



Citi-sense WP5:

Participation and Empowerment

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Articles and Publications.

Citizen participation and technology.

The recent, rapid rise in the use of digital technology is changing relationships between citizens, organizations and public institutions, and expanding political participation. But while technology has the potential to amplify citizens' voices, it must be accompanied by clear political goals and other factors to increase their clout.

Those are among the conclusions of a new NDI study, "Citizen Participation and Technology," that examines the role digital technologies – such as social media, interactive websites and SMS systems – play in increasing citizen participation and fostering accountability in government. The study was driven by the recognition that better insights are needed into the relationship between new technologies, citizen participation programs and the outcomes they aim to achieve. What do you think?

<http://thegovlab.org/citizen-participation-and-technology/>

Making cities smarter through citizen engagement.

Policy makers and technology experts at the World Cities Summit 2014 agreed that while technology is a powerful tool to help improve urban infrastructure, citizen engagement is essential to make cities truly sustainable and liveable.

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/making-cities-smarter-citizen-engagement/>

Citizen participation in global environmental governance.

<http://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/10475030>

The End of Sustainability. Melinda Harm Benson and Robin K. Craig.

The time has come for us to collectively reexamine — and ultimately move past — the concept of sustainability. The continued invocation of sustainability in policy discussions ignores the emerging realities of the Anthropocene, which is creating a world characterized by extreme complexity, radical uncertainty and unprecedented change. From a policy perspective, we must face the impossibility of even defining — let alone pursuing — a goal of "sustainability" in such a world. It's not that sustainability is a bad idea. The question is whether the concept of sustainability is still useful as an environmental governance framework.

<http://globe-net.com/end-sustainability/>

Transparency in Global Environmental Governance. Aarti Gupta and Michael Mason.

Transparency—openness, secured through greater availability of information—is increasingly seen as part of the solution to a complex array of economic, political, and ethical problems in an interconnected world. The "transparency turn" in global environmental governance in particular is seen in a range of international agreements, voluntary disclosure initiatives, and public-private partnerships. This is the first book to investigate whether transparency in global environmental governance is in fact a broadly transformative force or plays a more limited, instrumental role.

https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/transparency-global-environmental-governance?utm_content=buffer6987e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer



Experiences.

Scaling Up Sensor-Based Smart Cities Proves Difficult. Tod Newcombe.

Can we trust smart cities? In part two of our Digital Communities quarterly report, we look at the hardships in finding a working business model to justify a sensor-based project, as showing they can cut costs and impact a city's budget can be tough.

<http://www.govtech.com/data/Scaling-Up-Sensor-Based-Smart-Cities-Proves-Difficult.html>