Searching for Effective Horizontal Coordination in Cross-Sectoral Climate Change Policy:

A Nascent Intra-governmental Mechanism in Chinese Cities

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by

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In driving climate policy changes within the sub-national level of government, nascent governance arrangements of intra-governmental cooperation are being set up in China, such as the Low Carbon Economy Development Leadership Group established within the Guangzhou Municipal Government in 2011. This leadership group is strategically coordinated by one commission and engages 30 other departments in the transport, building and other sectors related to climate policy. This kind of intra-governmental governance arrangement is seen effective in overcoming the governing dilemma of the wicked problem of climate change. How and why do sub-national governments collaborate horizontally with various societal actors through these cooperative mechanisms to reach effective synergy in the context of fragmented policy coordination? This paper addresses this question by analyzing internal coordination capacity and external linkages of the key agencies involved, as well as the respective coordinative activities in the intra-governmental mechanism in Guangzhou. It finds that although the inter-agency linkages are still fragmented by sectoral functions, an initial framework of intra-governmental coordination has been built up as a platform internal to the municipal government for climate change and low carbon development.

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All are welcome!