



Sophisticated Interdependence in Climate Policy

Federalism in the United States, Brazil, and Germany
Vivian E. Thomson

Pub Date: February 2014

Binding: Paperback

Price: £24.99 / \$34.95

ISBN: 9781783080175

Extent: 220 pages

Size: 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6

Images: 10 tables and figures

Category: POLITICAL SCIENCE / Public Policy / Environmental Policy
BISAC code: POL044000
BIC code: RND

Rights Held: World

This title is also available as an ebook

Description

This book offers a desperately needed framework for climate-change policy in the US, acknowledging the crucial role of coherent state–federal relations.

“In this engaging and carefully researched book, Vivian E. Thomson offers a politically astute roadmap for reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. Even when tackling a global problem like climate change, national and local institutions are as relevant as ever.” —*Paul F. Steinberg, Professor of Political Science and Environmental Policy, Malcolm Lewis Chair in Sustainability and Society, Harvey Mudd College*

“Through elaborated interconnections and an in-depth view, Thomson provides unique insights, skillfully identifying common ground and pivotal factors to break today’s stalemates in multilateral environmental agreements. Readers, regardless of their political views, will find much to stimulate their thinking in this book.” —*Oswaldo Lucon, Professor, University of São Paulo, and Climate Change Adviser, São Paulo State Government*

“Packed with climate law and policy insights, this book’s most notable scholarly contribution is in illuminating conditions and motives associated with US state climate activism during periods of federal inaction. Thomson provides rich material for scholars, policymakers, and anyone interested in the policy challenges posed by climate change.” —*William W. Buzbee, Professor of Law, Emory University, and author of “Fighting Westway: Environmental Law, Citizen Activism, and the Regulatory War that Transformed New York City”*

With the US as the world’s most prominent climate change outlaw, international pressure will not impel domestic action. The key to a successful global warming solution lies closer to home: in state–federal relations. Thomson proposes an innovative climate policy framework called “sophisticated interdependence.” This model is based on her lucid analysis of economic and political forces affecting climate change policy in selected US states, as well as on comparative descriptions of programs in Germany and Brazil, two powerful federal democracies whose policies are critical in the global climate change arena.

Readership: This book would be useful to students of environmental policy at an undergraduate, postgraduate and advanced research levels, to climate-change policymakers and to the well-informed public.

Contents

Acknowledgments; Tables and Figures; Introduction: The World’s Most Prominent Climate Change Outlaw; Chapter 1: Climate Change Contradictions in the United States; Chapter 2: Constraints and Opportunities: Forces Affecting State-Level Climate and Energy Programs; Chapter 3: Germany: “Wir Stehen Früher Auf” (We Wake Up Earlier); Chapter 4: Brazil: No More “Complexo de Vira-Lata” (Mongrel Complex); Chapter 5: Sophisticated Interdependence; Notes; Bibliography; Index

About the Author

Vivian E. Thomson is an associate professor in the Departments of Environmental Sciences and Politics at the University of Virginia.

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