

City Sustainability Policy Performance and Inter-organizational Collaboration

Extant research documents benefits of local sustainability efforts at multiple scales ranging from global GHG reduction to jurisdiction specific energy cost savings. Less attention has been directed to the implications for metropolitan regions. Sustainability efforts are subject to scale economies and spillovers thus individual policy actions may be linked to the ability to access collaborative resources at a regional level. We investigate the impacts of collaboration on city sustainability efforts by examining implementation of the sustainability programs funded by the Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program.

We examine collaboration with state government, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and neighboring local governments based on a national survey of municipal governments EECBG recipients. We measure local performance based on US Department of Energy administrative records of the timeliness of initializing and completing sustainability projects. The models are estimated using survival analysis with Bayesian estimation.