

Philipp Lange

Sustainability Governance

Exploring the Potential of Governance Modes to
Promote Sustainable Development



Nomos

Contents

List of figures and tables	13
Abbreviations	15
Part I: Introduction	17
1 Overview	17
1.1 Point of departure	17
1.2 Research objective and questions	19
1.3 Research strategy	24
1.4 Structure	27
Part II: Theoretical foundations	30
2 Sustainability governance	30
2.1 Sustainable development	30
2.2 Governance and its modes	34
2.3 Consolidating the sustainability governance discourse	41
2.4 Governance modes and sustainability	44
3 Theoretical framework	56
3.1 Conceptualization of governance	56
3.1.1 A foundation	57
3.1.2 Basic structure: three dimensions and their interplay	60
3.1.3 The conceptualization in detail	63
3.2 Differentiating governance modes	81
3.2.1 Three proposals for meaningfully distinguishing among governance modes	83
3.2.2 Reasoning for the choice of the formal frame	87
3.3 Grasping the impacts of governance	91
3.3.1 A clarification of the results of governance	92
3.3.2 Conceptualizing governance impacts	94
3.4 Sustainability appraisal	101
3.4.1 In search for sustainability criteria	101
3.4.2 Normative frame for sustainability appraisal	105

Part III: Empirical case studies	107
4 Research methodology	107
4.1 Comparative case study approach of a qualitative nature	107
4.2 Data collection	112
4.3 Data analysis	116
5 Overview of the cases	125
5.1 The case studies in the context of Swiss energy policy	125
5.2 Case 1 - The Swiss CO ₂ levy	128
5.3 Case 2 - The electricity saving fund in the canton Basel	129
5.4 Case 3 - The fuel consumption covenant in Switzerland	131
5.5 Case 4 - The Energy Trialogue Switzerland	133
5.6 Case 5 - The Swiss building label Minergie	134
6 Results of the case studies	137
6.1 Governance within the cases	137
6.1.1 CO ₂ levy	137
6.1.2 Electricity saving fund	143
6.1.3 Fuel consumption covenant	149
6.1.4 Energy Trialogue	153
6.1.5 Minergie label	160
6.2 Allocation to governance modes	166
6.2.1 CO ₂ levy: Centralized governance	166
6.2.2 Electricity saving fund: Decentralized governance	167
6.2.3 Fuel consumption covenant: Public-private governance	168
6.2.4 Energy Trialogue: Interactive governance	169
6.2.5 Minergie label: Self-governance shifting to interactive governance	170
6.3 Governance impacts	171
6.3.1 CO ₂ levy	172
6.3.2 Electricity saving fund	184
6.3.3 Fuel consumption covenant	193
6.3.4 Energy Trialogue	203
6.3.5 Minergie label	207
6.4 Sustainability appraisal	222
6.4.1 CO ₂ levy	222
6.4.2 Electricity saving fund	224
6.4.3 Fuel consumption covenant	226
6.4.4 Energy Trialogue	227
6.4.5 Minergie label	228
6.5 Overview of findings	231

Part IV: Discussion	235
7 Implications	235
7.1 Does the mode make a difference?	235
7.2 Hypotheses to be tested in future research	251
7.3 Sustainability governance as a meta-governed interplay of modes	253
Part V: Conclusion	265
8 Summary, reflection, outlook	265
8.1 Summary	265
8.2 Reflection on the research	267
8.3 Outlook on further research	277
References	281
Appendix	320