Under the Legal Lens: Climate Change Policy

BETH DORRIS is a partner in Best Best & Krieger’s Los Angeles office who specializes in environmental law. She is known for her work on climate change plans and related environmental studies for cities throughout the state of California. (Photo: Al Seib/Los Angeles Times)

Climate change policies are shifting in three significant ways. First, there is a growing awareness that climate change policies, if adopted, may end up doing more harm than good. A recent study by the British Environmental Change Policy think tank found that the current state of the economy, policies, and politics have led to a decrease in the adoption of climate change policies. This new perspective has even affected the language used by policymakers, who are now referring to climate change as a “green issue” rather than a “climate issue.”

Second, with the economic downturn, there is an increased interest in finding ways to balance economic growth with the need for clean energy. Many cities and states have implemented measures to promote renewable energy projects, such as wind and solar power, which are becoming more cost-effective and sustainable. However, some critics argue that these measures may not be enough to address the underlying causes of climate change.

Third, there is a growing recognition that climate change is not just a problem for the future, but one that is already affecting our daily lives. As a result, policymakers are increasingly focusing on ways to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and changes in agricultural productivity. This requires a multidisciplinary approach that involves scientists, economists, and policymakers working together to develop practical solutions.

Overall, the current state of climate change policy is one of optimism and challenge. While progress has been made in some areas, such as the development of renewable energy technologies, there is still much work to be done to address the root causes of climate change and to ensure a sustainable future for all.

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Beth Dorris, a partner with Best Best & Krieger, was one of seven experts on climate change plans and related environmental studies for cities throughout the state of California. She is known for her work on climate change plans. (Photo: Al Seib/Los Angeles Times)