

Urban Governance and Climate Change

How can geo-ICT be used by municipal governments and cadastral organisations to contribute to sustainable urban governance? Based on a review of recent literature and initiatives for registering heat efficiency of houses, heat-loss mapping and the Solar Atlas Berlin, the authors argue that geo-ICT and land administration organisations are vital for sustainable urban governance to assure the integrated sustainability of the policies used to tackle global, national and local environmental issues.

While efforts to avert serious climate change seem to have run out of steam, it has become visibly apparent that the effects of climate change on a global scale can no longer be reverted or even controlled. This has been widely recognised in the wake of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences in Copenhagen (Denmark) in December 2009 and in Cancun (Mexico) in November 2010; the human race must accept climate change and learn to live with it as best it can. Following the Copenhagen accord, it was proposed that by 2020 rich countries should be donating USD100 billion per year to poor countries for investment into climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation strategies in equal measure. In addition to their cash, rich countries are also expected to share their knowledge and experience regarding sustainable urban governance policies and practices, including flood defence, zoning and spatial planning laws as well as land development plans and technological know-how for implementing them effectively.

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