Assessing the Interplay between State Climate Plans and the SDGs: A Case Study in the Great Lakes Region

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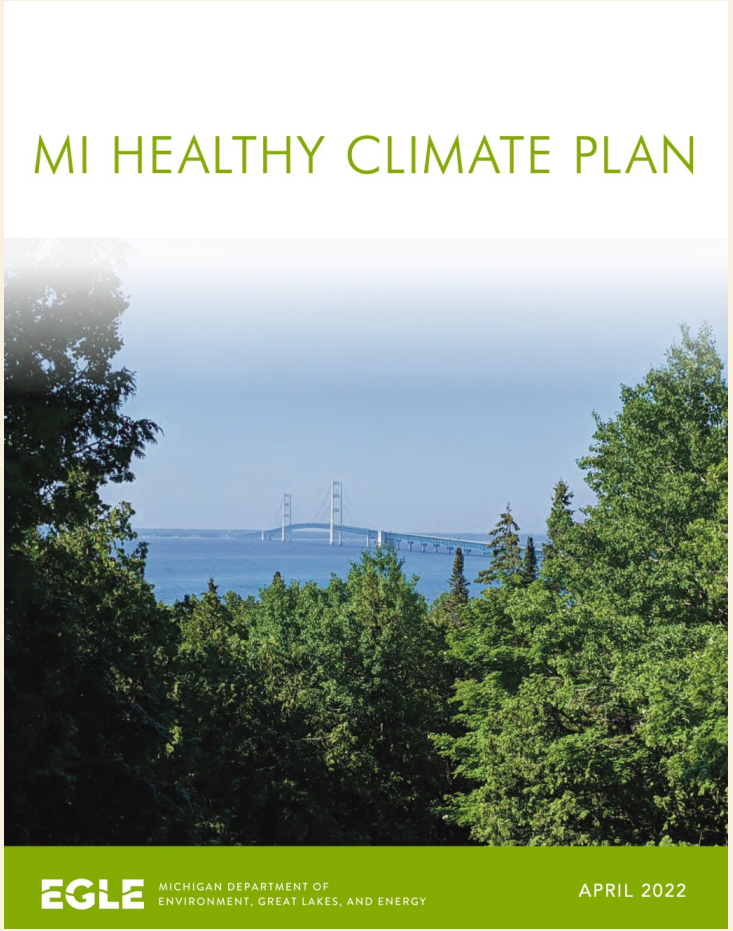
What are the SDGs?

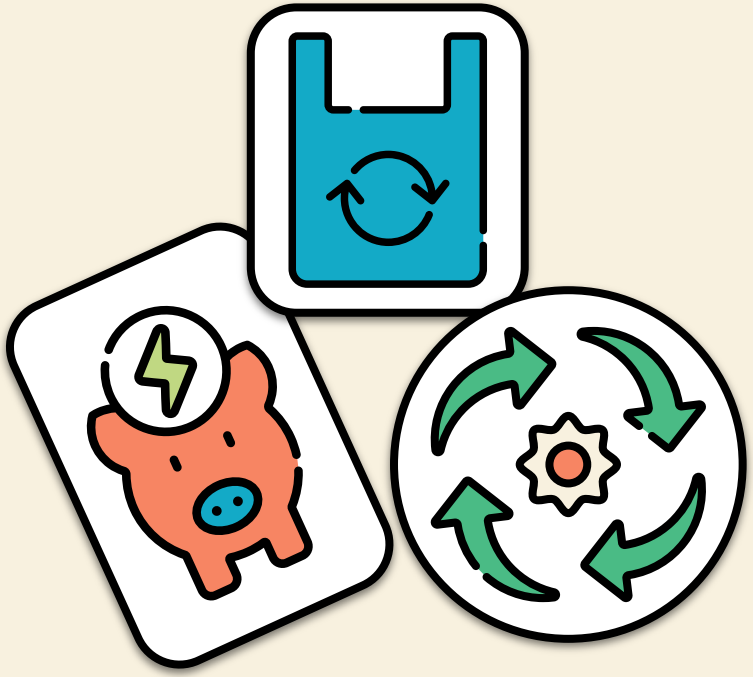
- 17 goals “for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.”
- 169 targets
- 248 indicators

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

How about climate action plans?

- Policy documents outlining climate mitigation and/or adaptation approaches
- Often non-statutory, goal and vision driven





So what?

Let’s talk about a concept called policy convergence...

Policy convergence is alikeness across boundaries.

- Social boundaries
- Economic boundaries
- Organizational boundaries
- Jurisdictional boundaries

Climate change is a personal issue.

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local

Climate change is a personal issue.

local
regional

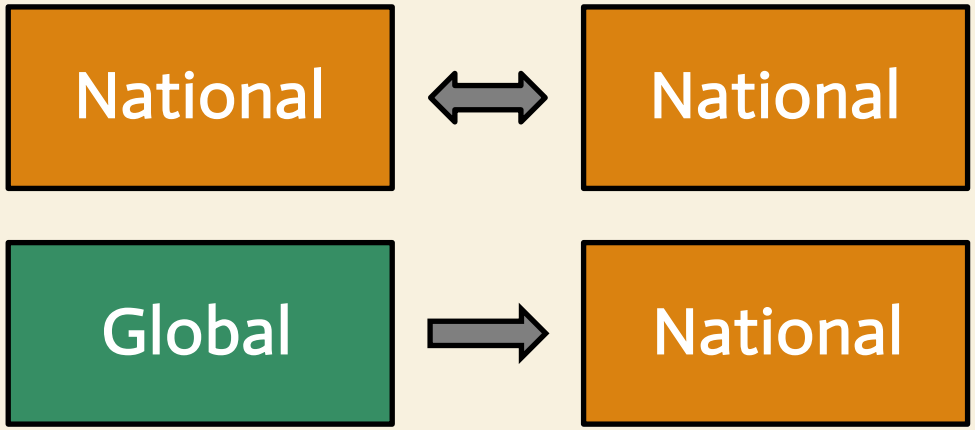
Climate change is a personal issue.

local
regional
national

Climate change is a personal issue.

local
regional
national
global

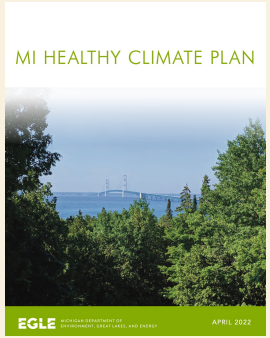
Most convergence literature has focused on…



Other relationships remain relatively underexplored…

Global → Regional

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



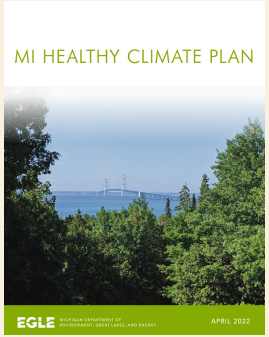
Research Objectives

- **Analyzing Convergence:** To what extent are SDGs present in state climate plans?
- **Exploring Plan Development:** Who drafts plans? How does this impact their formulation? What information is prioritized?
- **Trends Across States:** What similarities and differences exists, and why do these materialize?

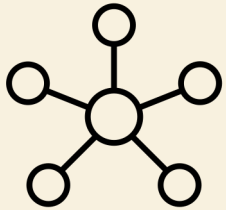
Study Area

Five States: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York

Project Methodology

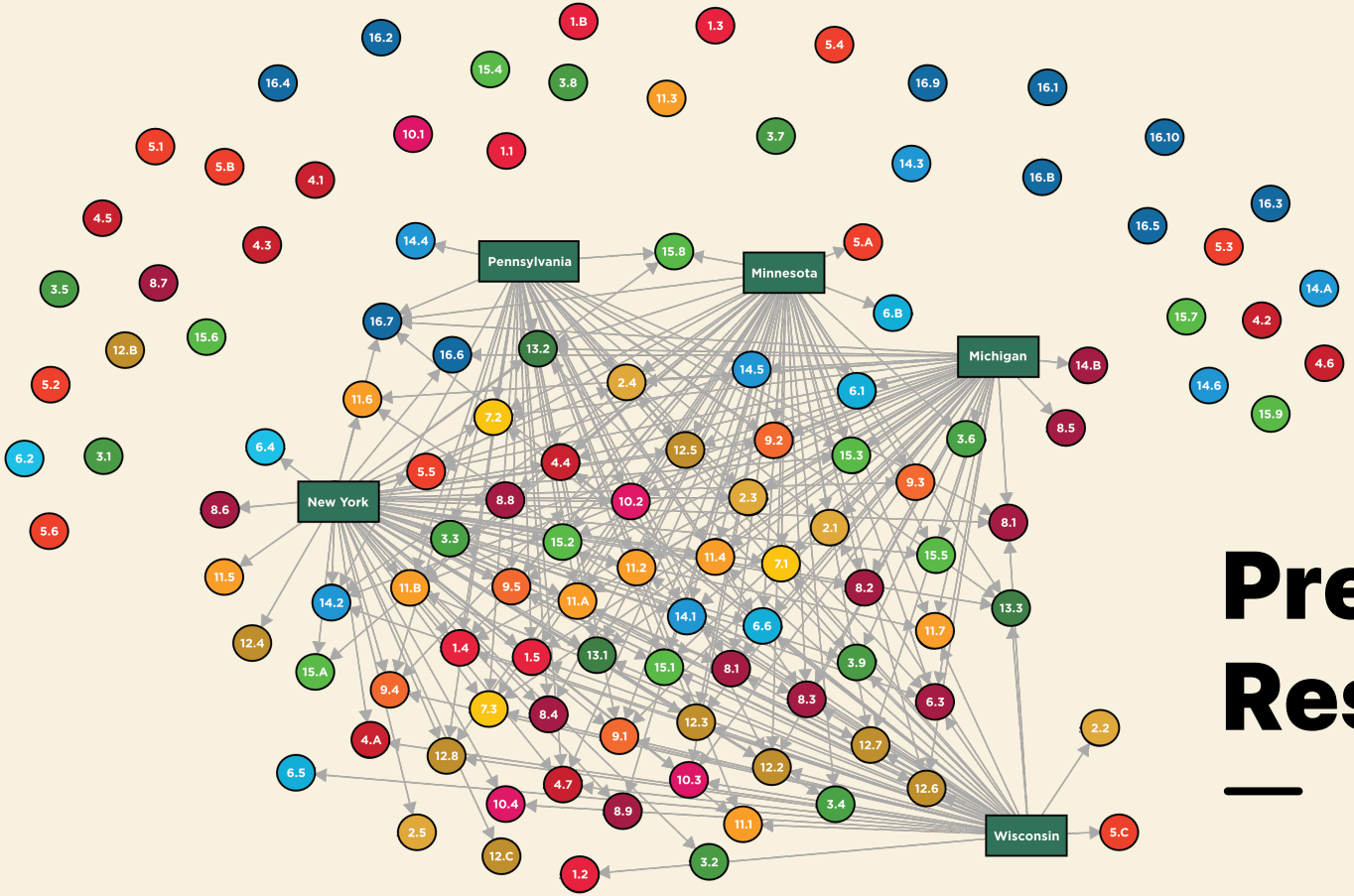


Qualitative Content Analysis



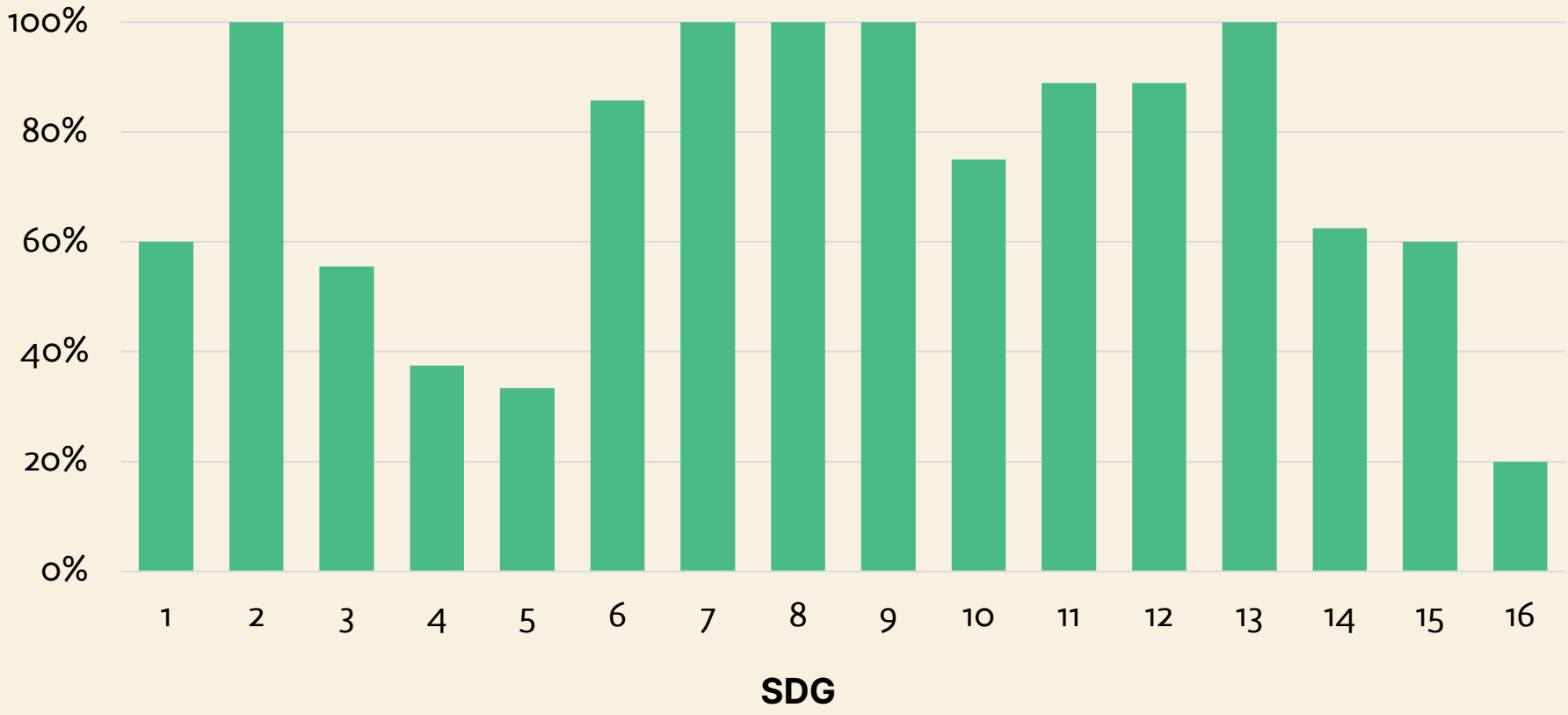
Network Analysis

Policymaker Interviews



Preliminary Results

Percent of Targets Addressed in State Plans



Some emerging trends…

SDG 5 and 16

Rank Lowest

SDG 7, 10 and 13

Rank Highest

Next Steps…

- Visualize content analysis results
- Continue to dissect network analysis results
- Draw conclusions about policy convergence upon completing interviews with state policymakers

Thank you!

Any questions?

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