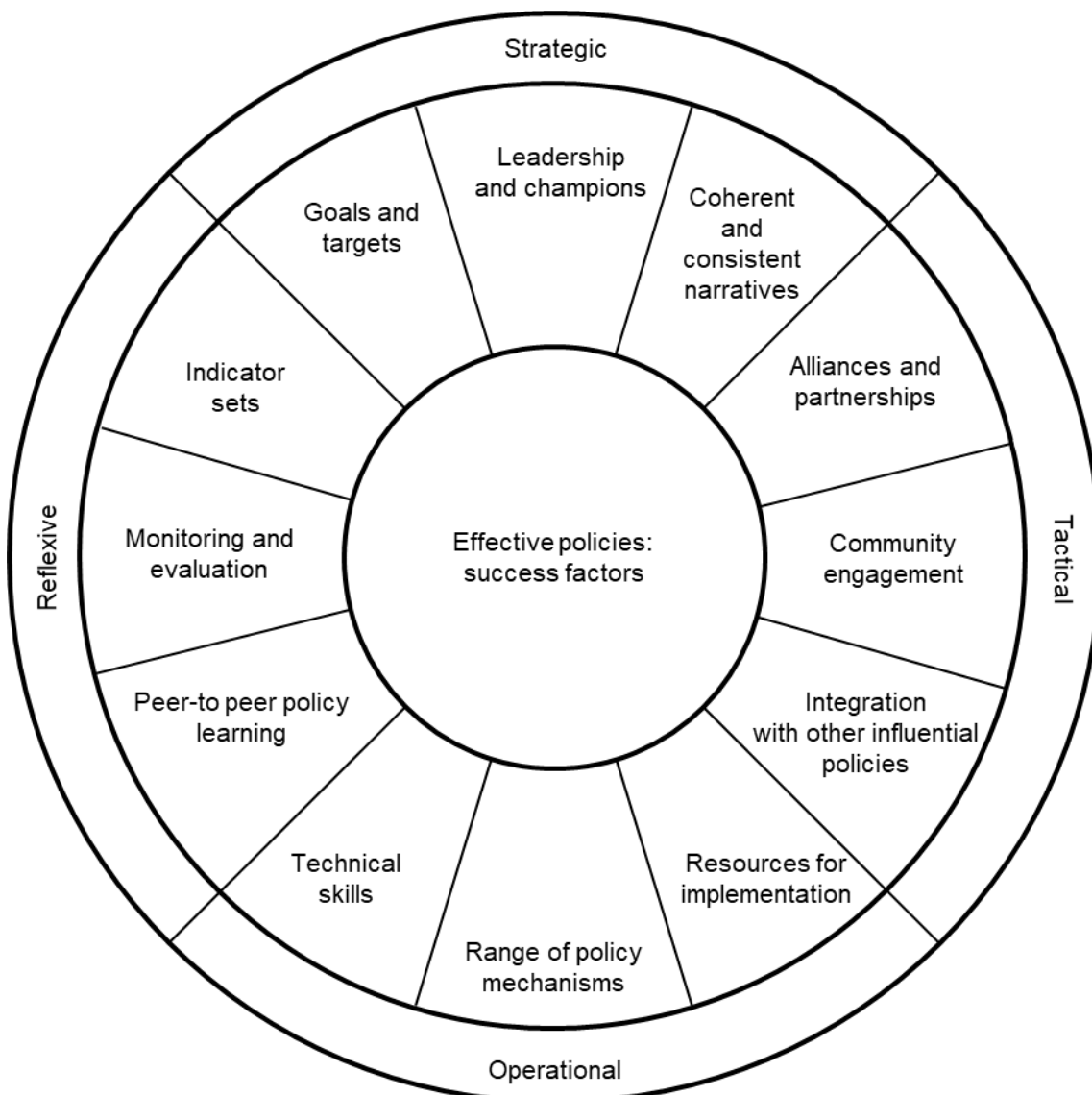


3. Green space policy success factors

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.

In a study of green space policies in Melbourne and in London, policy success – developing, endorsing and implementing policies that effectively contribute to urban green space provision – differs across jurisdictions and between cities, but common factors were identified. Conversely, the lack of these factors contributed to less effective implementation. These success factors include both organisational and individual policy maker's characteristics.

The success factors are categorised across four dimensions associated with the different processes, structures and areas of focus associated with policy making: *strategic* (leadership, vision), *tactical* (alliances and networks), *organisational* (implementation) and *reflexive* (monitoring and evaluation).



Within the **strategic** dimension, green space policy champions, both at executive levels and throughout the organisation, underpin decision making. Explicit targets and goals (e.g. tree canopy, open space or permeability targets) focus and drive activity. Narratives that span and include green spaces' diverse and multifunctional roles (e.g. 'cooling and greening our city') promote and explain strategic objectives.

As part of **tactical** approaches, developing partnerships and networks is an important element of policy work, actively contributing to policy success. Community engagement and information, particularly interactive or participatory approaches, including citizen science programs can create new connections with place, and new stories of the importance of urban green spaces, trees and biodiversity in people's lives. Community engagement also builds and reinforces ongoing political support for green space policies. Integration with other influential policy domains including land use planning and transport strengthens green space policies.

Operational elements include translating the strategic goals and targets into ongoing budget allocations for implementation and maintenance; developing policies that include a range of different mechanisms or settings (regulation, incentives, guidelines); and building high levels of technical skills to maintain healthy and resilient urban green spaces (supported by technical and procurement guidelines, and best practice toolkits).

Reflexive factors are focused on monitoring and evaluation for ongoing learning, policy development and implementation improvements. As part of this, building meaningful indicator sets, to ensure useful and targeted data collection and analysis is essential.

Further information

Judy Bush,
Thrive Research, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne
judy.bush@unimelb.edu.au

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The four dimensions together reinforce the value of integrated policy approaches that operate at a range of levels from *strategic* long term goals and visions, to short term *operational* resources for implementation.

