

## Economic Development and Sustainable Cities

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The concept of sustainability has evolved from a focus largely centered on environmental issues to a more balanced approach that consists of environmental, economic, and societal elements (Mazmanian and Kraft, 2009; Fiorino, 2010). We argue that local efforts to promote environmental sustainability and economic development are not mutually exclusive. However, one tradeoff that we consider is the co-benefits that are derived from policy decisions. Why do local governments pursue sustainability when public investments may be shared by other city governments within the region? To answer this question, we turn to the literature on local governing institutions and interest groups (Hawkins, 2011a, 2011b; Feiock, et al., 2008; Lubell, et al., 2005; Ramirez, 2009). The empirical analysis is based on a national survey of local sustainability policy conducted in 2011. A series of Poisson regression models provide evidence of the mediating influence political institutions have on policy tool adoption.

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