

Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

Funding

Research grants. Success isn't just about being good at research. You need to be good at applying for funding, which is incredibly time consuming. [This article from Jason Crawford](#) calls for shifting to an approach whereby laboratories and research institutes receive large grants, and then internal teams work out how to share the money.

Inheritance

Will you be rich? It's news to no one that you're more likely to be rich if your parents were well off. But what if they were more attractive? Well, [according to a new paper](#), hot parents beget richer kids.

Elections*

Increasingly, your gender suggests how you'll vote. In richer and culturally more liberal countries, young men and women are polarizing at the polls. Young women are trending left, while young men are trending right. [Alice Evans, a visiting fellow at Stanford, explores the data](#).

What do Australians think about government and democracy? [A new report from the Centre for Policy Development](#) has the data.

What's to be done about weak standards of governance in the UK? A party-neutral Commission, chaired by Dominic Grieve, has [just released eleven sets of recommendations](#).

Happy with the result? It's no surprise that you're happy when your preferred candidate wins and unhappy if the person loses. [But new research shows](#) that the happiness boosts and dips aren't balanced. Losers' unhappiness is greater than winners' happiness, especially if the result is a surprise—which might explain why political partisans, who tend to overestimate their side's chances, are especially upset when they lose.

Climate

Managing climate risk. Sixty-six natural catastrophes caused more than a billion dollars in damages last year. [This report analyzes the global natural hazards of 2023](#) to quantify the risk and human impact.

Paris has a new climate plan. Last weekend, Parisians voted to triple parking charges for SUVs, just [one part of a massive new net-zero climate plan](#) that proposes painting roofs white, a ban on tourist buses, and converting 60,000 parking spots into gardens. (In French.)

Climate finance. There was much boosterism about climate finance at [COP28](#), but [it's a mess](#); no one really knows how much has been committed or is being spent. ONE's [Climate Finance Files](#) has gathered the data from UNFCCC and OECD and provides tools to aid analysis.

Privacy

There is no federal privacy law in the USA. Instead, [despite calls for action at the federal level](#), individual states are stepping in. However, [an evaluation of consumer privacy legislation](#) in fourteen states shows that Big Tech has been tipping the policy scales.

Other reports that caught our eye:

- **Fuel poverty.** There are 6.5 million UK households in fuel poverty this winter. [A National Energy Action report highlights the impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on progress towards eradicating fuel poverty](#).
- **Circular economy.** The sixth [Circularity Gap Report 2024](#) sets out how governments and industry leaders can turn theory into action across four key systems: food, the built environment, manufactured goods, and mobility.
- **Russia.** Imagine Russia in 2030. Will it resemble today's imperial kleptocracy? Will the Russian Federation exist at all? The Atlantic Council's Casey Michel sets out [Five Scenarios for Russia's Future](#).
- **OECD's Interim Economic Outlook** projects moderate growth and inflation easing across G20 economies this year.

* Elections

[This is a bumper year for elections](#). Countries that are home to half the world's population will be going to the polls. But will we be able to trust the results? Throughout 2024, we invite you to follow our *Commons List*: [Trust in Elections and Democracies](#). If you know of papers or reports that you think we should add to the List, [do let us know!](#)

Thanks for staying informed with Policy Matters from *Policy Commons*—with over 11 million working papers, policy briefs, data sources, and media from more than 31,000 municipalities, IGOs, NGOs, think tanks, and research centers around the world.

We choose reports from definitive sources around the globe that are data-rich and timely. Most often they'll be hot off the press, but sometimes we'll include older reports we've just uncovered. From time to time, we also share key product updates and information through this channel.

You may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

[Visit us!](#)



[Twitter](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[Youtube](#)

