

**Policy Tools for Climate Governance on Local Government Level: Patterns of Usage in Finland<sup>1</sup>**

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**Abstract**

It is beyond any doubt that local governments, and especially cities, are key players when searching for a sustainable path towards the future, globally, in Europe as well as in Finland. Urbanization is a fact that puts pressure towards cities to act also in a situation where higher tiers of government does not fully support policy change. Multilevel governance structures give in these cases support for policy action independent from higher tier solutions.

One of the most pressing question regarding a sustainable future is climate change. It is clear that global warming is a first priority problem to handle, in order to avoid both environmental crisis as well as global and regional social crisis, including uncontrolled immigration. Energy production and consumption is first priority problem to tackle when discussing climate change. Within a decade, it is expected that cities share of energy consumption will increase from about 70% up to 75%. Cities and local governments are thus key actors combatting climate change.

This paper will analyze how local governments choose – within a framework of multi-level governance – among existing policy tools for climate action. Can we see a pattern of mobility – policy diffusion and policy upscaling – for this? The analysis is based on members in two climate action networks for local governments: European Covenant of Mayors and national HINKU-network.

DISCLAIMER: This paper is an outtake from work in progress for a comparative paper including two additional case studies in Europe, Germany and Italy.

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