



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
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Public Participation In Environmental Assessment And Decision Making

National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change, Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making

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Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change, Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making, 2008-12-07 Federal agencies have taken steps to include the public in a wide range of environmental decisions. Although some form of public participation is often required by law, agencies usually have broad discretion about the extent of that involvement. Approaches vary widely from holding public information gathering meetings to forming advisory groups to actively including citizens in making and implementing decisions. Proponents of public participation argue that those who must live with the outcome of an environmental decision should have some influence on it. Critics maintain that public participation slows decision making and can lower its quality by including people unfamiliar with the science involved. This book concludes that when done correctly, public participation improves the quality of federal agencies' decisions about the environment. Well managed public involvement also increases the legitimacy of decisions in the eyes of those affected by them, which makes it more likely that the decisions will be implemented effectively. This book recommends that agencies recognize public participation as valuable to their objectives, not just as a formality required by the law. It details principles and approaches agencies can use to successfully involve the public. **Public**

Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making, 2008. Advocates of public participation believe it improves environmental assessment and decision making; detractors criticize it as ineffective and inefficient. The term public participation as used in this book includes organized processes adopted by elected officials, government agencies, or other public or private sector organizations to engage the public in environmental assessment, planning, decision making, management, monitoring, and evaluation. These processes supplement traditional forms of public participation: voting, forming interest groups, demonstrating, lobbying, by directly involving the public in executive functions that when they are conducted in government are traditionally delegated to administrative agencies. The goal of participation is to improve the quality, legitimacy, and capacity of environmental assessments and decisions. This book assesses whether and under what conditions public participation achieves the outcomes desired. Claims from all sides are considered and evaluated as a central point of the study in order to provide an overall assessment of the merits and failings of participation. It also offers guidance to practitioners and identifies directions for further research. *Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters Prepared Under the Aarhus Convention*, 2015. These

recommendations are based on existing good practice and are intended as a practical tool to provide helpful guidance and to improve the implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in decision making to assist Parties when designing their legal framework on public participation in environmental decision making, to assist public officials when designing and carrying out public participation procedures on environmental decision making under the Convention, and to provide an

invaluable tool through which to share expertise and good practice so as to promote participation The Recommendations may also be of value to public NGOs and the private sector involved in environmental matters

Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere Robert Cox, 2010 *Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere* is the first comprehensive undergraduate textbook in the growing field of environmental communication It takes as its theme the role of communication in influencing the ways in which we perceive the environment as well as what actions we and others take in our relations to the natural world The text blends scholarship and hands on experiences to provide a theory based and coherent description of the concrete communication practices and sites in the debates over environment protection Additional theory and vocabulary are introduced as are case studies and examples for closer examination of the principal sites and practices of environmental communication including forums for public participation advocacy campaigns media coverage of environmental stories risk communication and models of dispute settlement This accessible book Summarizes current scholarship in the area and makes accessible many of the practices of media corporations and advocacy groups that are not readily available in public sources Gives students insight into the practical ways to participate publicly in influencing the decisions of governmental agencies that affect the environment Offers a comprehensible treatment of the complexity and range of issues sites and practices in environmental communication Includes Act Locally exercises which provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge of the principles of environmental communication

Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making in the EU and in China Mariachiara Alberton, 2014 *The Role of Public Participation in Energy Transitions* Ortwin Renn, Frank Ulmer, Anna Deckert, 2020-03-21 *The Role of Public Participation in Energy Transitions* provides a conceptual and empirical approach to stakeholder and citizen involvement in the ongoing energy transition conversation focusing on projects surrounding energy conversion and efficiency reducing energy demand and using new forms of renewable energy sources Sections review and contrast different approaches to citizen involvement discuss the challenges of inclusive participation in complex energy policymaking and provide conceptual foundations for the empirical case studies that constitute the second part of the book The book is a valuable resource for academics in the field of energy planning and policymaking as well as practitioners in energy governance energy and urban planners and participation specialists

EU Environmental Law, Governance and Decision-Making Maria Lee, 2014-12-01 A vast and diverse body of EU law addresses an enormous range of environmental matters This book examines a number of areas of substantive EU environmental law focusing on the striking preoccupation of EU environmental law with the structure of decision making It highlights the observation that environmental protection and environmental decision making depend intimately on both detailed specialised information about the physical state of the world and on political judgments about values and priorities It also explores the elaborate mechanisms that attempt to bring these distinctive decision making resources into EU environmental law in areas including industrial pollution chemicals regulation environmental assessment

and climate change **Environmental Assessment as a Tool for Climate Change Mitigation** Benoit Mayer, 2024-11-15
Most governments have established procedures to appraise the environmental impacts of proposed activities. The focus of these environmental assessment procedures has long been on local environmental issues such as air, water, and land pollution, which have a direct and concrete effect on communities. In recent years, however, these procedures have increasingly been used to consider how activities could result in the emission of greenhouse gases and exacerbate climate change. *Environmental Assessment as a Tool for Climate Change Mitigation* builds on a broad survey of over one hundred national environmental assessment practices, legislation, guiding documents, cases, and administrative practice to reflect on the main conceptual and practical issues facing climate assessment. By presenting and discussing jurisdictional developments and national debates in a global comparative perspective, this book aims to enrich our collective understanding of the modalities of and ultimately the mitigation opportunities arising from the use of climate assessment in relation to proposed activities. The author concludes this timely and forward-looking volume by identifying good practices that lawmakers, regulators, national agencies, judges, and lawyers should consider when developing and applying the law on climate assessment.

Public Participation and Better Environmental Decisions Frans H. J. M. Coenen, 2008-12-12
Public Participation and Better Environmental Decisions is about a specific promise that participation holds for environmental decision making. Many of the arguments for public participation in international environmental policy documents are functional; that is to say, they see public participation as a means to an end. Sound solutions to environmental problems require participation beyond experts and political elites. Neglecting information from the public leads to legitimacy questions and potential conflicts. There is a discourse in the literature and in policy practice as to whether decision making improves in quality as additional relevant information by the public is considered. The promise that public participation holds has to be weighed against the limitations of public participation in terms of costs and interest conflicts. The question that *Public Participation and Better Environmental Decisions* seeks to answer for academics, planners, and civil servants in all environmental relevant policy fields is: What restricts and what enables information to hold the promise that public participation lead to better environmental decision making and better outcomes. *Handbook of Research methods and Applications in Environmental Studies*
Matthias Ruth, 2015-08-28
This Handbook presents methods to advance the understanding of interdependencies between the well-being of human societies and the performance of their biophysical environment. It showcases applications to material and energy use, urbanization, and tech.

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