

Institutions for Technically-Based Risk and Policy Analysis

A overview from the US
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Before we talk about institutions...

...we should ask why do organizations do risk or policy analysis?

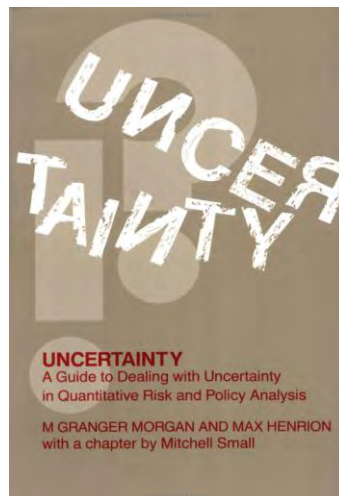


Table 3.3. *Summary of some of the motivations that people and organizations have in undertaking quantitative policy-focused research and analysis*

Substance-focused motivations

1. To obtain an “answer” to a specifically formulated policy question that will be directly implemented without further consideration or interpretation.
2. To develop insight and understanding that will be useful to one or several policymakers who are faced with making decisions on a specific well defined set of policy issues or options.
3. To illuminate and provide insight on a general area of policy concern for a variety of interested parties.

Position-focused motivations

4. To provide substantiation and arguments to support one’s views in an adversarial procedure.
5. To generate an answer in situations in which one is expected to justify the action taken on the basis of the scientific and technical specifics of the problem.

Process-focused motivations

6. To persuade others that one has got things under control, knows what he or she is doing, and should be trusted.
7. Because the law says one must.
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9. Because it is not clear what else to do and the political reality of the situation requires that one do something.

Analyst-focused motivations

10. To derive enjoyment and professional recognition and rewards.
 11. To use a specific problem context as a vehicle to demonstrate, test, refine, or develop new analytical techniques and tools.
 12. Because it is the analyst’s job.
 13. Because it is the only thing the analyst knows how to do.
-
-

We should also note:

Analysis for a policy maker who must make a decision now



Research and policy analysis on a general problem in S&T-policy

Government science advisors, individual external advisors & in-house analysis groups.

Science advisory committees, government and quasi-government analysis groups, some think tanks and consulting firms, some academic groups.

Some academic groups and think tanks, some national labs.

The US has many institutions:

Non-profit think tanks

NGOs

For profit consulting firms

Private corporations

NAS/NRC complex

Government

 Federal

 Executive Branch

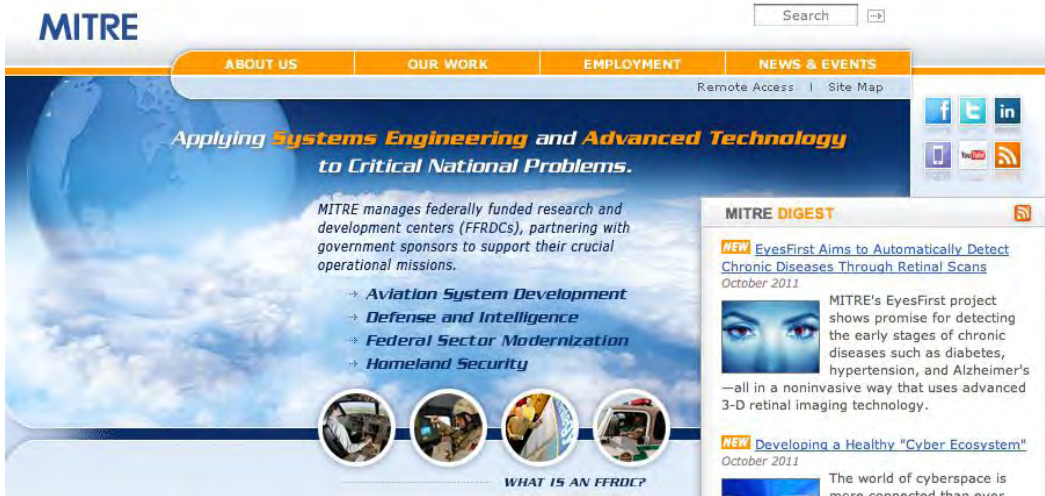
 Legislative Branch

 State and Local

University programs

Non-profit think tanks

Non-profit think tanks - FFRDCs



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FFRDCs...(Cont.)



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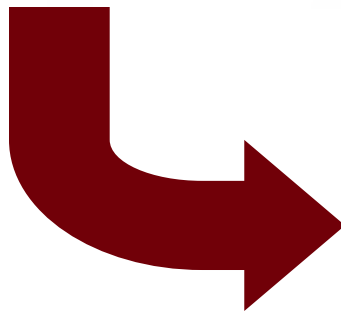
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Rigorous Analyses • Unquestioned Objectivity

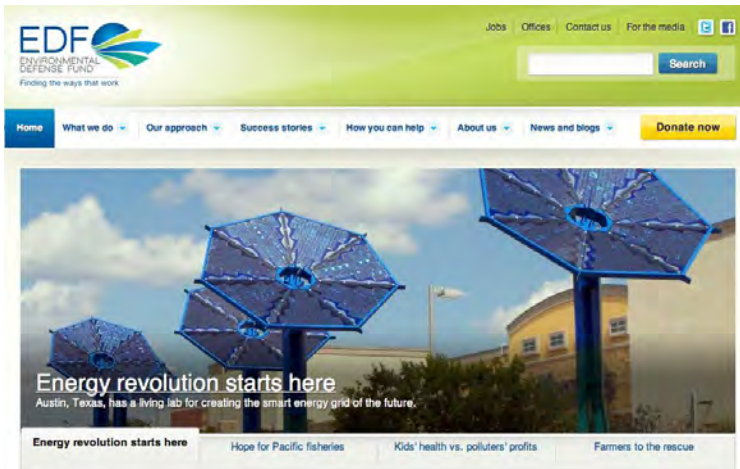
Welcome to the [Science and Technology Policy Institute](#)

The **Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI)** provides objective analysis of science and technology (S&T) policy issues to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and other federal agencies, offices, and councils.

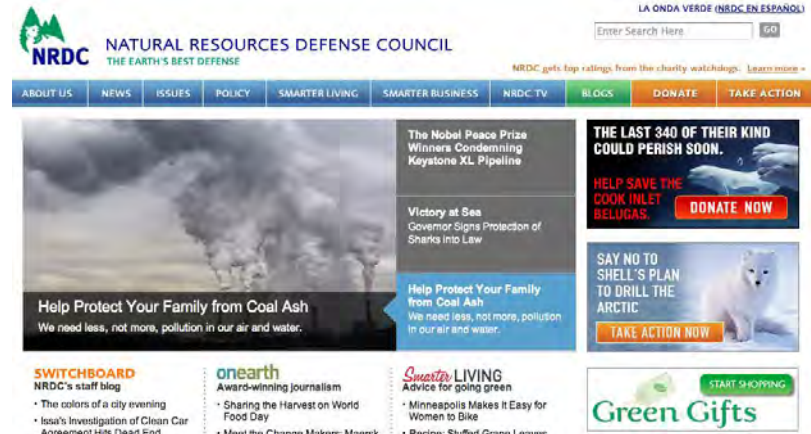
STPI is funded by the National Science Foundation and operated by the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA).

NGOs

While there are NGO's focused on many different issues, in the US, those with an energy and environmental focus have been the most active in performing serious analysis.



The screenshot shows the EDF (Environmental Defense Fund) website. The header includes the EDF logo with the tagline "Finding the ways that work" and navigation links for Jobs, Offices, Contact us, and For the media. A search bar is present. The main navigation menu includes Home, What we do, Our approach, Success stories, How you can help, About us, News and blogs, and Donate now. The main content area features a large image of solar panels with the headline "Energy revolution starts here" and subtext "Austin, Texas, has a living lab for creating the smart energy grid of the future." Below this are four smaller links: "Energy revolution starts here", "Hope for Pacific fisheries", "Kids' health vs. polluters' profits", and "Farmers to the rescue".



The screenshot shows the NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) website. The header includes the NRDC logo with the tagline "THE EARTH'S BEST DEFENSE" and a search bar. The main navigation menu includes ABOUT US, NEWS, ISSUES, POLICY, SMARTER LIVING, SMARTER BUSINESS, NRDC-TV, BLOGS, DONATE, and TAKE ACTION. The main content area features a large image of a coal plant with the headline "Help Protect Your Family from Coal Ash" and subtext "We need less, not more, pollution in our air and water." Below this are four smaller links: "The Nobel Peace Prize Winners Condemning Keystone XL Pipeline", "Victory at Sea Governor Signs Protection of Sharks into Law", "Help Protect Your Family from Coal Ash We need less, not more, pollution in our air and water.", and "The Last 340 of Their Kind Could Perish Soon. Help Save the Cook Inlet Belugas. DONATE NOW".



The screenshot shows the Audubon website. The header includes the Audubon logo and navigation links for BIRDS, CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, GET OUTSIDE, ABOUT US, SUPPORT US, and TAKE ACTION. The main content area features a large image of a bird with the headline "Introducing... Audubon Online Bird Guide" and subtext "This convenient online guide features 750 species of birds. Search and identify hundreds of North American birds with text, photos, sounds, range maps and more! Read More". Below this are four smaller links: "Birding the Net", "The Big Year", "Get Into Birds", "The Big Year Special Report", and "Audubon Online Bird Guide".

Private corporations and for profit consulting firms

Firms often do or commission this kind of analysis for their own internal decision making.

Firms often do or commission this kind of analysis for use in public policy debates.

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