

development financial institutions, social enterprises, community land trusts, and employee-owned enterprises. These can pool capital in ways that build wealth, create living wage jobs, and anchor those jobs in communities.

In the concluding chapter Tom Prugh and Michael Renner consider the nature of efficient and legitimate governance and the difficult question of what is needed to drive the governance process for sustainability forwards.

Monica Zimmermann describes how the current locus of activity on climate change and biodiversity preservation lies mainly within the organisations of local and regional, not national, governments.

Over the last 20 years or so, pioneering local governments have stepped forward on the global stage to assert their relevance to sustainability initiatives, and make commitments, provide and share resources, track progress towards goals and have helped influence national and international processes to do the same thing.

There's no doubt that in some cases they shame national governments, which need to do better both in negotiations with other governments and in their own countries.

The authors also point out that to many of the world's government systems are heavily male dominated, reflecting men's barriers, priorities and viewpoints much more than women's. Only one parliament in the whole world has a majority of women members: Rwanda's.

How amazing that one of the poorest countries on the planet with such a recent tragic history should serve as an object lesson to the rest of us.

The book contains other chapters on understanding governance, listening to the voices of young and future generations, climate governance and the political-economic foundations of a sustainable system, amongst many others.

Comprehensive graphics and tables include an analysis of Local Agenda 21's historic impact, local government involvement in the UN biodiversity convention, cities in the UN's post-2015 development agenda, and local climate actions paralleling global actions, 1990–2012.

The authors analyze a variety of trends and proposals, including regional and local climate initiatives, the rise of benefit corporations and worker-owned firms, the need for energy democracy, the Internet's impact on sustainability, and the importance of eco-literacy.

A consistent thread throughout the book is that informed and engaged citizens are key to better governance. Knowledge is power.

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Read more here: <http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/david-thorpe/244366/local-community-governance-route-sustainability>