

Inter-Municipal Cooperation and Environmental Outcomes

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Inter-Municipal Cooperation and Environmental Outcomes: Impact, Drivers, and Incentives

by Victor Osei Kwadwo

1. We are now beyond a neo-functionalist understanding of cooperation.
2. Inasmuch as cooperation seems to be the solution to many of the world's problems, those who need it most, like it least.
3. Empirical evidence shows that inter-municipal cooperation saves costs, but does it also lead to better environmental outcomes? Yes! Local governments that work together on transportation issues in their metropolitan areas are able to reduce CO₂ transport emissions [**Chapter 2**].
4. Despite the large number of known drivers of inter-municipal cooperation, it is challenging to establish which of them are necessary and/or sufficient. In reality, the drivers of inter-municipal cooperation can be expected to interact and, therefore, must not be viewed as isolated explanations [**Chapter 3**].
5. According to the incentive theory of motivation, people make decisions that will lead to rewards and rather than an intrinsic (self-satisfying) drive, individual actions are driven by exogenous benefits. Hence, a way to incentivise inter-municipal cooperation lies in providing external benefits [**Chapter 4**].
6. Cities are unilaterally taking on the climate change mantle but cooperation at a larger scale is critical for efficiency.
7. It is worthwhile for scholars and practitioners to continue advocating a coupling of local government cooperation with global and national scales of action in order to secure a reduction in negative environmental outcomes.
8. Although not easy, both personal and collective gains in ensuring cooperation around environmental challenges must be pursued.
9. Cooperation is no longer reducible to rational-behavioural conceptions of process and institution but becomes cognitive insofar as interaction is understood via the socialisation of actors and the construction of common interest and identities [**Wendt 1992: 399**].
10. Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor [**Ecclesiastes 4:9**].