



Environmental Governance in Europe: A Comparative Analysis of New Environmental Policy Instruments

Rudiger K.W. Wurzel, Anthony R. Zito, Andrew J. Jordan

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'This path-breaking book, written by three well known experts, makes an extremely valuable contribution to the study of 'new' environmental policy instruments as well as to much wider theoretical debates about governance, policy innovation, learning and transfer. Drawing on an unrivalled comparative empirical study of five different jurisdictions, it manages to make many new points about issues that many of us thought had already been settled.'

- Martin Jänicke, Free University of Berlin, and former deputy chair, German Advisory Council on the Environment, Germany

'Much more than a study of environmental policy instruments, this book ranges widely and authoritatively over the 'government to governance' debate, theories of policy change, regulation, policy transfer, and policy learning. Its lessons and conclusions are relevant and timely well beyond the European context of its case studies and it will be essential reading for public policy scholars everywhere for some time to come.'

- Jeremy Rayner, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

'This book represents a very rare achievement in that it combines detailed and up-to-the-minute empirical analysis of environmental policy over the past four decades, with a sophisticated discussion and critique of current theoretical issues in comparative and policy studies generally. It unfolds with a keen eye towards understanding the temporal dimensions of policy dynamics both in the specific policy field examined but also in terms of testing key analytical concepts. Taken as a whole it provides the most detailed empirical assessment to date of the general government to governance hypothesis, with significant implications for policy and governance studies in general.'

- Michael Howlett, Simon Fraser University, Canada and National University of Singapore

European governance has witnessed dramatic changes in recent decades. By assessing the use of 'new' environmental policy instruments in European Union countries including the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Austria, this timely book analyzes whether traditional forms of top-down government have given way to less hierarchical governance instruments, which rely strongly on societal self-steering and/or market forces. The authors provide important new theoretical insights as well as fresh empirical detail on why, and in what form, these instruments are being adopted within and across different levels of governance, along with analysis of the often-overlooked interactions between the instrument types.

Providing important new theoretical insights into the governance debate by combining institutionalist and policy learning/transfer approaches, this book will be invaluable for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The analytical insights as well as a thorough empirical assessment of the use of environmental policy instruments in practice will prove essential for environmental policy specialists/practitioners.

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