



UCLG ASPAC POLICY BRIEF

*Insights and Analysis on Local
Governance in Asia-Pacific*

“

*Policy Recommendations to Enhance Vertical
Integration of Low Carbon and Climate Resilient
Development Policies in the City of Padang*



POLICY BRIEF
NO 001/Aug 2024



This policy brief is a product of the Urban Act Project Team of the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC). The views and opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect those of UCLG ASPAC or the UCLG ASPAC Members.

© Copyright United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) 2024.
All rights reserved.

Correspondences:

Agung Zulhatta. Research and Learning Officer, UCLG ASPAC
agung.zulhatta@uclg-aspac.org

Widyawati
Political Science, Bakrie University
Research and Policy Intern, UCLG ASPAC

Muhammad Fathan Aldian
International Relations, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta
Project and Programme Intern, UCLG ASPAC

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to the various parties that contributed to this policy brief. We appreciate the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) for financial and technical support, which has been instrumental in executing this project. We are also grateful to the Urban Act Project Team at UCLG ASPAC for their efforts in developing and collecting relevant data through Focus group discussion (FGD), interviews, and expert consultations. Special appreciation to all stakeholders in Indonesia and other countries who provided insight and information in the Assessment of the City Enabling Environment on Environmental and Climate Governance (CEE-ECG) 2024. We also appreciate the academics and researchers who have contributed literature and knowledge on vertical integration in low-carbon and climate-resilient development. Our deepest thanks to local partners, NGOs, and communities who have provided support and cooperation during the research process. Lastly, all individuals have made significant contributions to the success of this policy brief.

Policy Recommendations to Enhance Vertical Integration of Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development Policies in the City of Padang

- In the last decade, Padang City has experienced 14.6% more natural disasters triggered by climate change impacts, such as floods and landslides [1] [2].
- Climate change has increased the average temperature in Padang City by 0.43°C per year [3].
- Padang City has experienced an increasing average temperature of 3.9°C from 2014 until 2023A [3].
- According to an assessment from City Enabling Environment on Environmental and Climate Governance (CEECEG) 2024, there is still a gap in transparency between the regions, research capacity, and local incentive (score 2.29 from 4 points).
- The result from CEECEG 2024 shows that monitoring unit has not yet been established to control adaptation and mitigation in climate change and there is currently no mobilization forum for climate action on regional levels (Score 2.49 from 4).
- The integration planning in the local region needs to be more integrated (RPJPD 2005-2025 & RPJMD 2019-2024) with Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Development Policy (PRKBI).

Key Messages

National climate policy may be integrated into the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) by coordinating with relevant ministries and preparing the guidelines.

Padang local government may establish a specialized unit or institution focusing on climate change and low carbon to ensure better coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of climate actions.

The Regional Development Planning Agency (BAPPEDA) of Padang may establish a framework consisting of indicators, goals, and outcomes on low carbon and climate resilience to guide planning and implementation.

To improve transparency and accessibility of information, even at the city level, it is necessary to maximize the development and use of databases or websites that include data collection, supervision, and monitoring of low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

Developing a database or website that collects, controls, and monitors data would increase transparency and accessibility to information at the city level.

Strong coordination between institutions is needed for developing indicators and goals in climate change and low-carbon policy.

Overview

Climate change has become a global challenge that has affected various aspects of life, including at the local level, such as in the city of Padang. As a coastal city in Indonesia, Padang is highly vulnerable to climate change's impacts, such as sea-level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storms, and changes in rainfall patterns that can cause floods and landslides [4]. These challenges not only impact the environment but also affect the economy, health, and social welfare.

What's the Issue?

Low carbon and climate-resilient policies are one of the national priorities crucial for environmental sustainability and improving the quality of life for the community. However, the vertical integration of these policies in the city of Padang faces various challenges in implementation [5]. The problems include differences in priorities between national and regional levels, lack of related priority programs, budget allocation limitations, and lack of literacy and knowledge about low carbon and climate-resilient development (PRKBI). This policy brief provides several steps for the government of Padang to enhance the effectiveness of the integration process of low-carbon and climate-resilient development. Padang faces significant challenges in reducing carbon emissions and increasing resilience to climate change. These challenges include a need for coordination between national and local policies, limited capacity and resources at the regional level, and resistance to change at the local government level. As a result, adopted policies often fail to translate into concrete actions, hampering Padang's efforts to achieve carbon emission reduction and climate resilience targets.

Why is this Important?

Vertical policy integration is crucial to improving the effectiveness of low-carbon and climate-resilient development implementation in Padang, given the complexity and multi-layered nature of vertical integration. Vertical policy integration can balance the responsiveness and effectiveness of a policy by ensuring that policy implementers provide significant feedback on practical impacts, costs, and administrative contexts, thus improving policy design and reducing the need for future modifications [6]. Effective local-level policies will not only help mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on the community and environment but also improve the quality of life for Padang residents through more sustainable and inclusive development. Additionally, Padang's success in integrating these policies can serve as a best practice for other cities in Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific region, strengthening regional commitment to addressing climate change.

This policy brief emphasizes the importance of effective vertical integration, mostly in formulating low-carbon and climate resilience development policies. This will enable the city of Padang to address the challenges of climate change and significantly contribute to national and global sustainable development goals.

Policy Options

Padang City faces challenges in integrating low-carbon and climate-resilient development policies from the national to the local level. Although the national government has shown its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing climate resilience, local implementation is often hindered by various factors such as ineffective coordination, limited capacity and resources, and differing priorities between the national and local governments. Therefore, strategic measures are needed to ensure these policies can be effectively implemented in Padang [7], [8]. Here are some proposed policy options to enhance the effectiveness of the vertical integration process of low-carbon and climate-resilient development policies in Padang:

Option 1: Policy Alignment and Planning Documents

Align national policies with local policies through intensive coordination and the preparation of technical guidelines to ensure that low-carbon and climate-resilient development targets are integrated into Padang's Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (RPJMD).

Main Advantage: Reduce policy overlap and enhance implementation efficiency.

Potential Disadvantage: Requires intensive coordination between central and local governments.

Costs and/or Feasibility of Implementation: It requires significant time and resources but can be achieved through workshops and regular coordination meetings.

Responsible Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Home Affairs, BAPPENAS, Padang City Government, BAPPEDA.

Obstacle to Implementation: Complex bureaucracy and resistance to change.

Strategies for Implementation: Establish a joint national-local task force team to streamline coordination and develop comprehensive technical guidance.

Option 2: Establish a Special Commission/Agency for Climate Change Monitoring

Establish a unit or commission/agency at the city level focused on monitoring, coordinating, and evaluating climate change and low-carbon policies.

Main Advantage: Ensure better coordination and monitoring of climate action at the local level.

Potential Disadvantage: Potential bureaucratic resistance and added administrative burden.

Costs and/or Feasibility of Implementation: High feasibility with political support and an adequate budget allocation.

Responsible Stakeholders: Padang City Government, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Obstacle to Implementation: Potential bureaucratic resistance and additional administrative burden.

Strategies for Implementation: Conduct advocacy and dissemination to gain political and public support and ensure adequate budget allocation.

Option 3: Development of Low Carbon and Climate Resilience Data Centre

Establish a data center or website encompassing data collection, supervision, and monitoring related to climate change and low-carbon initiatives.

Main Advantage: Increase transparency and accessibility of climate information, facilitating policy evaluation and adjustment.

Potential Disadvantage: Requires initial investment for system development and human resource training.

Costs and/or Feasibility of Implementation: High feasibility with technological support and grant funding.

Responsible Stakeholders: Padang City Government, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, local and international NGOs.

Obstacle to Implementation: Lack of technological infrastructure and resistance to data transparency. Barriers to national and local coordination and limited budget, human resources, and infrastructure.

Strategies for Implementation: Organize training to improve technological literacy, collaborate with the technology sector for system development, and conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of data transparency.

Option 4: Coordinate with Relevant Ministries/Institutions

Consult with the Ministry of Home Affairs, BAPPENAS, and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to ensure that climate policies at the national level are adopted in regional planning documents.

Main Advantage: Align objectives and indicators between national and sub-national (including provincial and city) levels, strengthening vertical integration of climate policies.

Potential Disadvantage: Potential conflicts of interest between different government agencies.

Costs and/or Feasibility of Implementation: Feasibility is high if supported by a shared commitment and a clear framework.

Responsible Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Padang City Government, BAPPEDA.

Obstacle to Implementation: Potential conflicts of interest between different government agencies.

Strategies for Implementation: Establish a clear and structured coordination mechanism and develop a mutually agreed-upon collaborative framework. Establish standards for data management, responsibilities for decision-making, guidelines, and standards to ensure data quality.

Option 5: Prepare Technical Guidelines

Develop technical guidance for local governments to incorporate climate change aspects into the Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (RPJMD)

Main Advantage: Provide clear direction for local governments to integrate climate policy into RPJMD.

Potential Disadvantage: Requires time and expertise to develop comprehensive guidelines.

Costs and/or Feasibility of Implementation: Feasibility is high with support from relevant experts and institutions.

Responsible Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Padang City Government, BAPPEDA.

Obstacle to Implementation: Requires time and expertise to develop comprehensive guidelines.

Strategies for Implementation: Develop the guidelines with experts from various fields and conduct public consultations to ensure that they meet local needs.

Further Important Considerations

Several important considerations need to be addressed to enhance the effectiveness of integrating low-carbon and climate-resilient development policies in Padang City. These key considerations aim to maximize efforts to improve the effectiveness of the vertical integration process of low-carbon and climate-resilient development policies in Padang City. These considerations are related to the findings and recommendations outlined in this Policy Brief and are aligned with the conditions and challenges Padang City faces.

Inclusive and Participatory Approach: Effective policy implementation requires an inclusive approach involving all stakeholders, including the community, private sector, and civil society organizations. Active participation from various parties will ensure that the policies implemented are relevant and acceptable. This approach shall also ensure the involvement of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities.

Capacity and Competence Building: Enhancing the capacity of human resources at the local level is crucial to support effective policy implementation. Training programs and technical assistance might be continuously provided to improve the knowledge and skills of local government employees in managing low-carbon and climate-resilient programs. Specifically, training can cover aspects of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) to ensure that all policies and programs consider and accommodate the needs of all community groups.

Funding and Resources: Sustainable funding is a crucial factor in the successful implementation of policies. Establishing a special commission or agency for climate change monitoring requires a sufficient budget for operations and staff training. Similarly, developing a dedicated data center for climate resilience and low-carbon initiatives requires significant investment in infrastructure and human resource training. Padang City can seek alternative funding sources, including grants from international organizations and partnerships with the private sector. Diversifying funding sources will help reduce dependency on a single source and ensure program sustainability. Funding will also be allocated to support initiatives that strengthen social inclusion and gender mainstreaming.

4

Outreach/Dissemination and Training: Enhancing human resource capacity through outreach and training is crucial for all policy options. Effective outreach can improve understanding and support from various stakeholders for the adopted policies. Continuous training will ensure that the involved staff have the necessary competencies to perform their tasks effectively.

5

Inter-agency Coordination: Effective coordination among government agencies at various levels is crucial to implement policies synergistically. Establishing a coordination forum involving all stakeholders, from national to local levels, can help overcome coordination barriers and ensure alignment of policies and programs. This forum can also serve as a platform for sharing information and best practices, as well as discussing challenges and solutions.

6

Infrastructure and Technology: The utilization of information and communication technology (ICT) can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of data collection, monitoring, and reporting. For the development of a data center, it is crucial to ensure the availability of adequate infrastructure and the use of appropriate technology. Clear data standards shall be established to ensure the quality and consistency of managed data. Implementing advanced ICT will also improve data collection, processing, and analysis efficiency and effectiveness.

7

Commitment and Political Support: The success of implementing both policy options heavily relies on the commitment and political support from all involved parties. The City Government of Padang needs to demonstrate a strong commitment to executing these policies and gain support from other stakeholders. Strong political support will ensure these policies are prioritized in regional planning and budgeting.

8

Monitoring and Evaluation: A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system shall be implemented to measure the progress of policy implementation and identify areas needing improvement. Accurate and integrated data will aid in evidence-based decision-making and enhance local government accountability. Monitoring and evaluation may also include GEDSI (Gender et al.) indicators to ensure that the impact of policies on various community groups can be measured and addressed.

9

Adaptation to Change: Low-carbon and climate-resilient development policies have to be flexible and able to adapt to changing environmental and social conditions. The local government needs to periodically review and adjust policies to the latest developments and community needs. This adaptation need also includes responses to social and economic dynamics affecting vulnerable groups, ensuring that they are included in development efforts.

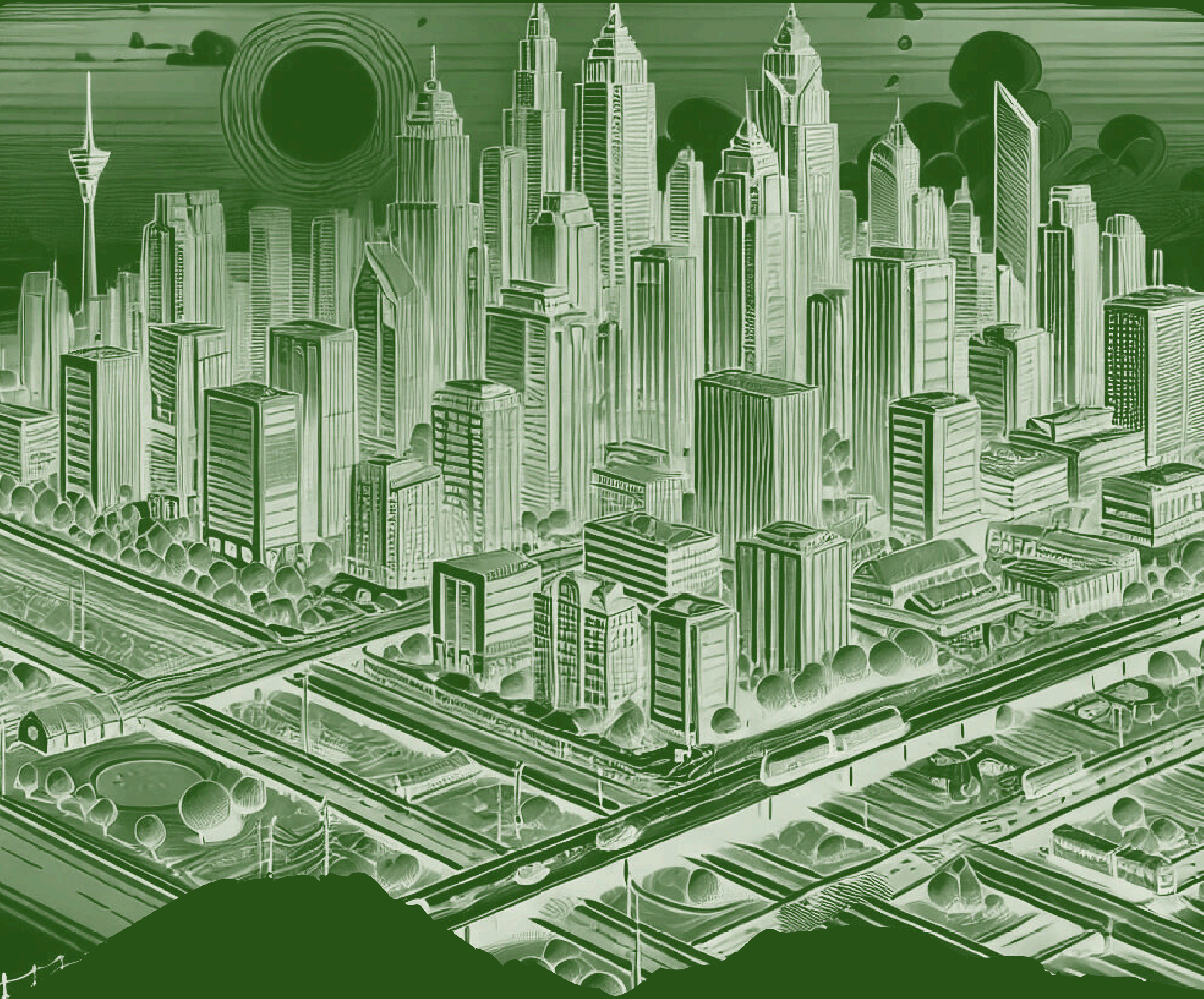
Considering these aspects, the low-carbon and climate-resilient development policies in the City of Padang are expected to be implemented more effectively, providing significant benefits to the environment and society and contributing to national and global sustainable development goals. Integrating GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) principles will ensure that the resulting policies and programs are fair, inclusive, and sustainable.

Key Next Steps

To enhance the effectiveness of the vertical integration of low-carbon and climate-resilient development policies in Padang City, the following steps need to be taken: **First**, establish a **coordination team among stakeholders** to oversee the policy integration process and ensure effective communication between central and local governments. **Second**, conduct a **policy audit** to identify gaps and areas that need alignment, and develop short-term and long-term action plans for more effective policy implementation. **Third**, holding **training sessions and workshops** to build the capacity of local governments and other stakeholders, enabling them to implement existing policies more effectively. **Fourth**, involving the **community and business sector in the policy formulation and implementation process** through participatory forums ensures that the adopted policies receive support and active participation from all parties involved.

References

- [1] Pusdalop BP Sumbar, “Infografis Kejadia Bencana Provinsi Sumbar,” 2022. [Online]. Available: https://ppid.sumbarprov.go.id/images/2023/09/file/2__DOKUMEN_KRB_PROVINSI_SUMBAR.pdf
- [2] BPS Kota Padang, “Banyaknya Bencana Alam (kejadian) 2017-2022,” Padang, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://padangkota.bps.go.id/indicator/160/675/1/banyaknya-bencana-alam.html>
- [3] BPS Kota Padang, “Suhu Udara Kota Padang 2014-2023,” Padang, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://padangkota.bps.go.id/indicator/153/371/1/suhu-udara.html>
- [4] M. Hereher et al., “Assessment of the coastal vulnerability to sea level rise: Sultanate of Oman,” *Environ Earth Sci*, vol. 79, no. 15, p. 369, 2020, doi: 10.1007/s12665-020-09113-0.
- [5] UNESCAP, “Vertical Integration of Climate Change Policies and Actions In Asia-Pacific Cities,” 2020. Accessed: Jul. 18, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://www.unescap.org/resources/vertical-integration-climate-change-policies-and-actions-asia-pacific-cities>
- [6] C. Knill, C. Steinbacher, and Y. Steinebach, “Sustaining statehood: A comparative analysis of vertical policy-process integration in Denmark and Italy,” *Public Adm*, vol. 99, no. 4, pp. 758–774, Dec. 2021, doi: 10.1111/padm.12705.
- [7] “Congress of the Philippines Metro Manila Republic ACT NO. 9729 An Act Mainstreaming Climate Change into Government Policy Formulations, Establishing the Framework Strategy And Program On Climate Change, Creating For This Purpose The Climate Change Commission, and For Other Purposes,” 2009.
- [8] M. Salvador and D. Sancho, “The role of local government in the drive for sustainable development public policies. An analytical framework based on institutional capacities,” *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, vol. 13, no. 11, Jun. 2021, doi: 10.3390/su13115978.



The United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) Secretariat
Jakarta Capital City Government Office (City Hall of Jakarta)
Building H, 21st Floor Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan No. 8-9
Central Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

Phone: +62 21 389 01 801
Member Services WhatsApp: +62 811 8047 002
Fax: +62 21 389 01 802