

Who is Involved in the Policy Cycle?

The policy cycle links a variety of key players in the policy process through their involvement with the different stages. Individuals, institutions and agencies involved in the policy process are called actors. Government is often thought of to be the only entity involved in policy making. Government does have the ultimate decision making and funding power, but there are many other actors that contribute to public policy, often in a network on which government relies for the delivery of complex policy goals.

Government: social control of behaviour, power of coercion

Cabinet: monopoly over supply of legislation, locus of power-
few people make decisions

Public Servants: technical knowledge and policy advice, service providers
Political Parties: develop relationships in exchange for political support

Media: report information to the public, generate interest, shape public.

opinion Interest Groups: seek to advance interests of members, can have a major influence can force policy network to react.

Legal system: interpret laws, acts independently

Public: elects government, forms opinions, joins interest groups and coalitions, relies on the media for information