

## **U.S. Interlocal Energy Collaboration on Energy Efficiency, Sustainability and Climate Protection\***

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### **Abstract**

What factors facilitate interlocal energy collaboration? To what extent does collaboration through interlocal contractual mechanisms differ from that arising through collective mechanisms? This research attempts to answer these questions by examining the priorities of city governments with respect to energy-related issues as well as other institutional collective action (ICA) explanatory factors. Research data are drawn mainly from the 2010 national survey “implementation of energy efficiency and sustainability program” conducted by Florida State University.

The research findings indicate that cities’ emphasis on common pool resources, economies of scales, and externality issues significantly affects individual choices of energy

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collaboration tools. When anticipated transaction costs are extremely high or low, informal contractual mechanisms are more likely to be employed to preserve local autonomy and flexibility; in other cases, written and formal tools for collaboration are the preferred means of imposing constraints on individual behavior and reducing the risks of defection.

**Key Words:** Interlocal energy collaboration, institutional collective action dilemmas, energy efficiency, sustainability, climate protection