

2. Green space policy mechanisms

As cities grapple with the impacts of heatwaves, exacerbated by the urban heat island effect and progressively amplified by climate change impacts, green spaces can cool urban areas, as well as providing many other functions and benefits to city dwellers' health and wellbeing.

Public policies can contribute to retaining and maximising urban green spaces. Policy mechanisms are categorised into four different types, associated with different actions and areas of focus.

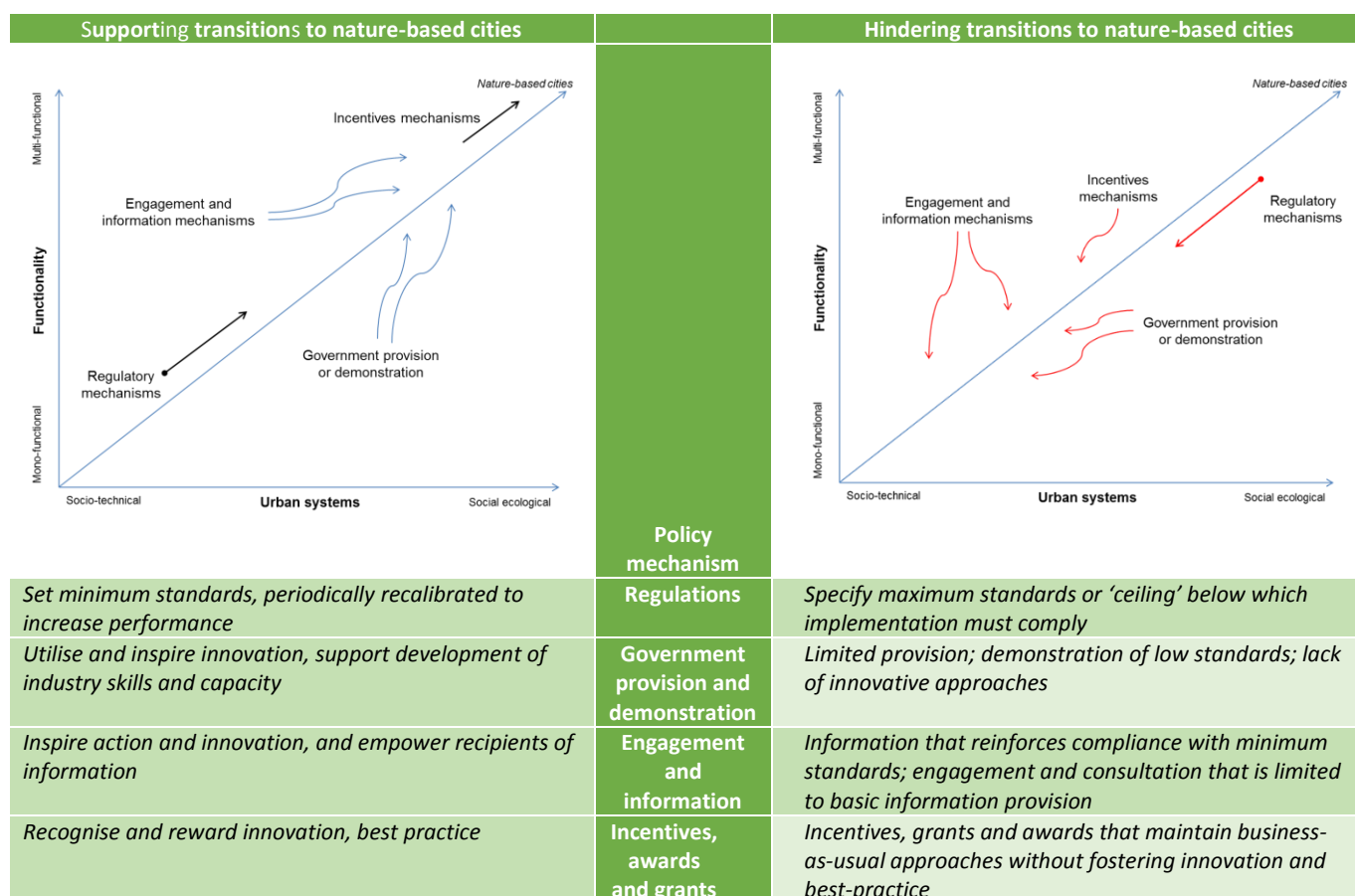
	Government provision and demonstration	Information and engagement	Incentives and awards	Regulation
<i>focus</i>	• build a shared vision • develop and demonstrate new approaches and techniques • provide public services • prioritise inequities and vulnerabilities	• build a shared vision and sense of shared custodianship • build skills and capacity • build and maintain political support	• foster ambition and innovation • encourage and support best practice	• define baseline • enforce minimum standards • require compliance
<i>examples</i>	• Install and maintain green space in public spaces • Create parks from street closures or realignment • Opportunistic public works (utilities/easements management) • Water sensitive urban designs integrated with street tree plantings • Install greenery innovation (green roofs) on government-owned buildings	• Research and implementation partnerships: universities, peak bodies • Community information, engagement, participation, including community plantings, citizen science, participatory planning and decision making on green space design and implementation • Guidelines, toolkits, seminars, green roof tours: urban greening; green roofs, etc.	• Planning process incentives: ◦ increased floor area ratios with increased green space provision ◦ 'green door' fast tracking of approvals for those which incorporate urban greenery features (e.g. green roofs, walls, open space, etc.) ◦ Waiving planning fees ◦ Exempt certain works related to urban green space • Stormwater fee discount with increased pervious surfaces • Grants, rebates, financing for urban greenery installations • Awards and prizes	• Developer contributions (financial or land) for public open space • Regulations, mandated for particular types of development, using Green Star model (Green Star Communities rating tool; ENV 3 UHI) • Planning scheme overlays for 'hot spots' (based on temperature data): require specific heat mitigation treatments for private development • Protection for significant trees, including heritage listed trees • Protection of public trees: bond systems, penalties for damage

Cooling cities with green space: policy perspectives

The four types of policy mechanisms address different intervention challenges and opportunities, as well as focusing on different stages in uptake and adoption of new approaches to green space implementation.

Incorporating different policy mechanisms can potentially more effectively address the range of implementation challenges and obstacles.

The curved lines symbolise the flexibility and potential responsiveness of the application of government provision and of engagement and information, while the straight lines reflect the relative rigidity of defined regulations and incentives programs.



Further information

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References and sources

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