Making Your Policy Work Visible

University _of_ California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

The role of policy engagement in UC ANR

UCANR has a long history of providing research that informs, builds and strengthens policy related to agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, and youth and community development in California and the nation. To continue this tradition in the face of increased demands and limited resources, it is essential that we highlight and document the policy work we are already doing, as well as encourage and reward further policy engagement.

What it looks like in practice

ANR is a key player in generating, translating and disseminating results of rigorous peer-reviewed research. We also play the role of community facilitator or convener in varying public contexts. Both of these activities are often directly linked to the policy process, but in ways we may not even recognize. The goal of this fact sheet is to provide tips for identifying and documenting policy efforts within ANR.

Tips for documenting policy efforts and impacts in your performance review

1. Recognize and articulate in your dossier where your work fits into the various stages of the **policy process** [1]
   i. *Agenda setting*: creating public awareness, mobilizing support, building coalitions, providing information to decision-makers
   ii. *Formulation*: crafting legislative language, developing proposed orders, laws or rules, negotiating alternatives
   iii. *Legitimation*: providing information for formal decision-making by proper *authorities*, participating in creating goals and identifying means for achieving
   iv. *Implementation*: enacting policy actions, helping navigate regulatory environment, assisting with resource allocation
   v. *Evaluation*: conducting impact assessment(s) and/or process evaluation(s), providing recommendations for revisions to policy

2. Utilize existing prompts—i.e. Project Board now includes "policy engagement" as a specific activity under "extending knowledge and information methods" AND "change in policy or decision-making" under its list of outcome types (see Appendix E in Gupta 2018 for more)

3. Consider tools such as **Ripple Effect Mapping** and **Logic Models** as a way to visually illustrate your policy outcomes and/or impacts (See Appendix D in Gupta et al. 2018).

References

Gupta, C., Bianchi, M. Mortiz, M., and L. Ritchie. Documenting and Supporting Policy Efforts and Impacts: Enhancing Use of the Performance Review Process in UC ANR. Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California. February 2018.

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https://ucanr.edu/sites/researchtopolicy/

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[1] See Appendix A in Gupta et al. 2018 for detailed examples of types of UC ANR work at each of these stages

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