

Environmental Governance in Europe

A Comparative Analysis of New Environmental Policy Instruments

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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 analyses 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.

'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

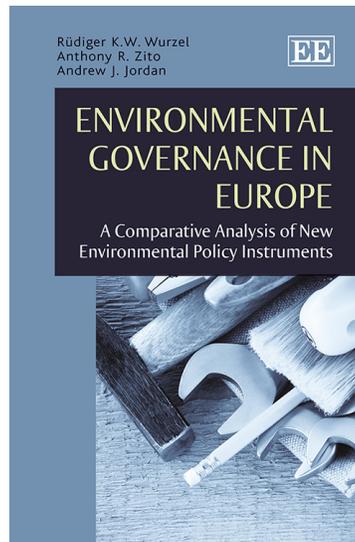
'This book represents a very rare achievement in that it combines detailed and up-to-the-minute empirical analysis of environmental policy over the past four decades, with a sophisticated discussion and critique of current theoretical issues in comparative and policy studies generally. It unfolds with 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

'Theoretically sophisticated and empirically rich, this book provides an overview of the introduction, development, and use of new policy instruments and new modes of environmental governance in the European context, taking into account both national and European Union experiences. This is a welcome addition to the field!'

– Miranda Schreurs, Environmental Policy Research Centre and Free University of Berlin, Germany

'This book fills an important gap in the environmental governance literature, addressing



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governance at a lower level of abstraction than other texts and examining how it plays out in relation to specific modes and instruments of governing. It also contributes towards governance theory-building efforts through the development of an empirically relevant analytical framework. In so doing it provides a firm underpinning for assessing whether, to what extent and in what ways there has been a transition from government towards governance in environmental policy.'

– Neil Gunningham, Australian National University

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2014	304 pp	Paperback	978 1 78254 502 6	£38.40	£28.95	\$38.40	\$48.00
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2013	304 pp	Hardback	978 1 84980 466 0	£131.40	£99.00	\$131.40	\$146.00
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Elgaronline 978 1 84980 472 1

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