

# OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

## Kent Portney

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“Governing the Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Solving a Common-Pool Resource Challenge?”

**Monday, November 13, 2017**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Emerging natural system research has documented connections between water, energy, and food with an eye toward prescribing how to achieve greater efficiencies and to reduce resource depletion. Research has documented amounts of water used in producing energy and food; amounts of energy needed to extract and transport water, etc. Far less well understood is how these resources are “governed”—how public policy and management decisions affecting these connections are made. Underlying existing research is an expectation that if the connections are better understood, policymakers will make decisions resulting specifically in more efficient use of water in the nexus. The expectation is predicated on the idea that decision making in water, energy, and food is “siloeed,” and breaking down these silos leads to policy decisions that achieve greater efficiencies. The question animating this paper is whether decision making in water, energy, and food is siloeed, and if it is, whether there are conceptual reasons from public policy and management theory to suggest that breaking down these silos will make any difference.



**Kent Portney** is professor in the Department of Public Administration and director of the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy at the G.H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. Prior to his appointment in the Bush School, he was a professor at Tufts University. He has written widely on issues of urban sustainability and governance, environmental policies, public engagement, and most recently, on governing the water-energy-food nexus. He is the author of *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously* (2nd edition, 2013) and the monograph *Sustainability* (2015), both published by MIT Press ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu); 812/855-3151).