



Conference on Energising the SDGs through appropriate technology and governance

# Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into Urban Climate Plans:

## Insights from Japan

IGES Author Team  
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**More than 10 years ago a re-orientation of climate change negotiations led to greater focus on cities**

# Cities in Japan are also responding to the SDGs

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Shimokawa Town  
the Sustainable Development Goals Report  
—The Shimokawa Challenge:  
Bringing people and nature into the future—  
2018



**Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido**



Toyama City  
the Sustainable Development Goals Report  
—Compact City Planning based on Polycentric Transport Networks—  
2018



**Toyama City, Toyama**



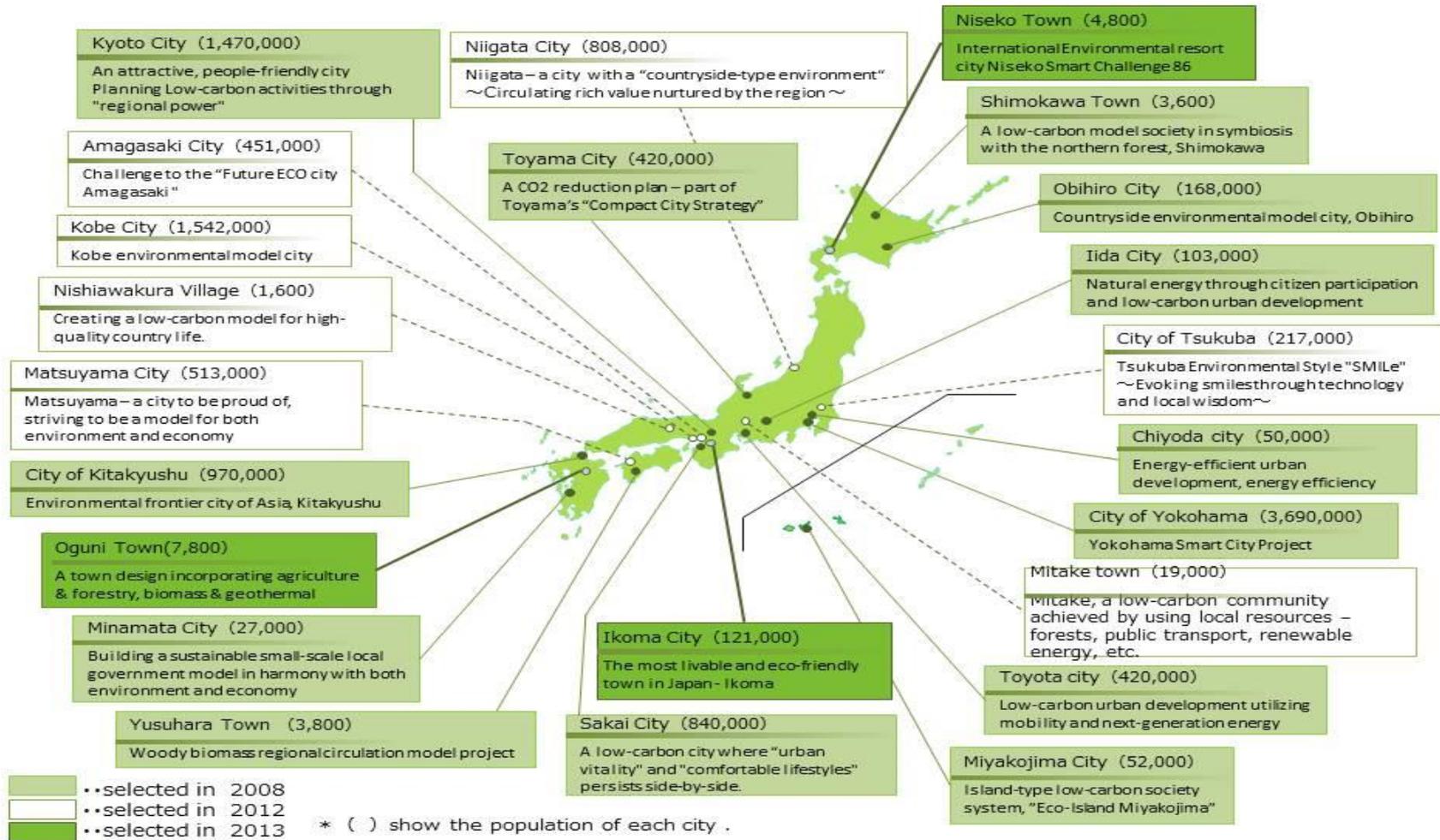
Kitakyushu City  
the Sustainable Development Goals Report  
—Fostering a trusted Green Growth City  
with true wealth and prosperity, contributing to the world—  
2018



**Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka**

# This is part of larger effort to build future cities

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# Point of Departure

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- There are potentially important synergies/trade-offs between climate and other development goals in cities
  - Synergies: a city focused only on maximizing reductions in GHGs might also emphasize job creation, adequate housing, and helping an aging society etc.
  - Trade-offs: a city focused on increasing accessibility might promote motorized transport and vehicle-centric lifestyles that increase GHGs
- Realizing synergies and avoiding trade-offs will require integrating climate and other sustainability concerns into city plans and policies

# Possible Linkages

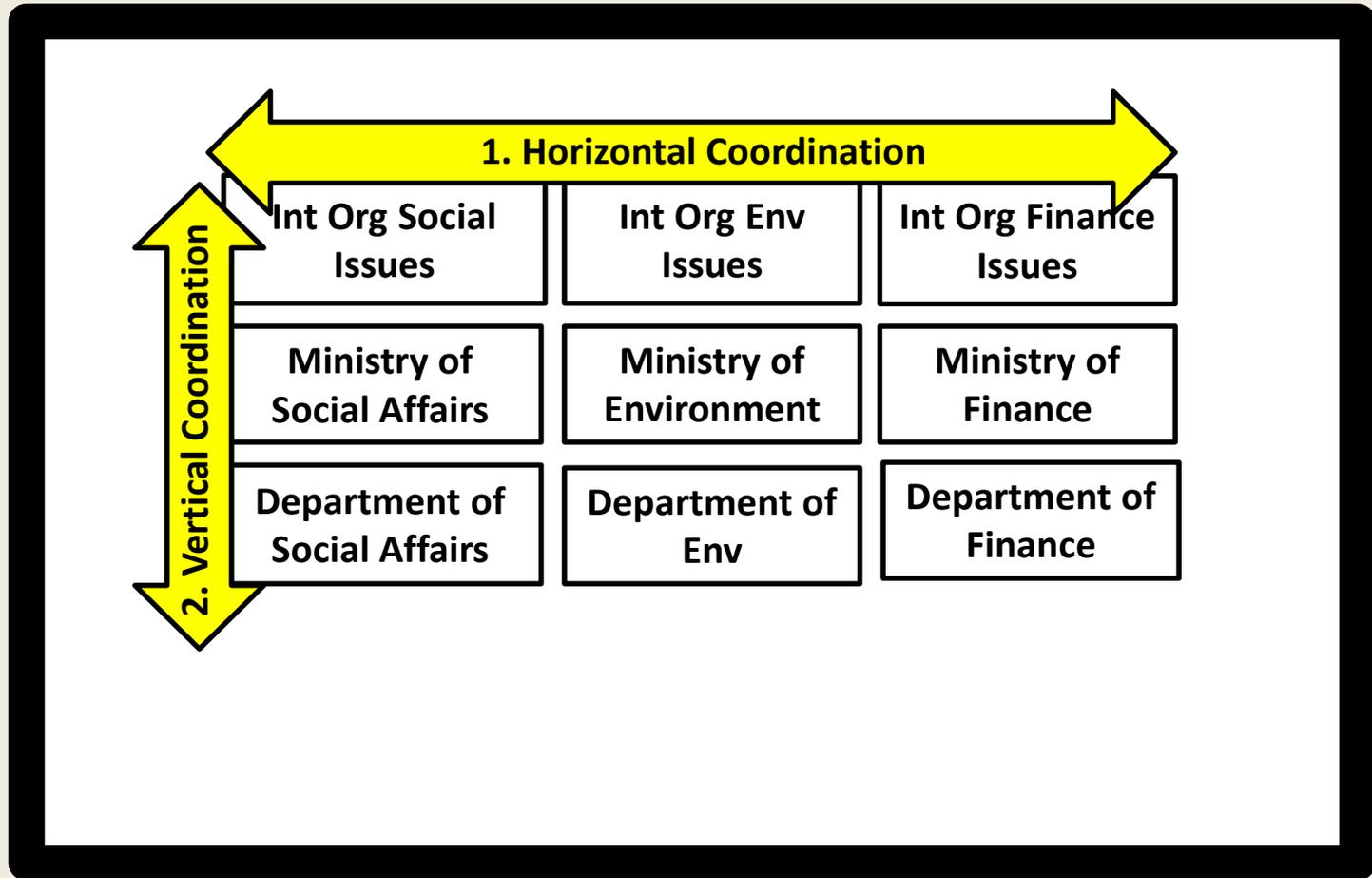
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# Multilevel Governance:

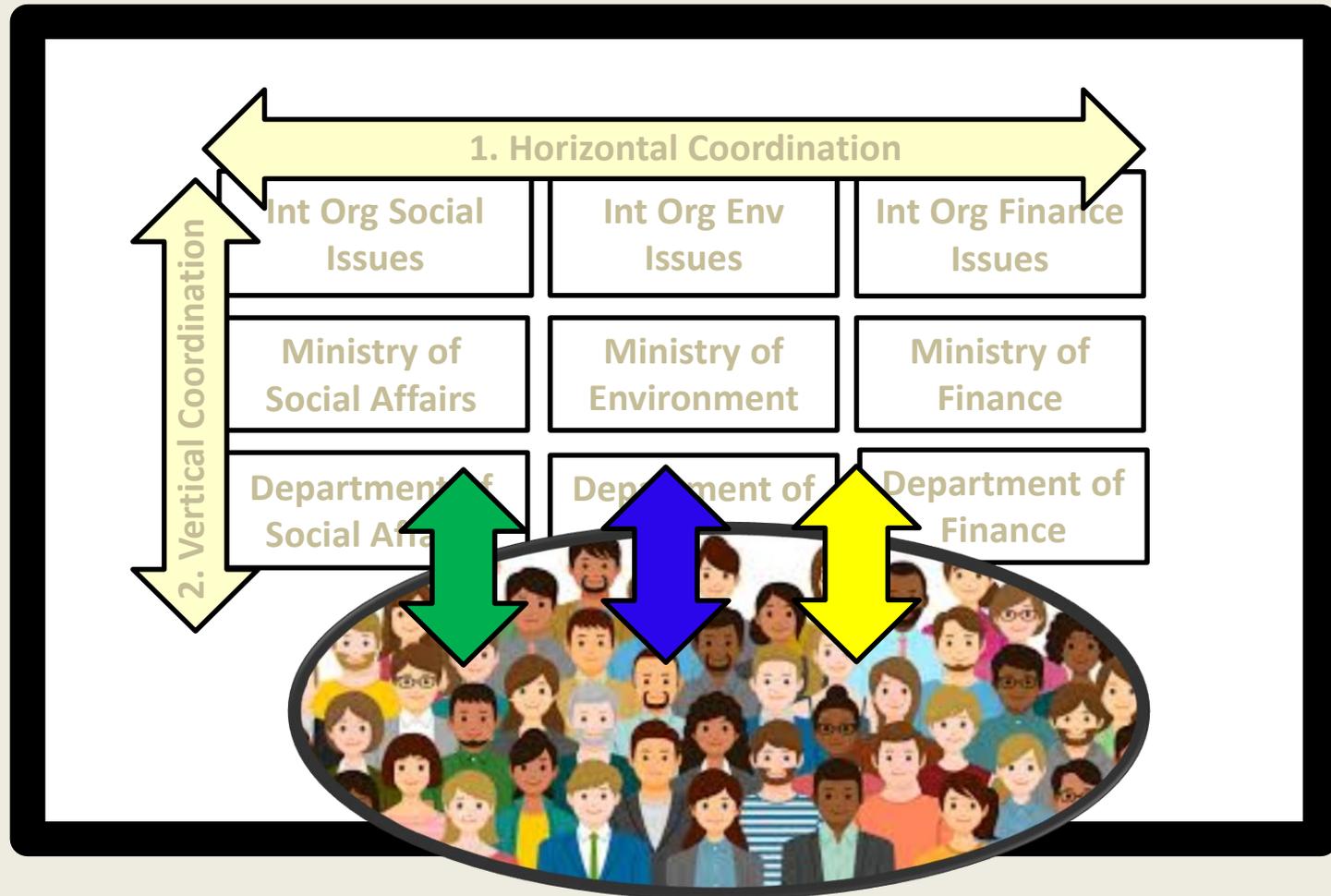
Possible enabler/barrier

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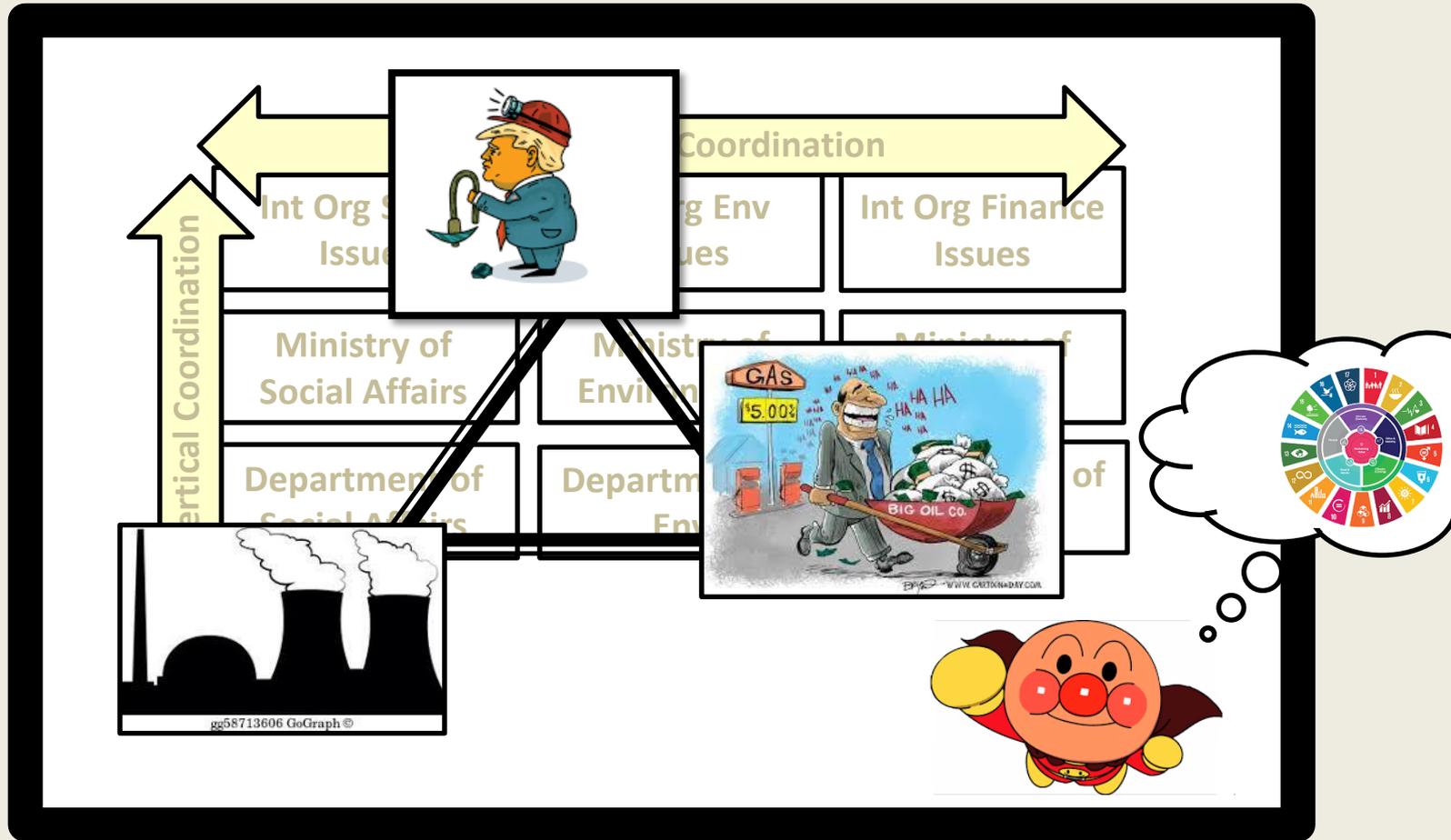
# Social Inclusion: Possible enabler/barrier

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# Vested Interests: Possible enabler/barrier

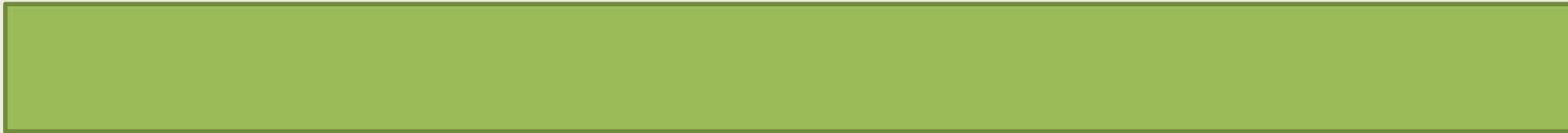
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## Matsumoto Environment and Climate Plan

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- 2016-the “Third Matsumoto Environmental Basic Plan” as the higher order plan was launched
- 2016-the “Matsumoto City Global Warming Action Plan” is promulgated
- The Global Warming Action Plan is under the “Third Matsumoto Environmental Basic Plan”



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Citizens of  
Matsumoto

Mayor of  
Matsumoto

Directorate of  
Environment

Health &  
Wellbeing

Children

Agriculture &  
Forestry

Environmental  
Policy

Wellbeing for  
the Disabled

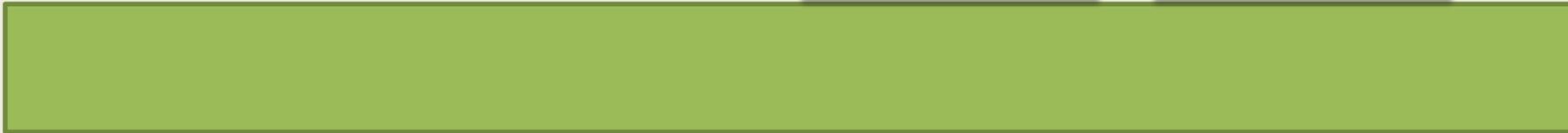
Climate Change

Environmental  
Conservation

Wellbeing for  
the Poor

Environmental  
Projects

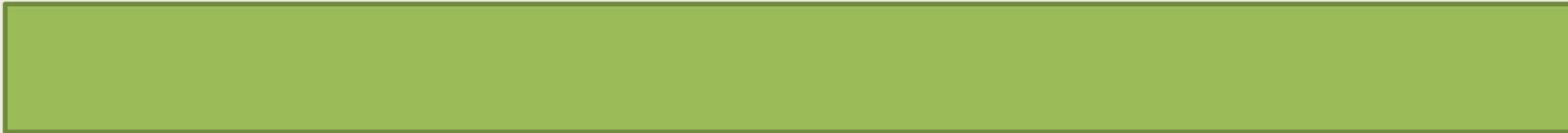
Wellbeing for  
the Elderly



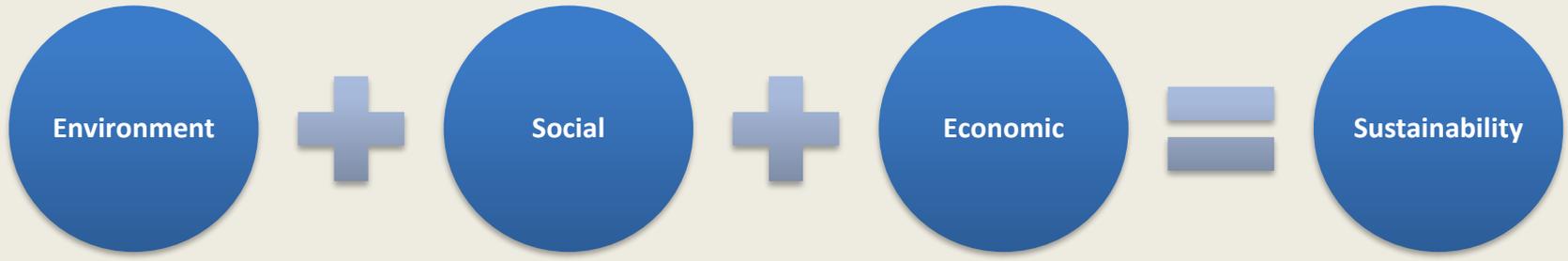
# Kyoto's Climate Action Plan

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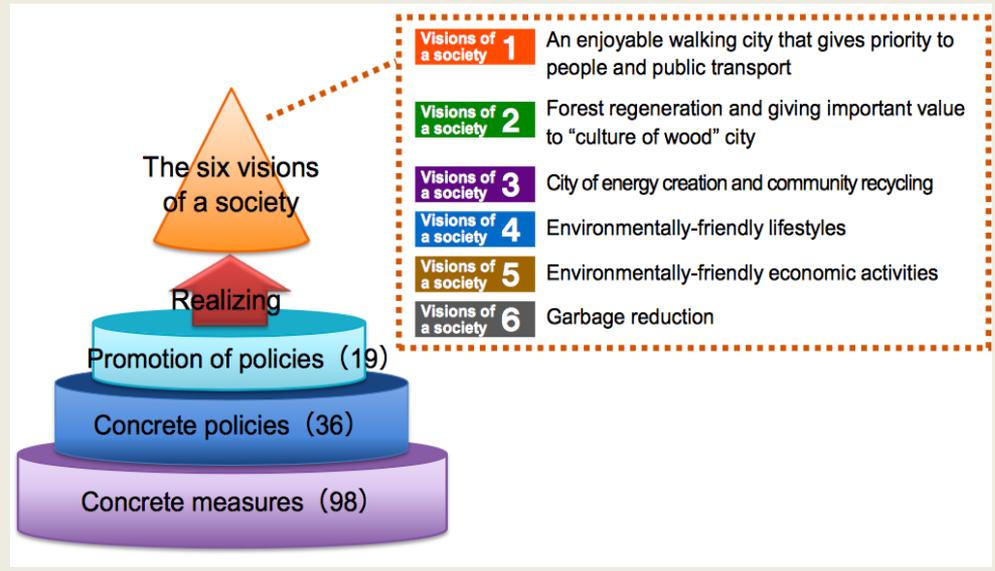
- **1997**: One of the world's first cities to enact climate change measures
- **2006**: First formulation of City Climate Action Plan
- Plan revised in **2014** and **2017** to ratchet up commitments
- Pledges to reduce 1.335 million tons of GHGs by 2020, reaching zero carbon by 2050



# Sustainability Nexus



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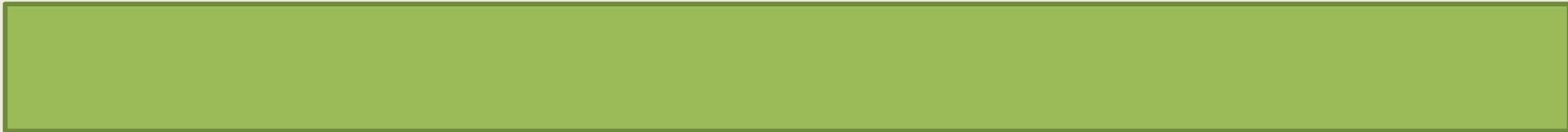
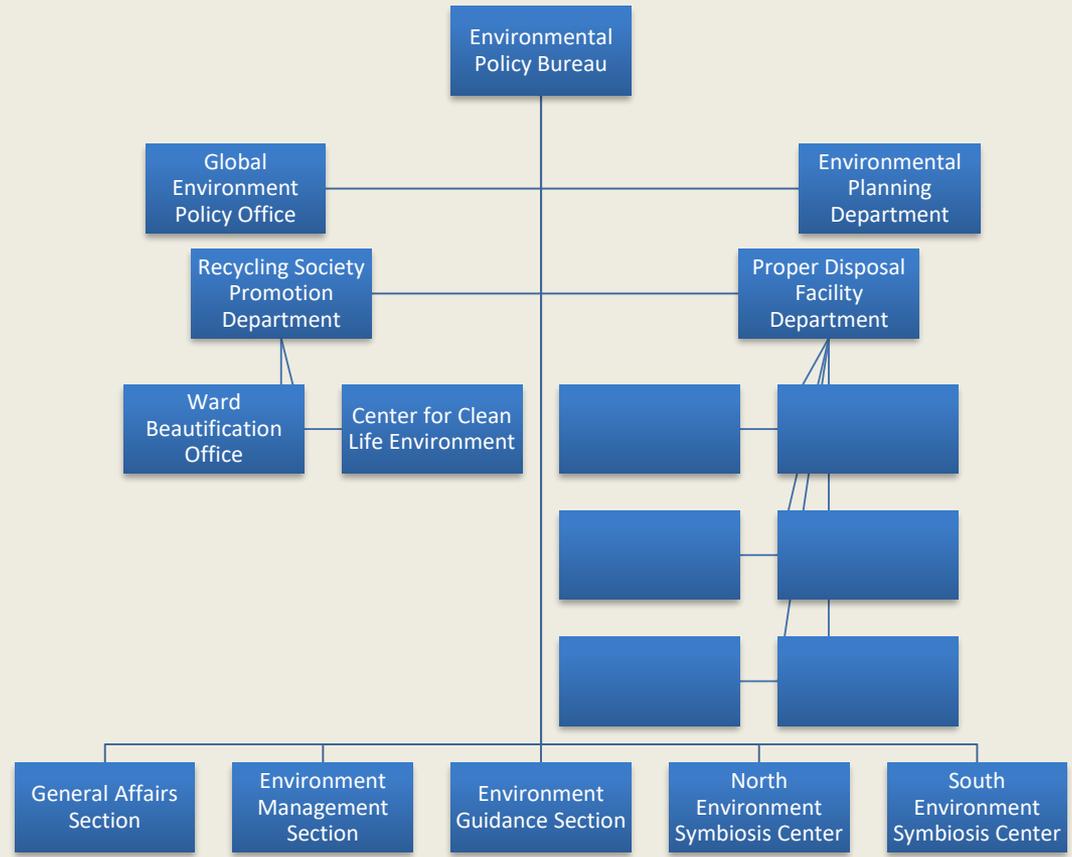
***98 Actions +  
36 Policies +  
19 Directions +***

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***6 Visions for Low Carbon  
Society***

# Environmental Policy Bureau

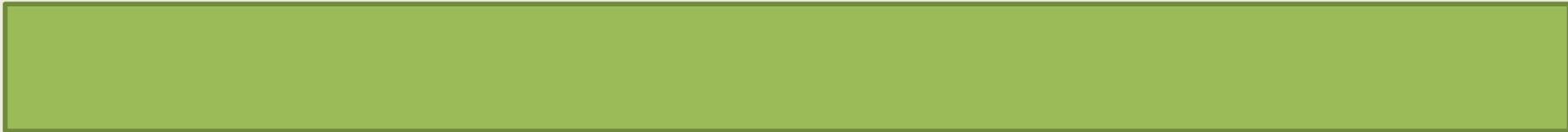
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# Toward an Analytical Framework

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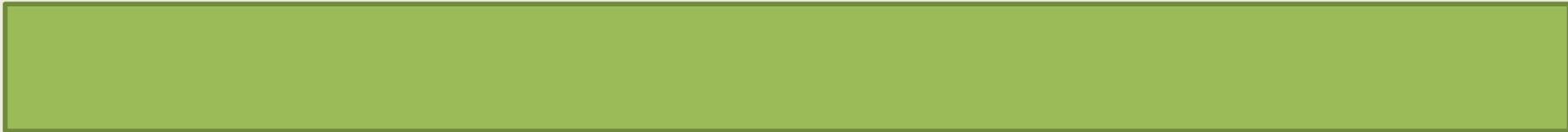
City Names	Kyoto	Matsumoto	(Yonago)	(Matsuyama)	(Yubari)	(Morioka)
Climate x environmental dimensions						
climate x water x food policy integration						
Climate x air pollution policy integration		✓✓				
Climate x water policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x green space policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
energy x transport policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
energy x urban forests policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
energy x health policy integration						
energy x waste management policy integration	✓✓	✓✓				
Climate x social dimensions						
climate x creation of green industries	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x creation of green jobs		✓✓				
climate x address depopulation		✓✓				
climate x address vulnerable citizens	✓✓					
Climate x economic dimensions						
climate x leads to transitions in infrastructure	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x leads to transitions in energy systems	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x leads to transitions in waste management	✓✓	✓✓				
climate x leads to green fiscal policies	✓✓					
Multilevel governance						



# Toward an Analytical Framework

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Multilevel Governance						
Aligns national and subnational policies	✓✓	✓				
Participates in transnational networks	✓✓					
Promote interagency coordination		✓				
Overall planning authority resides over climate change						
Social inclusion						
Aligns with poverty alleviation						
Process of informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, or empowering stakeholders						
Encourages community participation/engagement	✓✓	✓				
Vested interests						
Facing infrastructure lock-in						
Facing institutional lock-in						
Other factors						
Facing financial limitation						
Facing administrative limitation						
Sustainability transitions						
System level changes						



# Key Messages

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- Cities can derive important advantages from aligning urban climate change plans with sustainable development priorities defined under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Linking city climate plans with urban sustainability issues involves understanding ways to maximise synergies and manage trade-offs.
- Some of the more evident synergies and trade-offs are associated with water, waste and air pollution, employment and social inclusion, and investing in low-carbon, resilient infrastructure.
- Several factors may enhance or impede integration of climate and sustainability concerns, including supportive governance arrangements, participatory engagement mechanisms, and vested interests.
- By proposing an analytical framework, this paper seeks to assess the extent to which climate-SDG linkages are considered in Japanese cities, assessing potential areas for further integrating sustainability concerns into climate plans.