

Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into Urban Climate Plans:

Insights from Japan

IGES Author Team
July 4, 2019



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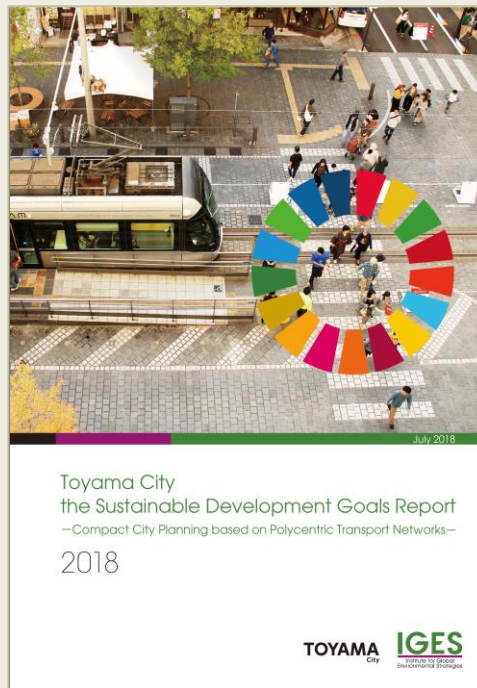
More than 10 years ago a re-orientation of climate change negotiations led to greater focus on cities

Cities in Japan are also responding to the SDGs

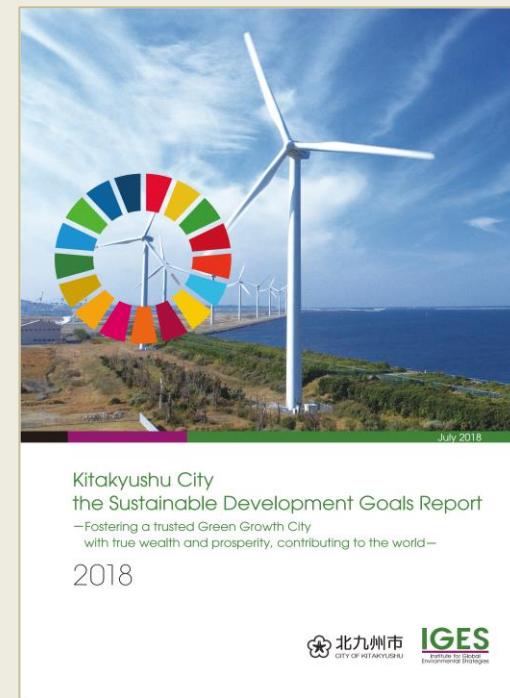
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appropriate technology and governance



Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido



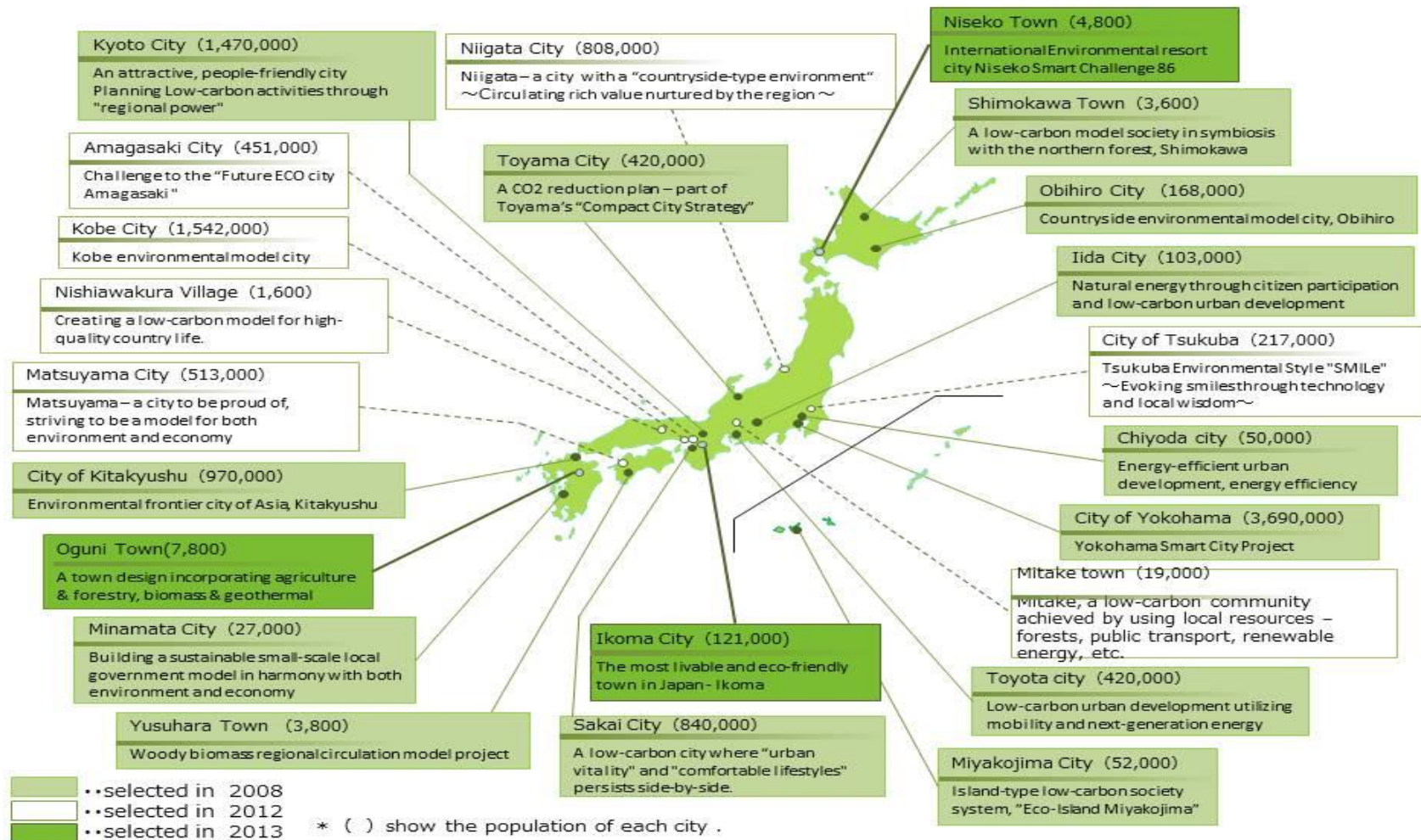
Toyama City, Toyama



Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka

This is part of larger effort to build future cities

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Point of Departure

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- There are potentially important synergies/trade-offs between climate and other development goals in cities
 - Synergies: a city focused only on maximizing reductions in GHGs might also emphasize job creation, adequate housing, and helping an aging society etc.
 - Trade-offs: a city focused on increasing accessibility might promote motorized transport and vehicle-centric lifestyles that increase GHGs
- Realizing synergies and avoiding trade-offs will require integrating climate and other sustainability concerns into city plans and policies

Possible Linkages

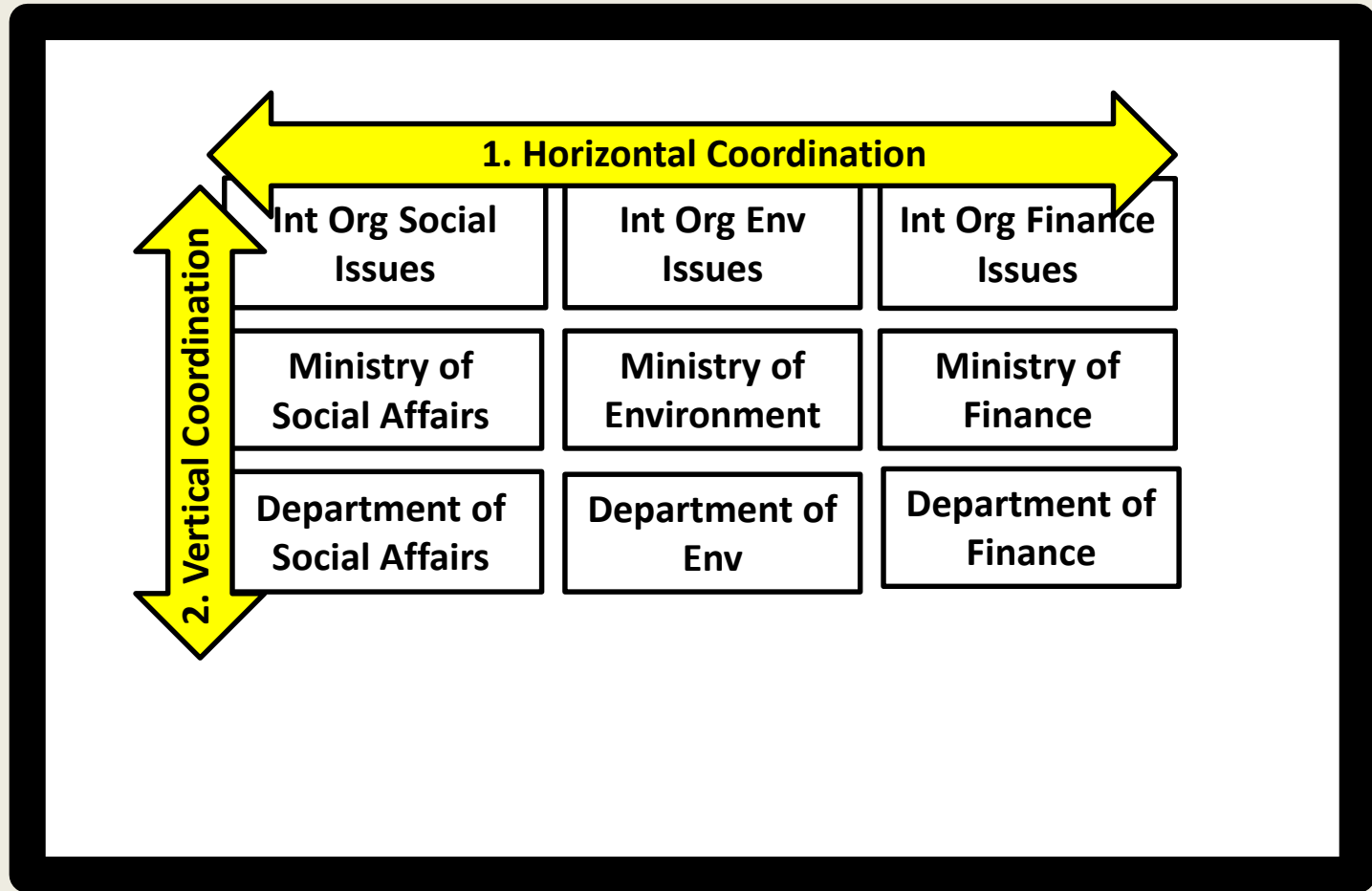


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Multilevel Governance:

Possible enabler/barrier

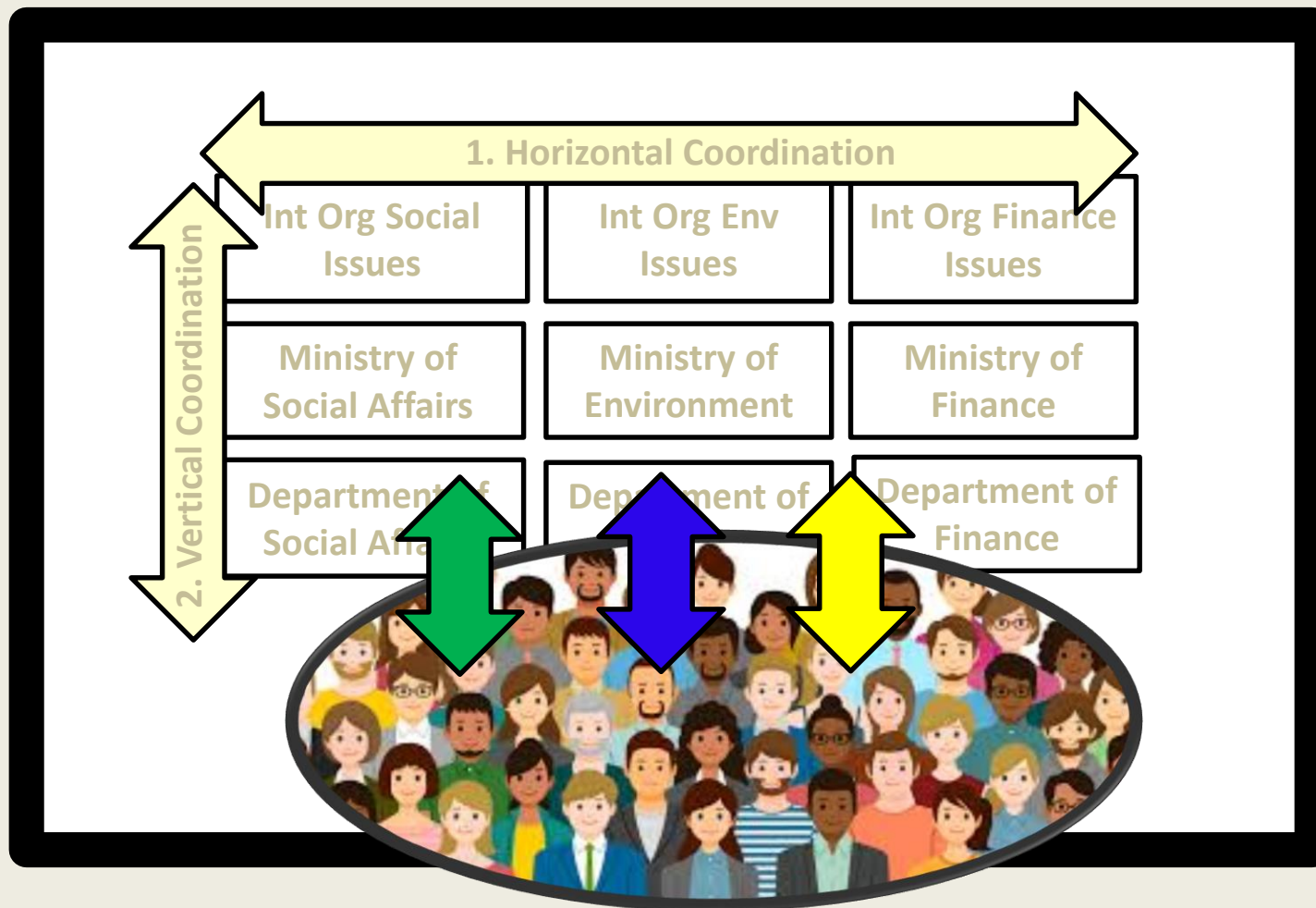
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Social Inclusion:

Possible enabler/barrier

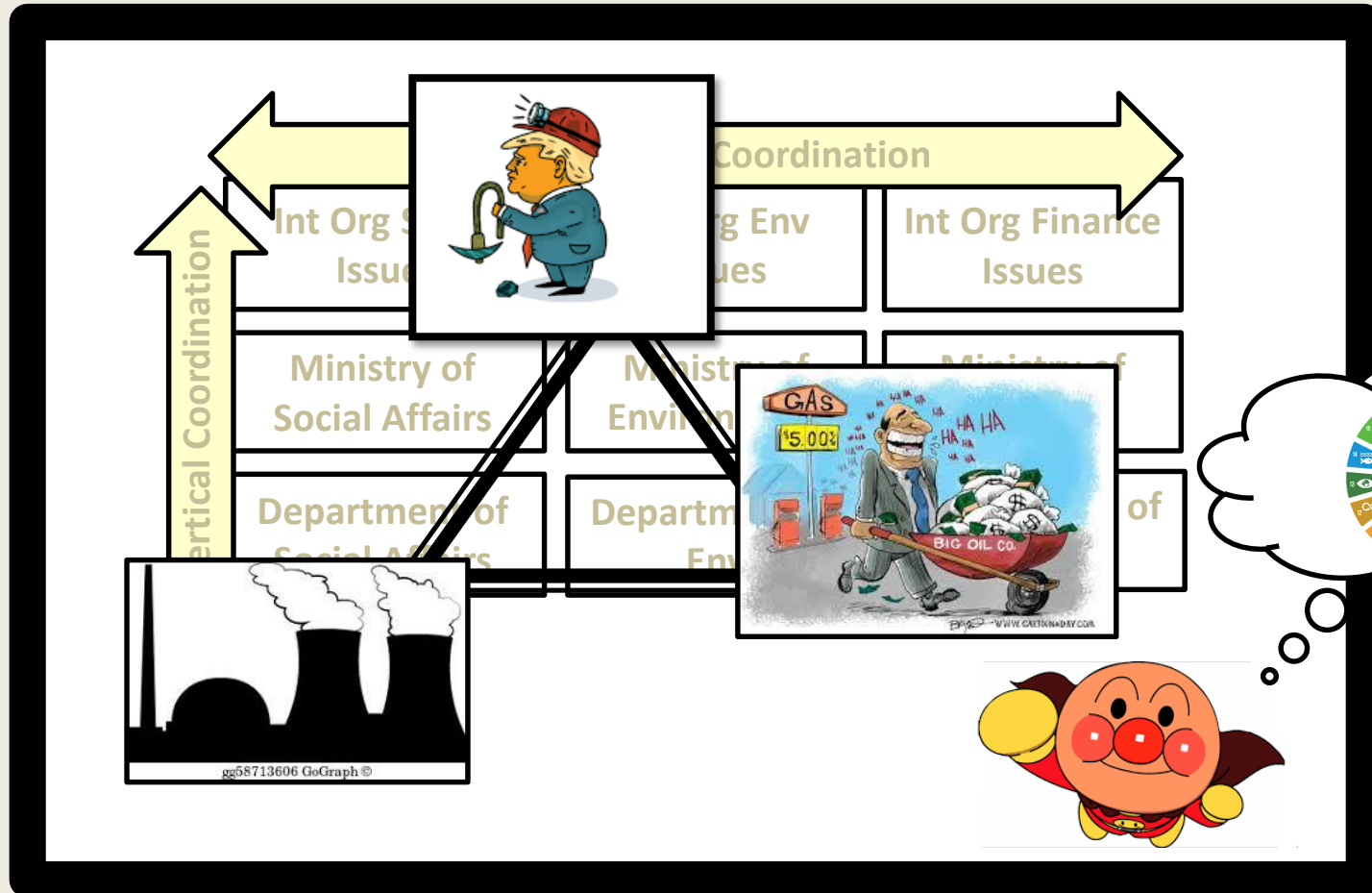
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Vested Interests:

Possible enabler/barrier

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Matsumoto Environment and Climate Plan

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- 2016-the “Third Matsumoto Environmental Basic Plan” as the higher order plan was launched
- 2016-the “Matsumoto City Global Warming Action Plan” is promulgated
- The Global Warming Action Plan is under the “Third Matsumoto Environmental Basic Plan”



Citizens of
Matsumoto

Mayor of
Matsumoto

Directorate of
Environment

Health &
Wellbeing

Children

Agriculture &
Forestry

Environmental
Policy

Wellbeing for
the Disabled

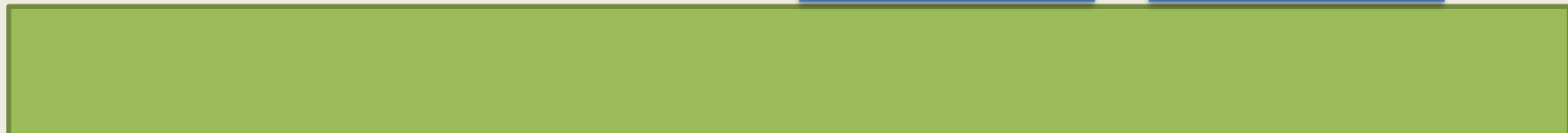
Climate Change

Environmental
Conservation

Wellbeing for
the Poor

Environmental
Projects

Wellbeing for
the Elderly

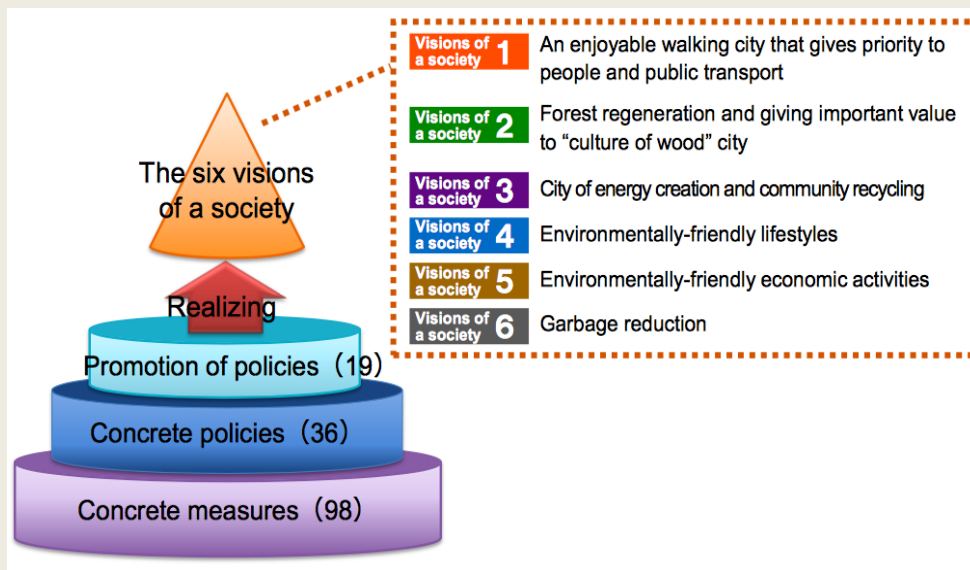
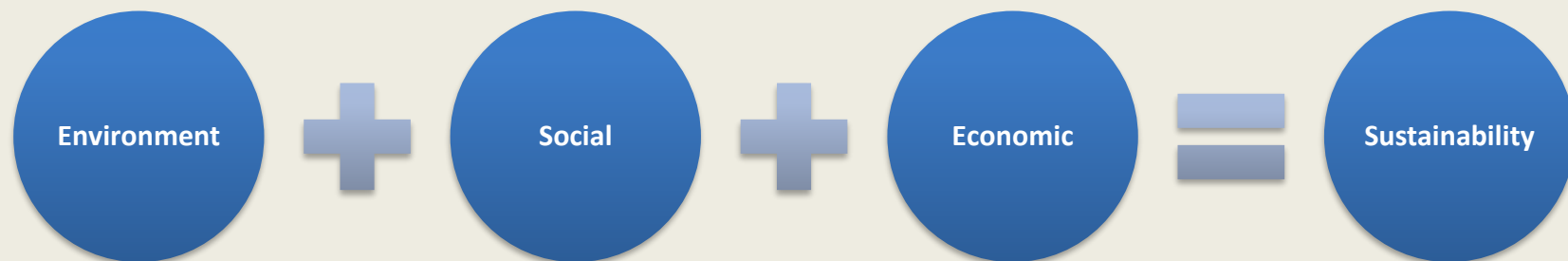


Kyoto's Climate Action Plan

- **1997**: One of the world's first cities to enact climate change measures
- **2006**: First formulation of City Climate Action Plan
- Plan revised in **2014** and **2017** to ratchet up commitments
- Pledges to reduce 1.335 million tons of GHGs by 2020, reaching zero carbon by 2050



Sustainability Nexus



***98 Actions +
36 Policies +
19 Directions +***

***6 Visions for Low Carbon
Society***

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graph TD
    EPB[Environmental Policy Bureau] --> GEPO[Global Environment Policy Office]
    EPB --> EPD[Environmental Planning Department]
    GEPO --> RSPD[Recycling Society Promotion Department]
    RSPD --> WBO[Ward Beautification Office]
    RSPD --> CCLE[Center for Clean Life Environment]
    EPD --> PFD[Proper Disposal Facility Department]
    PFD --> U1[ ]
    PFD --> U2[ ]
    PFD --> U3[ ]
    U1 --- U1L[ ]
    U2 --- U2L[ ]
    U3 --- U3L[ ]
    EPB --- GAS[General Affairs Section]
    EPB --- EMS[Environment Management Section]
    EPB --- EGS[Environment Guidance Section]
    EPB --- NES[North Environment Symbiosis Center]
    EPB --- SES[South Environment Symbiosis Center]
  
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Environmental Policy Bureau

Global Environment Policy Office

Environmental Planning Department

Recycling Society Promotion Department

Proper Disposal Facility Department

Ward Beautification Office

Center for Clean Life Environment

General Affairs Section

Environment Management Section

Environment Guidance Section

North Environment Symbiosis Center

South Environment Symbiosis Center

Toward an Analytical Framework

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City Names	Kyoto	Matsumoto	(Yonago)	(Matsuyama)	(Yubari)	(Morioka)
Climate x environmental dimensions						
climate x water x food policy integration						
Climate x air pollution policy integration		✓✓				
Climate x water policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x green space policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
energy x transport policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
energy x urban forests policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
energy x health policy integration						
energy x waste management policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
Climate x social dimensions						
climate x creation of green industries	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x creation of green jobs		✓✓				
climate x address depopulation		✓✓				
climate x address vulnerable citizens	✓✓					
Climate x economic dimensions						
climate x leads to transitions in infrastructure	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x leads to transitions in energy systems	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x leads to transitions in waste management	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x leads to green fiscal policies	✓✓					
Multilevel governance						

Toward an Analytical Framework

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Multilevel Governance						
Aligns national and subnational policies	✓✓	✓				
Participates in transnational networks	✓✓					
Promote interagency coordination		✓				
Overall planning authority resides over climate change						
Social inclusion						
Aligns with poverty alleviation						
Process of informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, or empowering stakeholders						
Encourages community participation/engagement	✓✓	✓				
Vested interests						
Facing infrastructure lock-in						
Facing institutional lock-in						
Other factors						
Facing financial limitation						
Facing administrative limitation						
Sustainability transitions						
System level changes						

Key Messages

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- Cities can derive important advantages from aligning urban climate change plans with sustainable development priorities defined under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Linking city climate plans with urban sustainability issues involves understanding ways to maximise synergies and manage trade-offs.
- Some of the more evident synergies and trade-offs are associated with water, waste and air pollution, employment and social inclusion, and investing in low-carbon, resilient infrastructure.
- Several factors may enhance or impede integration of climate and sustainability concerns, including supportive governance arrangements, participatory engagement mechanisms, and vested interests.
- By proposing an analytical framework, this paper seeks to assess the extent to which climate-SDG linkages are considered in Japanese cities, assessing potential areas for further integrating sustainability concerns into climate plans.