

Cities, Climate Change and Multilevel Governance

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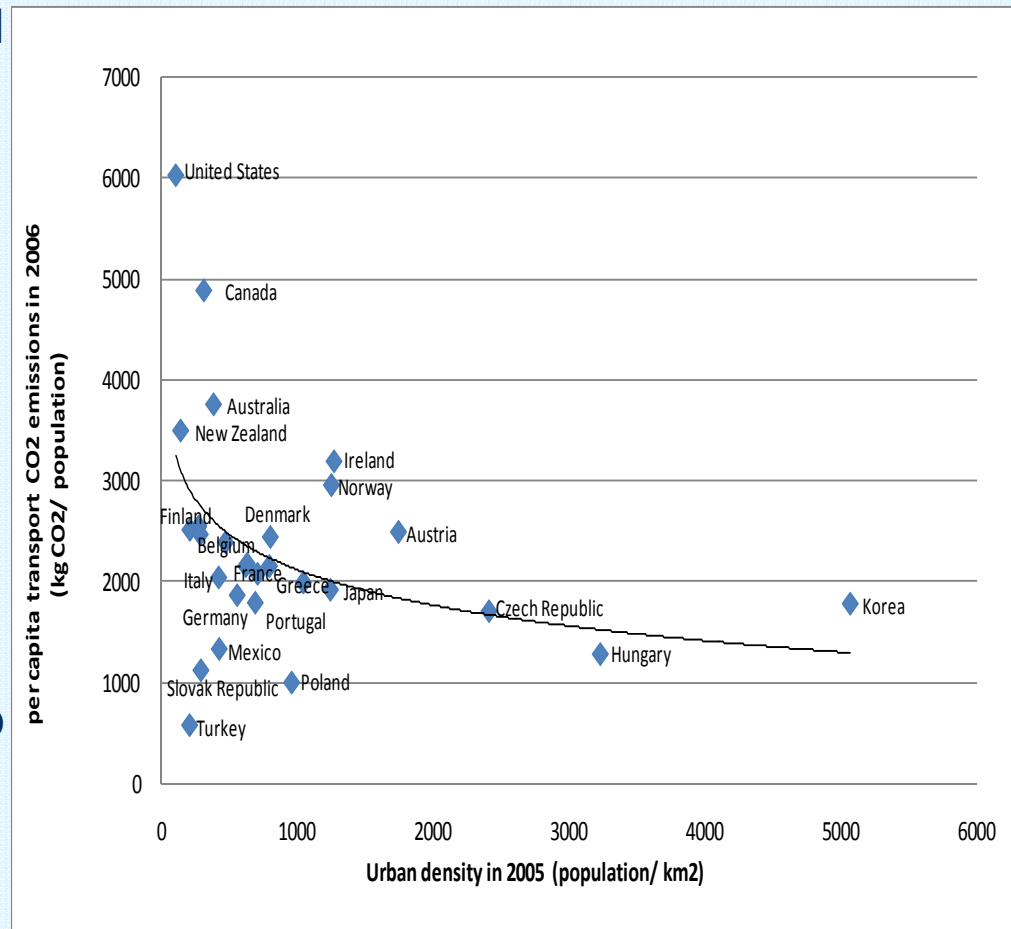
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- **Half of the worldwide population lives in cities**, projected to reach 60% by 2030
- Cities are responsible for **2/3 of total energy consumption** – and growing
- Cities' future development depends on **climate resilience**, especially to flooding and urban heat island effects
- **Co-benefits** of urban climate actions are large
- **Cities are laboratories** of innovative climate policies – which can be scaled up to regional or national programmes

- **Urban density** emerges as a crucial element to reduce carbon emissions

Urban Density and Carbon Emissions in Transport





- Complex web of interactions between different level of governments, non-state and non-governmental actors, all of whom are contributing to action on climate change today.
- Effectiveness of city authorities is “nested” within broader institutional structures at higher levels of government
- Increase effectiveness of national climate initiatives
 - Overcome the obstacles to effective design and implementation
 - Narrow the “policy gap” among levels of government





➤ Vertical linkages

- Local authority hierarchically nested in legal and institutional frameworks at higher scales
- National – local policy linkages

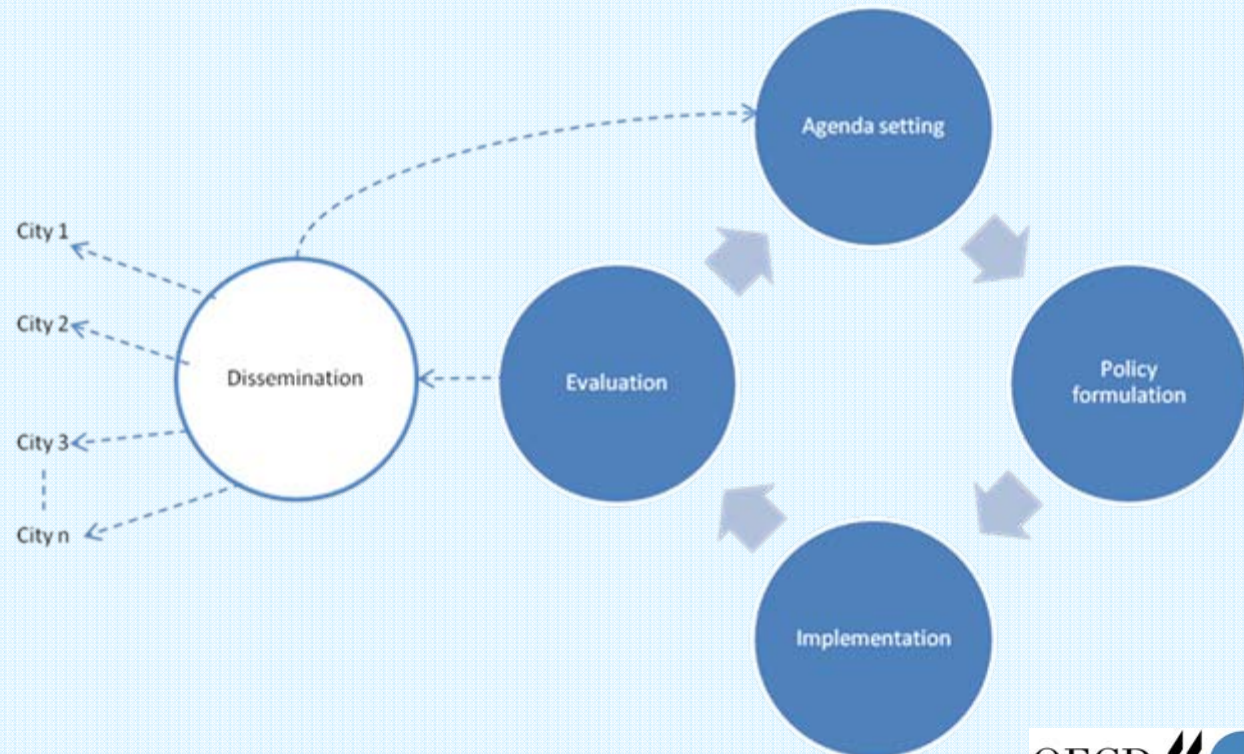
➤ Horizontal linkages

- Increased “voice” given to business, research and environmental non-governmental organizations.
- Increasing issue-based governance configurations overlapping jurisdictions (e.g. on water, flood management or transport planning)
- Learning, information transmission and cooperation occurs horizontally with linkages between cities, regions and national governments
- Local & regional governance



- Increasing role of local and regional governments in climate change policies
- In their roles as regulators, service providers, investors and purchasers, and enablers, cities have competencies in key areas for climate change.

➤ Climate priorities need to be integrated in each stage of the urban policy-making process





- Effective climate policy packages should seek policy complementarities among and within key urban sector
 - Energy provision and management
 - Transportation and land use
 - Buildings
 - Waste
 - Water
 - Natural resource management

- When climate policies spill over city borders, inter-municipal action is needed

- Inter-municipal collaborative frameworks underlie successful inter-municipal climate policy coordination



- Top-down: driven by national or regional authorities
 - May may mandate or strongly recommend a specific set of policy actions at local scale (e.g. Norway or China)
- Bottom-up
 - Local policy innovations provide models for regional or national action
 - Often emerge where policy authority is highly decentralised (e.g. in the US) or strong national policy does not exist
- Hybrid
 - Both top-down incentives and bottom-up leadership and initiative (e.g. Japan, Sweden)
 - May also encourage public-private partnerships to promote action on climate change (e.g. Brazil)



- Addressing national barriers to local action is essential
- National governments can enhance cities' capacity to act on climate change by
 - Leveraging existing local policy experiments
 - Accelerating policy responses and learning
 - Fostering resource mobilization
 - Providing strong national targets for adaptation and greenhouse gas emission reduction to prevent regional competition and promote a "race to the top"
 - Identifying national policies that conflict with or prevent local climate action
- National regional development frameworks could be strengthened to better integrate climate change considerations.



- Developing harmonised city-scale GHG inventories
- Providing science-policy capacity at the local/regional scales
 - Regional science-policy dialogue to assess impacts, understand & manage risk
- Encouraging the development of urban climate policy networks





- National policies are a key enabler of local action on climate change
- There is high potential for experimentation & learning at local scales
- Closer collaboration between different levels of government is needed for cost-effective implementation of climate change policies
- National regional/urban policy framework could better integrate climate priorities



- Cities and metropolitan regions will increasingly need to pursue growth policies that also meet energy and climate change priorities
- For city initiatives to be sustainable and contribute to growth, they need clear national and international policy and financing frameworks.



For more information:

- OECD (forthcoming 2010) *Cities and Climate Change*, OECD, Paris.
- Corfee-Morlot, J., L. Kamal-Chaoui, M. G. Donovan, I. Cochran, A. Robert and P.J. Teasdale (2009), *Cities, Climate Change and Multilevel Governance*, OECD Environment Working Paper, OECD, Paris.