

Team 4 – Impact of Government on Innovation - Executive Summary

This paper discusses government institutions influence on innovation in the following three areas, water supply/water treatment, transportation infrastructure, and energy. All three of these topics are crucial in everyone's day-to-day lives and require innovation to be sustainable in today's world.

Firstly we begin by introducing the importance of each topic and define the government's role and their influence on each. This includes existing funding and research groups and relevant standard practices and policies.

Secondly, this paper discusses the lack of incentive for government entities to innovate. Both the benefits and drawbacks of innovating in water treatment, transportation, and energy are outlined from the government's perspective using case studies.

Finally, this paper develops an action plan for government entities to take for fostering innovation including recommendations in changing policies, regulations, budget and funding, and public perception.

Water treatment, transportation infrastructure, and energy, are all critical to day-to-day life in various municipalities and regions. Many government infrastructures, including these three sectors, last a very long time leading to stagnant technologies due to lack of incentive to innovate.

Our research shows how crucial innovation is in each of these sectors while providing recommendations for doing so; such as improving infrastructure procurement and funding methods, allocate funding for research groups, and allow for test projects to demonstrate effectiveness of new technologies. As a result, this allows for synergies between different disciplines, influence operation groups, and quicker implementation of new, innovative ideas.

In conclusion, we feel that it is critical that an action plan is developed for government entities that foster innovation. More importantly, that the action plan is followed through.