

# Climate Change: Translating Science into Policy

## *Defining a Path Towards Sustainability*

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### **Opinion Editorial**

We applaud President Obama for his recognition of the importance of science in government and call into action the translation of research into policy. President Obama's focus strongly aligns with many constituencies and has been demonstrated through the appointment of scientists to senior level government positions. Decision-making that integrates science are highly essential. There is sufficient scientific evidence to guide decision-making and the broader political process. However, there is an uneven balance and inequitable reflection of research in policy practices. This raises the question of how is science being used and applied? Policy has not caught up to the results of research. There is need for accountability in the use of scientific conclusions, political promises, and policy actions. This needs to be demonstrated in the consistency between the policy and the science. Communication and dissemination of research results need to be scaled up both as part of the scientific process and as a broader tool of outreach for public awareness. In order to overcome and address these challenges, there is need to transform the system. To achieve this, we propose a framework that maps out the pathway for short, medium, and long term strategies to translate research to policy; a path that leads to well-represented public interest and opinions, and increases the quality of life and well-being. We issue a call for action by the scientific community, the government, and the public to translate research into policy.