

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910485605503321
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Titolo	Energy management and energy efficiency in industry : practical examples // Durmus Kaya, Fatma Canka Kilic, Hasan Huseyin Ozturk
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham, Switzerland : , : Springer, , [2021] ©2021
ISBN	3-030-25995-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (533 pages)
Collana	Green Energy and Technology
Disciplina	658.26
Soggetti	Industries - Energy conservation Energy consumption
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910254002803321
Autore	Metz Florence
Titolo	From Network Structure to Policy Design in Water Protection : A Comparative Perspective on Micropollutants in the Rhine River Riparian Countries // by Florence Metz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2017
ISBN	3-319-55693-2
Edizione	[1st ed. 2017.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XXVI, 317 p. 10 illus.)
Collana	Springer Water, , 2364-6934
Disciplina	333.91
Soggetti	Environmental policy Water Water - Pollution Environmental Policy Water, general Waste Water Technology / Water Pollution Control / Water Management / Aquatic Pollution
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Theory -- Chapter 3. Case selection -- Chapter 4. Research design and methods -- Chapter 5. Results -- Chapter 6. Discussion: Can policy networks explain some part of the variance of policy design? -- Chapter 7. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	The book examines a new concern in water quality policy, namely aquatic micropollutants. Micropollutants are chemicals detected in small concentrations in waterbodies today, originating from pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, or detergents, among others. Since the regulation of micropollutants is a fairly new issue, it has been largely neglected in social sciences. However, the search for appropriate solutions is of high political relevance at both the national and

international levels, with many open questions arising that concern the most adequate governance structures and steering mechanisms. Solutions suitable for classical, macro-pollutants, such as nutrients, do not necessarily apply to micropollutants because of the diversity of compounds and sources, and for technical, financial, and societal reasons. The book addresses this knowledge gap by investigating the steering mechanisms at hand and their prospect for problem solving. In this regard, the research provides a systematic depiction and comparison of policy designs in place for the reduction of micropollutants in the Rhine basin. Moreover, the study yields insights into the governance structures in place, into actors' responsibilities and constellations, and policy processes regarding micropollutants. The study is furthermore embedded into broader theoretical questions of policy research. More precisely, this research is a contribution to policy analysis that aims to achieve more optimal policy results by providing for a better understanding of the nature of policy designs and the social mechanisms behind the choice of them. Despite the intrinsic aim of policy analysis at contributing to more optimal policy outcomes, there remains a lack of research regarding analytical tools that enable an ex-ante assessment of policy designs' problem-solving abilities. To explore such a research path, this book proposes a novel index of policy comprehensiveness for quantifying the prospective performance of policy designs in alleviating an underlying policy issue, e.g. reducing pollutants in waters. Furthermore, the book uncovers the social mechanisms behind policymaking and turns to the question: In which social settings is it possible to achieve a comprehensive policy design? Compared to purely micro-level explanations, the advantage of the network approach is that it goes beyond the mere aggregation of policy actors' attributes by taking into consideration actors' interdependencies. In order to take the network approach seriously, the study systematically links the structure of a policy network with comprehensive policy designs. Network concepts, such as coalition structure, interconnectedness, and belief similarity, are employed from policy change research here in order to explore the link between structural network characteristics and comprehensive policy design. By studying how network structures affect policy design, the book critically examines the explanatory value of the network approach.

3. Record Nr.	UNINA9910973716103321
Titolo	Sustainable agriculture and the environment in the humid tropics // Committee on Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment in the Humid Tropics, Board on Agriculture and Board on Science and Technology for International Development, National Research Council
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academy Press, 1993
ISBN	9786610211616 9781280211614 128021161X 9780309588409 0309588405 9780585037394 0585037396
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (720 p.)
Disciplina	333.76/15/0913
Soggetti	Agricultural systems - Tropics Sustainable agriculture - Tropics Land use, Rural - Tropics Agricultural ecology - Tropics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment in the HUMID TROPICS -- Copyright -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- Executive Summary -- FINDINGS -- LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT: A GLOBAL REQUIREMENT -- THE HUMID TROPICS -- Forest Conversion -- CAUSES OF FOREST CONVERSION -- CONSEQUENCES OF FOREST CONVERSION -- Agriculture in the Humid Tropics -- Adopting an Integrated Approach to Land Use -- SUSTAINABLE LAND USE OPTIONS -- RECOMMENDATIONS -- Technical Research Needs -- DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE SYSTEMS -- INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE -- MONITORING -- Policy Strategies -- POLICY REVIEWS -- GLOBAL EQUITY -- Supporting Sustainable Agriculture -- CREATION OF AN

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Protection of Soils -- Stabilization of Hydrological Systems -- Water
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Tree Crop Development.

Sommario/riassunto

Rain forests are rapidly being cleared in the humid tropics to keep pace with food demands, economic needs, and population growth. Without proper management, these forests and other natural resources will be seriously depleted within the next 50 years. Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment in the Humid Tropics provides critically needed direction for developing strategies that both mitigate land degradation, deforestation, and biological resource losses and help the economic status of tropical countries through promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. The book includes A practical discussion of 12 major land use options for boosting food production and enhancing local economies while protecting the natural resource base. Recommendations for developing technologies needed for sustainable agriculture. A strategy for changing policies that discourage conserving and managing natural resources and biodiversity. Detailed reports on agriculture and deforestation in seven tropical countries.
