

Promoters of local adaptation governance: formal and informal cooperation in actor networks

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1. **Research context** and research objectives
2. **Methodology** of a participative actor network analysis
3. Renewable **energy network Wolfhagen**
 - Promoters and supporters within sectoral governance
 - Promoters and supporters within multi-level-governance
4. **Conclusions** on local adaptation governance innovations

Research context and objectives

Research program KLIMZUG: climate change in regions

- > **Governance innovations** are needed for regional adaptation to climate change
- > **five research networks** on adaptation governance with multiple sectors (health, forestry, water management, energy supply, agriculture, urban development, mobility, tourism)
- > **KLIMZUG-Northern Hesse**: a cooperation of Kassel University, regional management and seven administrative districts (funding period 2008-2013)
- > Subproject "**Participation, Acceptance and Regional Governance**", department of political science at Kassel University (Christoph Görg, Sybille Bauriedl, Stefanie Baasch)

Research question:

*Who are the **promoters, supporters, opponents** of adaptation strategies for different policy fields?*

- > *Who defines the regional vulnerability, adaptation capacity and adaptation afford?*
- > *Who formulates the road to a sustainable adapted regional development?*
- > *Who evaluates and adjusts the adaptation process?*

systematic methodology to analyse the typology of local adaptation governance?

Methodology of Participative Network Analysis (PNA)

Objective

Description of horizontal cooperation and vertical coordination of local climate change governance: governance modes, regulation patterns, innovative combinations of informal and formal relations

Method

Participative-qualitative approach:

semi-structured dialogues with central climate policy actors at the local level

- (1) identification of all relevant actors of the network
- (2) identification of actor relations
- (3) qualification of the actor roles within the network
- (4) qualification of the interaction modes
- (5) identification of specific interaction to solve mitigation or adaptation conflicts
- (6) identification of the influence of vertical coordination and regulation

Case study of renewable energy network Wolfhagen

Regional land use conflicts

- renewable energy constructions (wind power) in conflict with environmental protection (birds), health protection (noise, shadow) and landscape protection (for tourism, recreation)
- electricity grid expansion to conduct wind power energy from north to south of Germany in conflict with landscape protection (esp. in renewable energy regions)



- average mountain regions
- 14.000 inhabitants
- 2006: re-municipalization of the electricity network
- 2015: energy production with five wind power plants
- 2030-goal: 100% renewable energy production / supply



Renewable Energy Network in Wolfhagen (Northern Hess, Germany): Promoters and supporters

Actor groups:

Administration

Economy

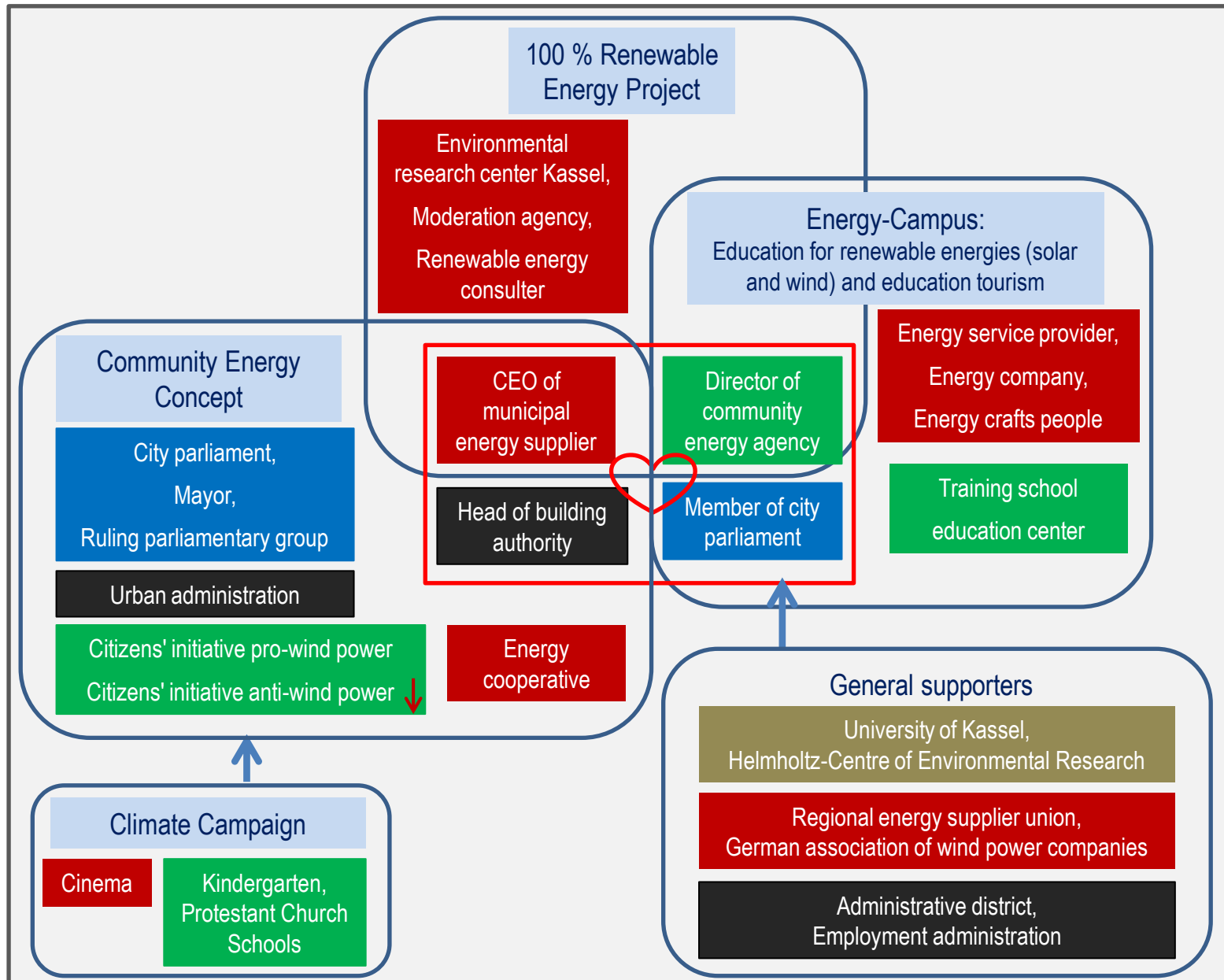
Civil society

Policy

Science

Inner cycle group
of promoters

Sub groups of
supporters



Climate change governance and policy integration in Wolfhagen

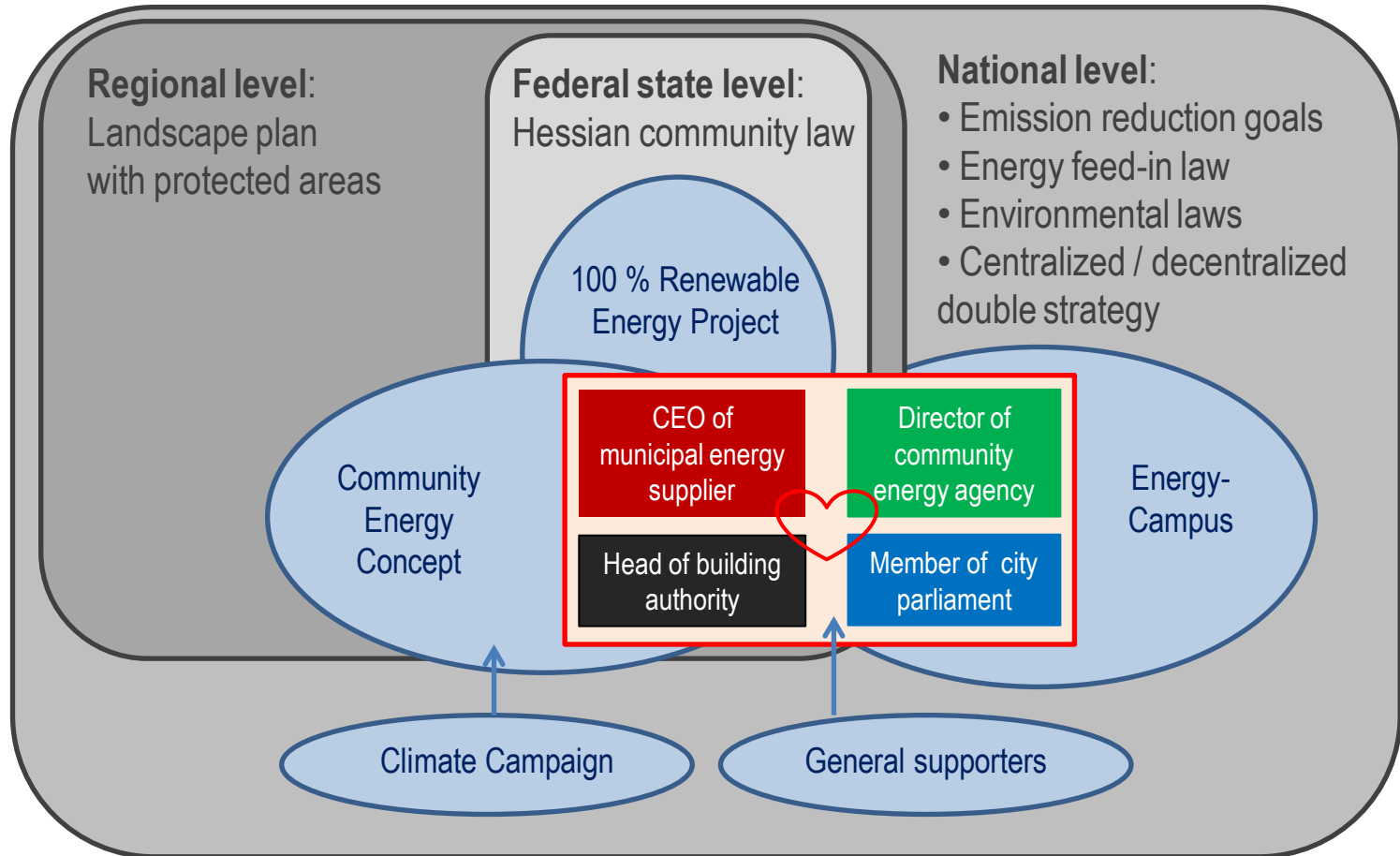
Governance modes

- Mitigation / adaptation activities are initiated by an inner circle group of four promoters (= individuals with face-to-face relationships).
- The inner circle group represents a governance formation of four different actor groups.
- Sub action groups represent a cooperation of different actor groups, too.
- Promoters are institutionalized, supporters are mainly institutionalized, too.
- new actors of local energy governance: real estate and house owners, regional financial service providers, crafts people, scientists of regional research centers

Aims of the renewable energy network

- Education / knowledge production on climate change, mitigation, adaptation
- Increasing local economic potentials: regional value creation, local image as model region for renewable energy
- Governance innovations of local polity
- Local acceptance for renewable energy and sustainable regional development
- Environmental protection: global climate mitigation, local ecosystems

Actors of the Renewable Energy Network Wolfhagen within multi-level-governance



Conclusions on adaptation governance innovations

Regional governance is needed for a transformation of the energy system
-> linked to socio-ecological transformation

Adaptation governance in energy sector is deeply linked to mitigation governance
-> mitigation as main adaptation measure

Regional climate governance is framed by multi-level climate governance
-> not every municipality chooses the same way but they are all framed by EU, national and federal state laws

Climate change governance within the energy sector has a strong shadow of hierarchy
> no 100% renewable energy initiative without national support (e.g. feed-in law)

Regional climate governance must be linked to energy discourse and sustainability discourse
-> post-Fukushima energy policy (e.g. shutdown of eight nuclear power plants in June 2011)

Research needed on:

Sectoral governance of adaptation within multi-level governance of climate policy
and regional policy of integrative sustainable development

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Regional network for climate change adaptation Northern Hess:

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Research program „climate change in the regions“

www.klimzug.de

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