

Strategies for Low-Carbon Green Growth and Urban Management in Korea

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ABSTRACT. National policies and strategies for low-carbon green growth in Korea are reviewed in this study. Providing standards and guidelines for urban comprehensive planning and management plans is necessary so that the series of plans can deal with possible effects from climate changes. Urban planning guidelines for management and improvements to achieve low carbon green growth were set up and implemented, focusing on institutional and regulatory foundations. These deal with climate change influences on urban planning, reduction of green house gas emissions and elevation of energy efficiency based on plans of land use units. In the case of Seoul city, transit-oriented compact development, public transportation-oriented structure, green space expansion, and pleasant living spaces are implemented in relation to urban structure and land use. We should suggest systematic and comprehensive countermeasures against greenhouse gas emissions and climate changes in terms of spatial structure, transportation systems, natural resource conservation, environment management, energy and open spaces. For the Seoul mega-city, plans show the capabilities of the policy department including many policy tools. Reflecting smart city, ubiquitous city, and U-Eco city concepts and human behavior, we should move towards increasing efficiency and maintaining sustainable economic growth.

KEYWORDS. *Low-carbon green growth, urban management, Korea, Seoul*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The old paradigm of “brown growth” that was dependent on exploitation of imported cheap fossil fuels and other natural resources, but largely disregarded the problems of quality of growth such as climate change, environmental degradation and social inequities, was failing. Green growth showed the new way for the future as well as the present. It is a policy that emphasizes environmentally sustainable economic progress to foster low-carbon, socially inclusive development. The social dimension of development that is inclusive of social inequalities and development is also important. In this study, national policies and strategies for low-carbon green growth in Korea are reviewed. Also in the case of Seoul, policies in relation to urban management and planning for green growth will be introduced and evaluated.

In Korea, the national plan is to build a comprehensive territory management system for major ecological resources including rivers, mountains and seas. Scientific management of water resources will keep in mind climate change, reinforcing disaster prevention capabilities and creating sustainable and safe territories and living spaces. The other important strategy is to build cities and residential environments where people can enjoy high quality and culturally rich lives. The details include creating Korean-style green and compact cities suitable for the era of green growth, regenerating urban areas and having attractive cultural spaces. Other plans include improving housing quality, upgrading housing safety, providing energy-saving green homes and reorganizing existing zoning. Green transportation systems are also designed to meet green growth criteria. The Korean government is focusing on railways, marine transport, alternative automobiles and walking and biking (Presidential Committee on Green Growth, 2009a, 2009b). In general, much time is spent on making plans but much less time on feedback about them. Plans for the Seoul mega-city show the government failure possibilities and the capabilities of the policy department including many policy tools. We draw some policy implications for urban management in relation to a low carbon society. Unrealistic policies should be changed. In case of realistic planning and forecasting, applied technologies that meet the needs and demands are important.

2. National Policies and Strategies for Low-Carbon Green Growth

Korea has achieved remarkable economic growth, especially coming from exports, technical changes and progress after the Korean war (Romer, 1990). The Korean government has been pursuing green growth in a comprehensive and vigorous way since 2008. This is shown by the Presidential Committee on Green Growth that was launched in February 2009 as the highest body for consultation and coordination of the relevant issues and policies. It consists of 14

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