

Chapter 74

Sustainability Strategies and Projects of Turkish Municipalities

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ABSTRACT

Municipalities have variety of tools for improving environmental sustainability. The effects of climate change increase the renewable projects developed by municipalities and public private sectors. Turkish municipalities practiced the early steps of sustainability projects, some of which were small-scale projects. In addition, Turkish municipalities have gained experience in LA 21 Process since the late 1990s. Some of the city models for sustainability, such as CittaSlow and healthy city projects developed by Turkish Municipalities. The work in this chapter represents research about variety of issues for environment and sustainability in Turkish Municipalities. Visions, strategies and projects of these municipalities have been analysed to attain this goal. A literature review and SWOT analysis were used for the methodology to determine the Turkish municipalities' potential for sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the awareness of environmental issues is spreading out to many countries. These multi-disciplinary issues have global and local backgrounds. Some of the local environmental projects have become models for other countries. International organizations like ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) help the proliferation of this type of successful practices carried out by various countries to become widespread. Municipalities have a wide range of issues, such as urban planning, social responses, participation strategies, infrastructure, health, cultural services, and transportation. Many of these issues are also related to the environment. Sustainability and environmental problems are now playing a vital role in political visions of the countries. The collaborative participation policies for environmental issues are related to ecosystem management and environmental policy. "There has been a relatively recent push in the environmental policy community to decentralize the management

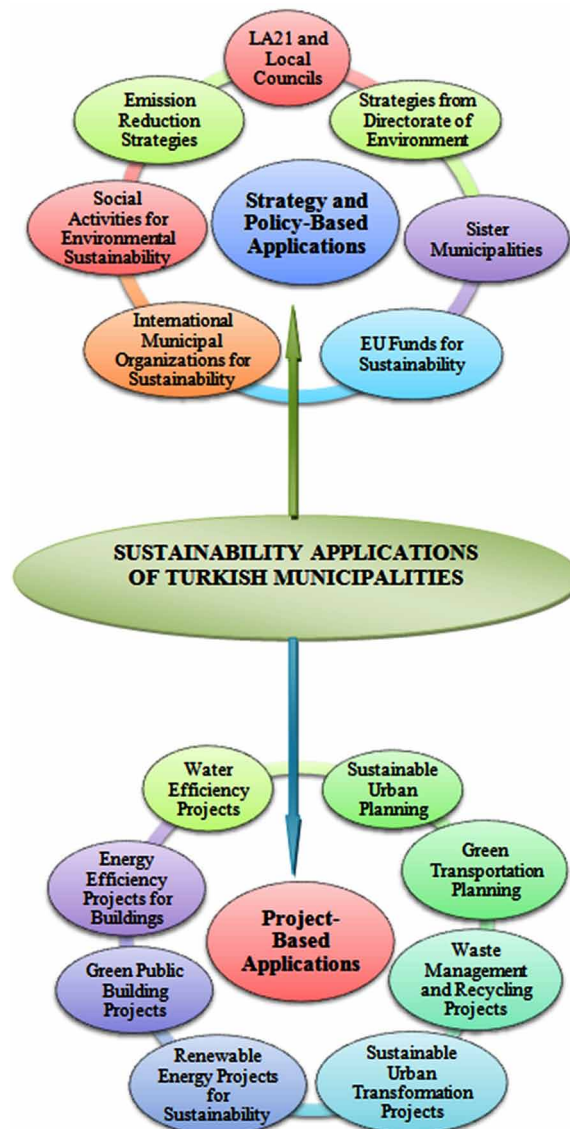
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of resources and encourage stakeholder collaboration through ecosystem-management approaches” (Campbell & Corley, 2012). The application area of these political decisions is found in municipalities. Therefore, municipalities worldwide create innovative projects and models for the environment.

The main areas of sustainability approaches of Turkish Municipalities can be divided into two parts. These are strategy and policy-based applications and project-based applications as shown in Figure 1.

In Figure 1, the tools for strategy and policy-based applications are LA 21 and Local Councils, strategies from Directorate of Environment, Sister Municipalities, EU Funds for sustainability, International Municipal Organizations for sustainability, social activities for environmental sustainability, and emission reduction strategies. The tools for project-based applications are sustainable urban planning, green transportation planning, waste management and recycling projects, sustainable urban transformation projects, renewable energy projects for sustainability, green public building projects, energy efficiency projects for buildings, and water efficiency projects.

Figure 1. Sustainability applications of Turkish municipalities



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