


Chapter 11

Innovative Tools for Local Climate Action Policy, Technology, and Collaboration

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ABSTRACT

The increasing frequency of global environmental disasters is forcing the world to join the fight against climate change. The solution, whether on a global or local, lies in governance system that protects the world. However, with over half of the world's population living in cities, climate change poses increasingly challenging problems for urban. Due to globalization, local governments are becoming important. This study focuses on local practices and examining climate actions that integrate local governments with international climate policies governing the world. The study examines the foundations linking local government actions to global climate change in terms of political, technological, and cooperative dimensions. The political dimension defines climate change governance, the cooperative dimension is defined by international alliances, and the technological dimension is defined by international coalitions. Without collaboration among local governments, states, international agreements, alliances, and coalitions, sustainable solutions to climate change cannot be found.

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INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the natural consequences of the increasing environmental problems that came to the world's agenda in the 1970s. Climate change, whose effects began to be seen as a result of environmental problems such as the increase in greenhouse gases and the decrease in sink areas, is a global problem and is not one of the problems that can be solved by a single country. The process of addressing this critical issue began in earnest with the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, which entered into force in 1994. The Kyoto Protocol, signed on December 11, 1997, further established climate change as a legally binding issue on the international stage.

In general, mutual interdependence and solidarity are at the core of solving environmental problems. It is well known that countries must act together with other countries to solve these problems that they cannot solve on their own, and that they must behave in solidarity. A paradigm with lasting effects must be implemented to solve climate change. In this context, the paradigm of international governance on climate change has come to the fore. According to this paradigm, climate change governance is explained by a multi-level governance paradigm that encompasses not only states but also all non-state actors at the global level. Similarly, this paradigm is also valid at the national and local levels. It is stated that climate change governance, which is multi-level and multi-actor, will be successful if all actors fulfill their responsibilities and roles and ensure their continuous participation. In general, participation brings ownership of the issue. Civil society is particularly important in the fight against climate change because solutions are mainly based on persuasion due to their economic nature. Therefore, it is necessary and sufficient to focus on solving problems through multi-level governance. The prominent actors in climate change governance are states, cities and local governments, civil society organizations, and other elements. This section covers innovations that can be developed in terms of politics, technology, and cooperation in local climate actions.

The actors in local climate change governance include local authorities, municipalities, civil society, municipal companies, private companies, and other elements that vary according to the characteristics of the city. In particular, increasing urbanization worldwide, the growing proportion of the world's population living in cities, and the resulting increase in energy consumption, transportation-related environmental pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and many other problems are causing significant problems. In this section of the book, local climate actions will be evaluated within the framework of innovative approaches based on politics, technology, and cooperation. The aim here is to provide a new perspective by addressing local climate actions and their components within the scope of innovative approaches.

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