbon Tax as emission mitigation strategy
   i. Cap-n-Trade, etc.
   iii. Current U.S. emissions reduction strategy

d. Conclusion, Recommendations and Potential Policy Implications
   i. I will provide my own input into future recommendations, and discuss my own perspectives on barriers. I will provide any additional barriers that I feel were not mentioned in the research I did, and implications of these. This will be my Contribution area.

References: Found on ISI Web of Knowledge and Web of Science (ISU Library)


