



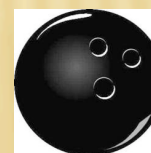
NEW JERSEY MAYORS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION: THE CHALLENGE OF MOVING FROM TALK TO ACTION

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ABOUT ME

New Jersey



INTRODUCTION

- ✘ This report focuses on New Jersey municipalities that have signed the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and determines if they have made progress toward developing and implementing climate action plans.
- ✘ 5 hypotheses identify factors enabling/constraining municipalities to complete climate action plans.

UNITED STATES MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT (USMCPA)

- ✘ Passed 2005 to place climate protection in hands of local governments.
- ✘ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.
- ✘ 965 municipalities signed on, 104 from NJ.
- ✘ No actual requirements/benchmarks set by the agreement.



RESEARCH METHODS

- ✘ A list of background/research questions were compiled at the start of the research process.
- ✘ Visited website of USMCPA to find out what NJ municipalities and mayors are signed on.
- ✘ Reviewed official municipal websites following guidance of background/research questions.
- ✘ Eliminated all municipalities without an official website or multiple locations to develop a Data Population of 92 municipalities.
- ✘ Sent e-mails/conducted phone interviews with municipal officials.
- ✘ Narrowed Data Population to a Focus Sample of 34 municipalities based on municipalities either replying via e-mail or through a phone interview.
- ✘ Re-organized data and performed more in-depth analysis of Focus Sample through 5 hypotheses.

HYPOTHESIS #1: *Municipalities with a population above 35,000 are more likely to have some form of climate action plan*

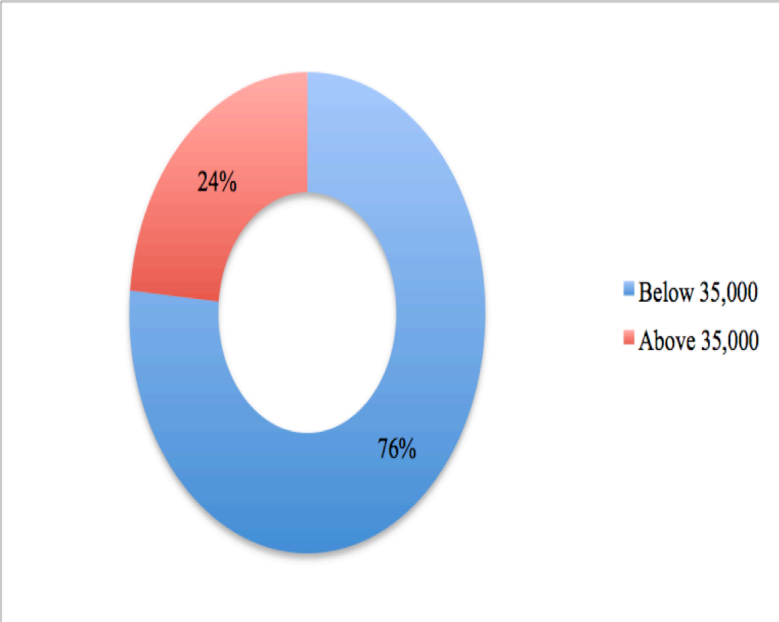


Figure 1 Focus Sample Population Relative to 35,000

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

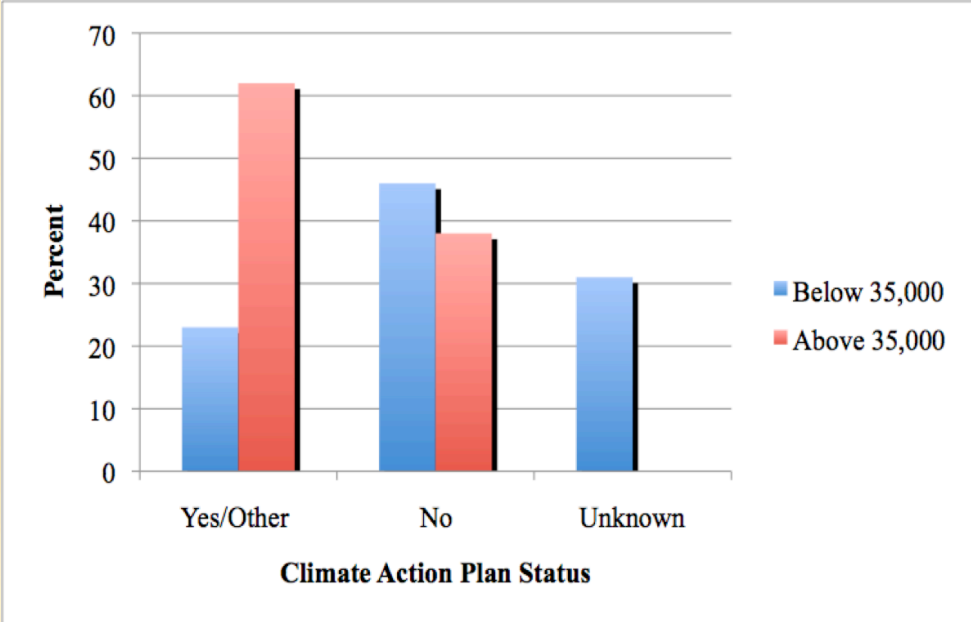


Figure 2 Focus Sample Population Relative to 35,000 and Climate Action Plan Status

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

HYPOTHESIS #2: *Municipalities with an earlier sign date are more likely to have some form of climate action plan than those with a later sign date*

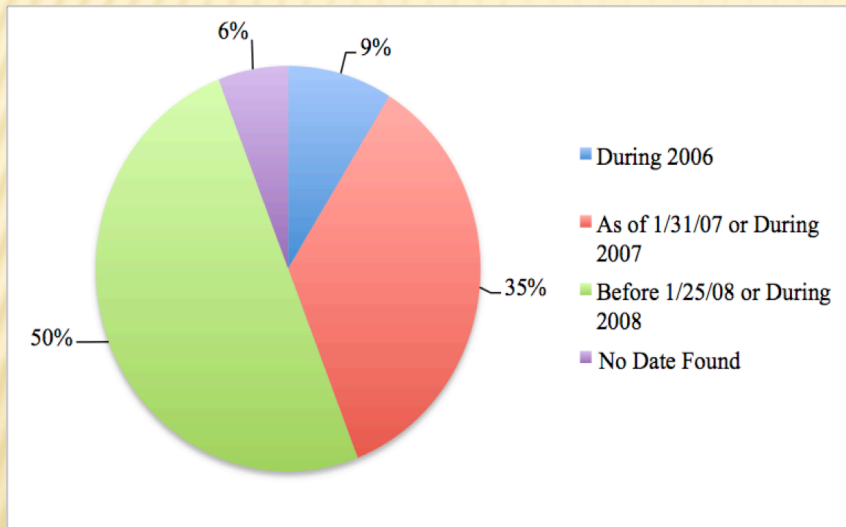


Figure 3 Focus Sample U.S. Mayors Climate Agreement Sign Date

Source: SBI Sustainable Resource Network and USA Today 2009

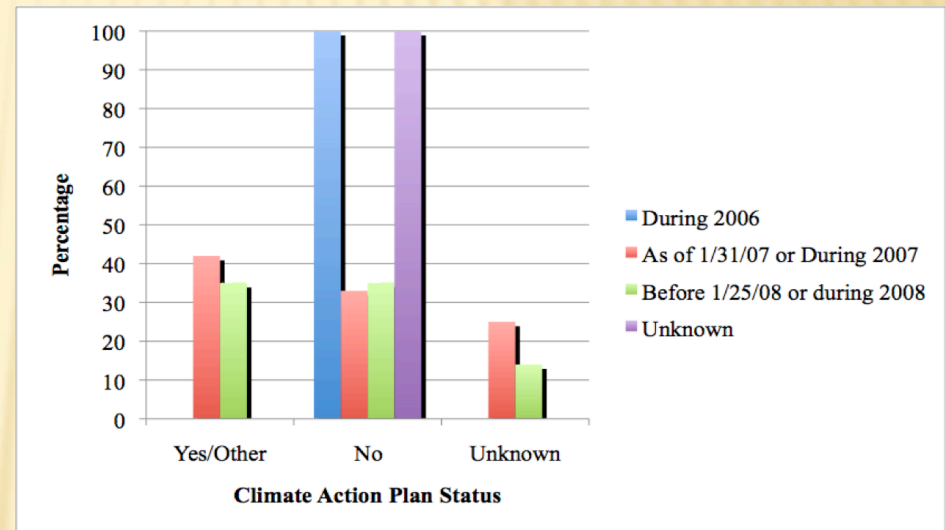


Figure 4 Focus Sample Relation of Sign Date to a Climate Action Plan

Source: SBI Sustainable Resource Network and USA Today 2009

HYPOTHESIS #3: Participation in a climate network (Sierra Club/ICLEI) increases the likelihood of a municipality having some form of climate action plan

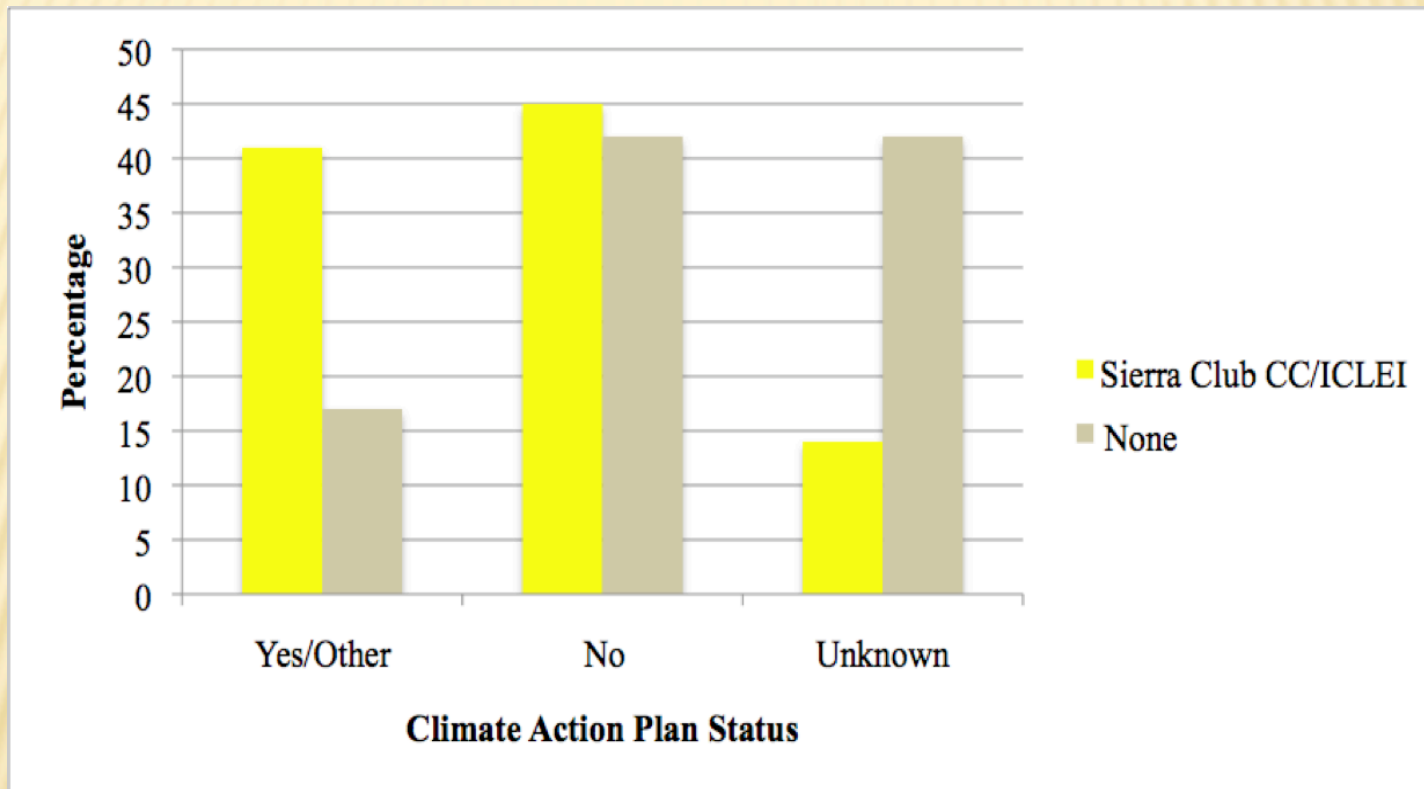


Figure 5 Focus Sample Relation Between Climate Network Participation and Climate Action Plan Status

Source: ICLEI 1995-2008, Sierra Club Cool Cities 2009b

HYPOTHESIS #4: Municipalities that do not designate climate policy to a department or staff member are less likely to have some form of climate action plan

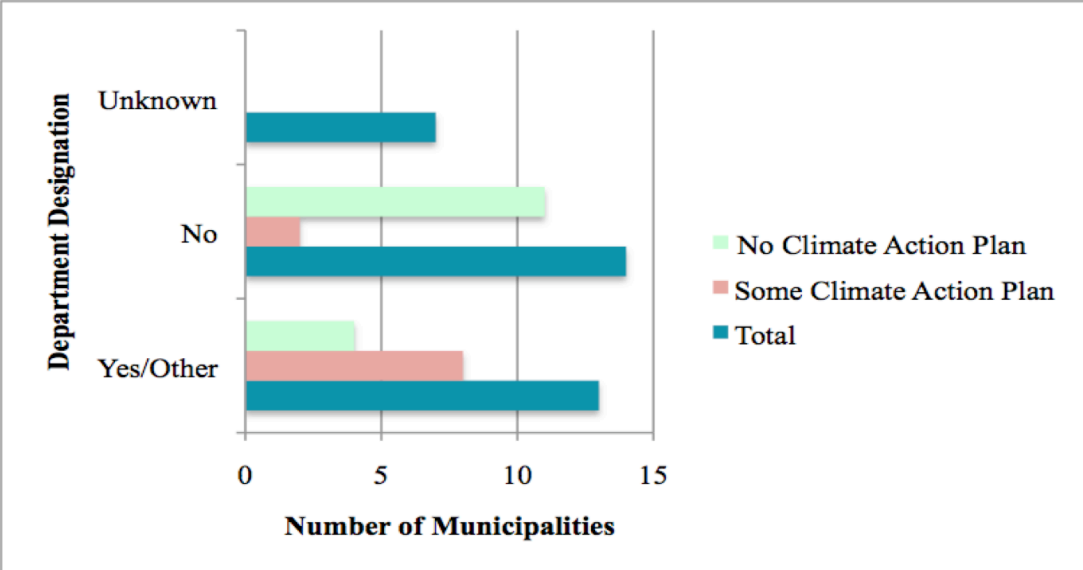
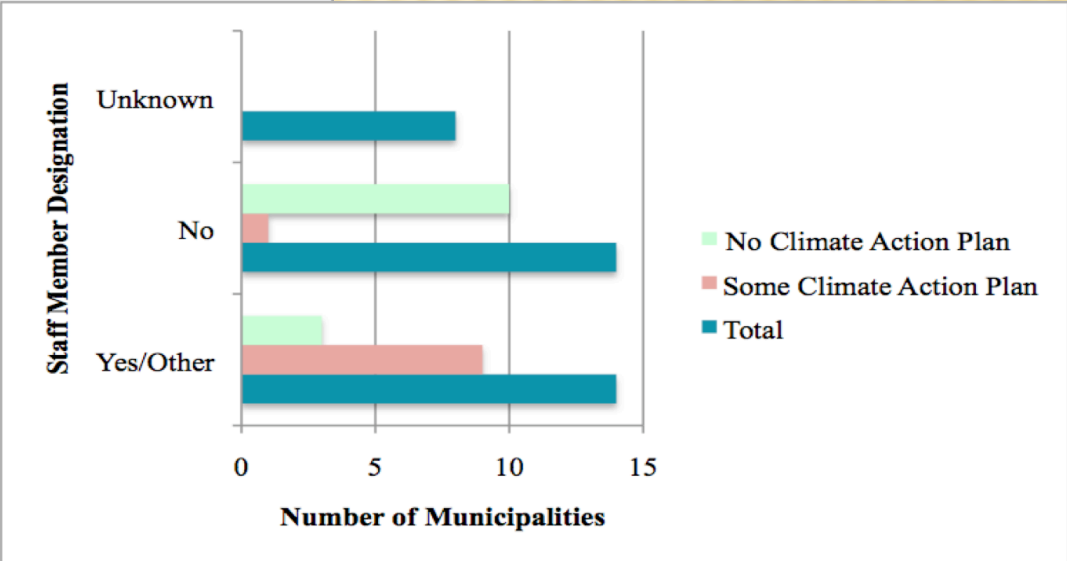


Figure 6 Focus Sample Relation Between Department Designation and A Climate Action Plan

Figure 7 Focus Sample Relation Between Staff Member Designation and a Climate Action Plan



HYPOTHESIS #5: A municipality having an Environmental Commission or some form of Sustainable Jersey participation is more likely to have some form of climate action plan

Figure 8 Focus Sample Relation of Environmental Commissions to Climate Action Plan Status

Source: Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions 2008b

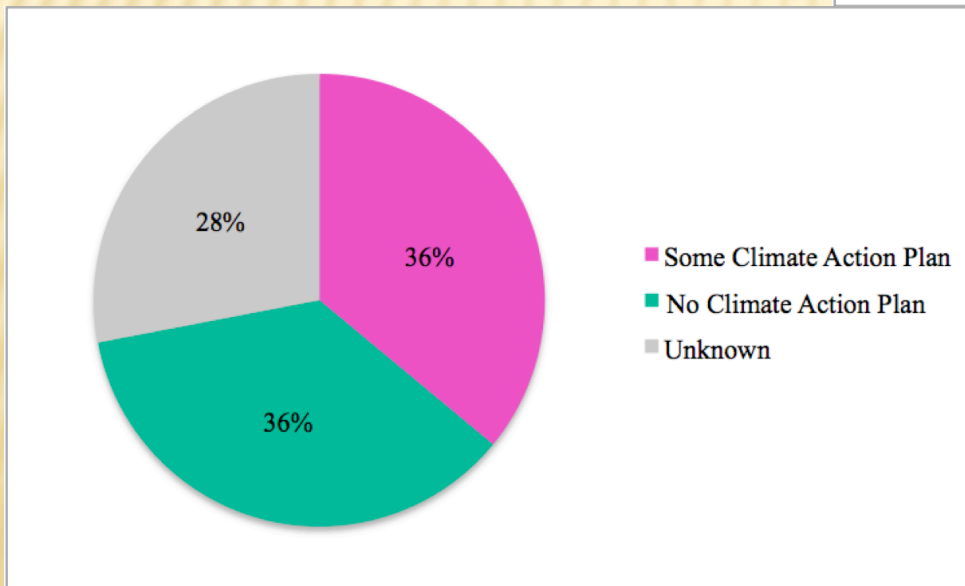
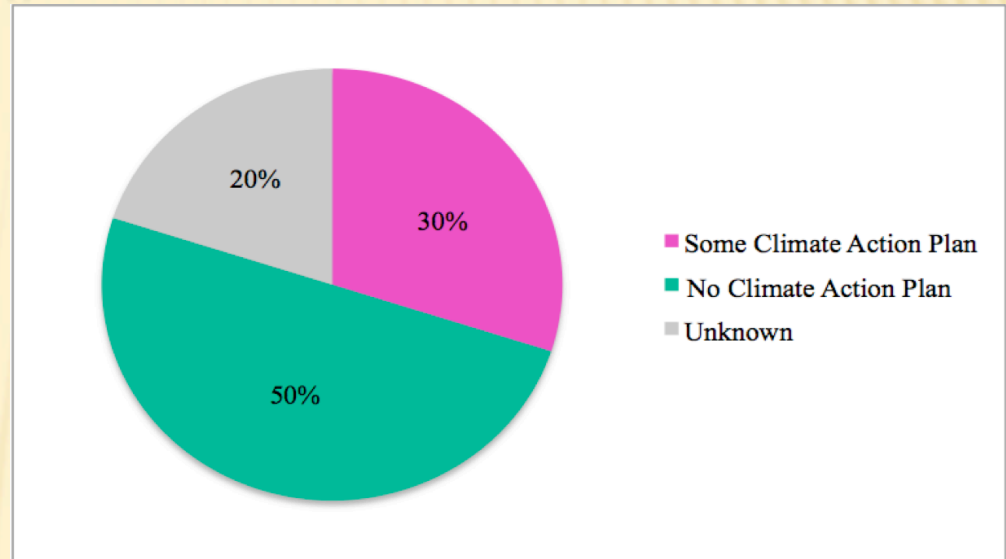


Figure 9 Focus Sample Relation of Sustainable Jersey Participation and Climate Action Plan Status



Source: Sustainable Jersey

CONCLUSION

- ✘ New Jersey municipalities have not made a lot of progress toward climate action plans, questioning relevance of USMCPA.
- ✘ Best identifier of having a climate action plan is either a population over 35,000 or designation of climate policy to a department/staff member.
- ✘ Biggest barriers faced are funding and human resources.
- ✘ Need requirements/benchmarks set by USMCPA so municipalities feel compelled to act
 - + Sustainable Jersey good alternative to this.
 - + Would make municipal official answer their talk through action.
- ✘ Important so municipal officials in NJ knows what is being done and could be done in the future.

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