

GOVERNING THE CLIMATE-ENERGY NEXUS

Combating climate change and transitioning to fossil-free energy are two central and interdependent challenges facing humanity today. Governing the nexus of these challenges is complex, and includes multiple intergovernmental and transnational institutions. This book analyzes the governance interactions between such institutions and explores their consequences for legitimacy and effectiveness. Using a novel analytical framework, the contributors examine three policy fields: renewable energy, fossil fuel subsidy reform, and carbon pricing. These fields are compared in terms of their institutional memberships, governance functions, and overarching norms. Bringing together prominent researchers from political science and international relations, the book offers an essential resource for future research and provides policy recommendations for effective and legitimate governance of the climate-energy nexus. Rooted in the most recent research, it is an invaluable reference for researchers, policy makers, and other stakeholders in climate change and energy politics.

FARIBORZ ZELLI is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Lund University. He is also a principal investigator and board member at BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate). His research focuses on international institutions, global environmental governance, and political theory and philosophy. He has edited four volumes: *Environmental Politics and Governance in the Anthropocene* (Routledge, 2016); *Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Governance and Politics* (Elgar, 2015); a special issue with *Global Environmental Politics* (2013); and *Global Climate Governance beyond 2012* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

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“Far too little work looks at climate change or energy studies from an interdisciplinary social science perspective, and far less than that does so effectively. This book is a notable exception, expertly tracing the governance dynamics and dilemmas of climate change as well as its twin partner in crime, the global energy system. In doing so, it covers a range of exciting topics, from subsidy reform to institutional complexity, from renewable energy to policy coherence, through a compelling milieu of different perspectives. The book is truly important reading for anyone who professes to take the study of climate governance seriously.”

– Benjamin K. Sovacool, *University of Sussex, and author of Global Energy Justice (Cambridge University Press)*

“If we are to prevent catastrophic global warming, the world needs to establish more effective global governance of energy. This carefully planned book brings together contributions by leading experts and provides an insightful macro perspective on the current climate-energy nexus – its institutional complexity and fragmentation, as well as the potential for change. The volume stands out for its rich empirical analysis, coherence and rigour. A must read!”

– Robert Falkner, *London School of Economics and Political Science*

“*Governing the Climate-Energy Nexus* offers a novel approach to understanding the vexing challenge of decarbonizing the global energy system and moving toward a more sustainable future. Drawing on diverse theoretical debates in political science and international relations, the authors present rich empirical analyses that help academics and practitioners navigate the complex institutional landscape of global climate and energy governance and evaluate the trade-offs and synergies between different policy options. Moreover, this book advances the growing field of ‘nexus’ research by breaking new theoretical and methodological ground that will facilitate more effective and legitimate governance systems in an increasingly interconnected global system.”

– Michele M. Betsill, *Colorado State University*

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Institutional Complexity and Its Challenges to
Effectiveness and Legitimacy

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108484817

DOI: [10.1017/9781108676397](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108676397)

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781108676397](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108676397)

First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Zelli, Fariborz, editor. | Bäckstrand, Karin, editor. | Nasiritousi, Naghme, editor. | Skovgaard, Jakob, 1977– editor. | Widerberg, Oscar, editor.

Title: Governing the climate-energy nexus : institutional complexity and its challenges to effectiveness and legitimacy / Edited by Fariborz Zelli, Lund University, Karin Bäckstrand, Stockholm University, Naghme Nasiritousi, Stockholm University, Jakob Skovgaard, Lund University, Oscar Widerberg, VU University Amsterdam.

Description: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019039822 (print) | LCCN 2019039823 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108484817 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108676397 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Global environmental change—Government policy. | Fossil fuels—Government policy. | Renewable energy sources—Government policy.

Classification: LCC GE149 .G67 2020 (print) | LCC GE149 (ebook) | DDC 393.738/74561—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019039822>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019039823>

ISBN 978-1-108-48481-7 Hardback

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