

EARLY FINDINGS

I put together a number of **valuable literature** and have been scanning the articles and reports on New York City in particular. Few themes that keep dominating my thinking when I review the literature are the themes of:

1. **Meta governance, or governance of governance;**

In other words, there are values, principles, norms and practices that influence governance systems. Also, **governance is no longer top down, but both top down and bottom up.** There are wide ranges of stakeholders that inform policies around environmental health governance.

2. Also, of course, **there is a clear science-policy interface, and a strong role for scientists who monitor, collect, interpret and advice on implications of data.** In NYS, the mayor has put together a NYC Panel on climate change which he describes as "a consortium of world-class local scientists that began advising the city in 2008". So, the scientific data is significant and the scientific advisors play a critical role. They are called the fifth branch of government.

3. Scholars also pointed out that there is usually a **value gap between scientists and regulators/Policy making/Decision Makers** and that value gap must be bridged by making scientific information timely, clear, visual, and relevant and has integrity. It also must be salient, credible and legitimate. So, the idea is to have data that is translated from an ecological measure of air pollution concentration to representing the human exposure and street level geographic location.

4. Also **there is a democratic lens that is integrated in governance. This pertains to citizen participation.** So, there is the notion that science is critical in informing policy but it is only a single part of the puzzle, and there is a need for consensus decision-making that is shaped not only by science but also by political and social understanding. For example, cost effectiveness is a powerful factor that informs governance.

5. Multiple stakeholders from interdisciplinary networks must be involved in the decision. These networks include experts, community members and civil society groups. The coalition approach is believed to lead to more timely and responsive policies. So, there is emphasis on the importance of having interactive communication among members of this complex web of stakeholders. A communications strategy need to emphasize presenting complex data through accessible means and educating the public so that they are informed decision makers in a collective process of decision making.