

Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions

at **Duke** UNIVERSITY

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State Policy Program



Duke
NICHOLAS INSTITUTE
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY SOLUTIONS





Nicholas Institute *for Environmental Policy Solutions*

The Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions improves environmental policy making worldwide through objective, fact-based research in the areas of climate change, the economics of limiting carbon pollution, emerging environmental markets, oceans governance and coastal management and freshwater concerns at home and abroad.

The Nicholas Institute is part of Duke University and its wider community of world-class scholars. This unique resource allows the Nicholas Institute's team of economists, scientists, lawyers and policy experts to not only deliver timely, credible analyses to a wide variety of decision makers, but convene these individuals to discuss and achieve common understandings regarding this century's most pressing environmental problems.

Tim Profeta serves as founding director of the Nicholas Institute, which comprises the following six programs: Climate and Energy, Ocean and Coastal Policy, State Policy, Environmental Economics, Water Policy and Ecosystem Services. The Nicholas Institute is housed on the Duke campus, but also has staff in Duke's Washington, D.C., office and the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort, North Carolina.

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State Policy Program

In the absence of comprehensive federal legislation, states play a critical role in designing and implementing their own policies that contribute to the overall health of our environment and economy. The State Policy Program at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions works with local governments, state agencies and other decision makers to design these cost-effective policies and practices that protect valuable natural resources and, ultimately, help inform the creation of federal policy.

Using data-driven analyses, researchers are working with public utility commissions in the Southeastern United States to determine real opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as helping local governments balance competing demands for their water resources.

In North Carolina, the program is designing ways to address nutrient pollution and educate the public about how they can impact water quality in Falls Lake and the Upper Neuse River Basin—the water supply for many in the state's Research Triangle region.

Learn more about the program's work and events: www.nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/state-policy

Program Director

Amy Pickle (interim)

Focus Areas Include

- *Strategies to reduce and manage nutrient pollution*
- *Greenhouse gas emission reduction by public utilities*
- *Protection and restoration of watersheds that supply drinking water*
- *Water allocation policy options*
- *Sustainable infrastructure planning and financing for water utilities*
- *Climate change and sea level rise adaptation planning*