

# Research on the Collaborative Mechanism between Ecological Environment Protection and Economic Development in Resource Exhausted Cities

Yongyan Zhao, Jian Li\*

*School of Humanities and Law, Harbin University, Harbin, Heilongjiang, 150086, China*

*\*Corresponding author*

**Abstract:** *This paper aims to explore the collaborative mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities, analyze the roles and responsibilities of government, enterprises, and citizens in it, and propose corresponding policy recommendations. Resource exhausted cities are facing dual pressures of ecological environment deterioration and economic development difficulties. How to achieve a positive interaction between ecological environment protection and economic development has become an urgent problem to be solved. Through the study and analysis of relevant theories and practical cases, this paper concludes that government regulation and policy support, citizen participation and social responsibility, industrial transformation and innovation drive are key elements for achieving collaborative mechanisms, and proposes corresponding countermeasures and suggestions, aiming to provide theoretical and practical references for the sustainable development of resource exhausted cities.*

**Keywords:** *resource exhausted cities, ecological environment protection, collaborative mechanism*

## 1. Introduction

Against the backdrop of rapid global economic development and accelerated urbanization, many cities are facing the challenge of resource depletion. Resource exhausted cities refer to cities that rely on limited resource supply, where their economic development encounters bottlenecks and the ecological environment faces serious threats. These cities often rely on specific natural resources or traditional industries [1]. When these resources gradually exhaust or market demand is no longer strong, the urban economy is in a predicament and the ecological environment is facing serious damage.

As the problem of resource exhausted cities becomes increasingly prominent, people are beginning to realize the importance of the synergistic relationship between ecological environment protection and economic development. The traditional economic growth model often comes at the cost of sacrificing the environment, leading to ecological deterioration and ultimately affecting the sustainable development of cities. Therefore, how to achieve a synergistic mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities has become an urgent task.

This paper aims to study the synergistic mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities, and explore how to promote sustainable development of urban economy while protecting the ecological environment. Specifically, this study will conduct in-depth analysis and discussion from the perspectives of government regulation and policy support, citizen participation and social responsibility, as well as industrial transformation and innovation drive.

## 2. Characteristics and challenges of resource exhausted cities

### 2.1 Definition and classification of resource exhausted cities

Resource exhausted cities refer to a type of city that relies on limited resource supply, has limited economic development, and faces serious threats to the ecological environment. These cities often rely on specific natural resources or traditional industries. When these resources gradually exhaust or market demand is no longer strong, the urban economy is in a predicament and the ecological

environment is facing serious damage.

According to the type of resources and the development of cities, resource exhausted cities can be classified into different categories. For example, mineral resource exhausted cities mainly rely on mineral resource extraction and processing industries; Energy resource exhausted cities mainly rely on energy resource extraction and utilization industries; Water resource exhausted cities mainly rely on water resource supply and utilization industries. The challenges and response strategies faced by different types of resource exhausted cities also vary.

## ***2.2 Impact of resource depletion on urban ecological environment***

The depletion of resources has had a significant impact on the urban ecological environment. Firstly, excessive exploitation and utilization of resources have led to ecological damage and environmental pollution. For example, the extraction of mineral resources can lead to problems such as land subsidence, water source pollution, and soil degradation [2]. Excessive consumption of energy resources can lead to increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, while excessive use of water resources can lead to depletion of water sources and deterioration of water quality.

Secondly, resource depletion can also lead to economic restructuring and social problems. When a specific resource gradually depletes or market demand decreases, industries that rely on that resource will face difficulties, economic growth will be suppressed, employment opportunities will decrease, and social stability will be affected. At the same time, resource depletion may also lead to widening wealth inequality, intensifying social differentiation, and posing greater challenges to urban governance.

## ***2.3 Economic development pressures faced by resource exhausted cities***

Resource exhausted cities are facing severe economic development pressures. Firstly, due to the depletion of resources and the decline in market demand, the competitiveness of traditional industries is challenged, and the economic growth of cities is facing bottlenecks. This puts pressure on employment opportunities, tax revenue, and social welfare in cities, limiting their sustainable economic development.

Secondly, resource exhausted cities face challenges in terms of industrial structure and economic transformation. Due to the decline of traditional industries, cities need to seek new economic growth points and development directions. However, industrial restructuring and economic transformation require a large amount of investment and technological support, and time is needed to achieve transformation and upgrading, which brings significant transformation costs and economic pressure to resource exhausted cities.

In summary, resource exhausted cities face challenges such as ecological environment destruction, hindered economic growth, and difficulties in industrial transformation. In order to achieve the synergy between ecological environment protection and economic development, resource exhausted cities need to rely on government regulation and policy support, citizen participation and social responsibility, as well as industrial transformation and innovation driven means to actively promote the exploration and practice of sustainable development paths.

## **3. The synergistic relationship between ecological environment protection and economic development**

### ***3.1 The interaction mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development***

There is a close interaction mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development. On the one hand, economic development has an impact on ecological environment protection. Rapid economic growth is often accompanied by an increase in resource consumption and environmental pollution, which brings pressure and damage to the ecological environment. On the other hand, ecological environment protection also has an impact on economic development. A good ecological environment can provide sustainable resource supply, improve living environment, promote people's health, and provide strong support for economic development.

In order to achieve synergy between ecological environment protection and economic development,

a series of measures need to be taken to balance the relationship between the two. Firstly, we should establish strict environmental protection laws and regulations, strengthen environmental supervision and law enforcement, constrain and regulate enterprise production activities, and reduce environmental pollution and resource waste. Secondly, we should promote the development and application of green technologies and clean energy, reduce reliance on traditional energy and high polluting industries, and achieve a virtuous cycle of economic development and environmental protection. In addition, we should continuously strengthen the popularization and education of ecological and environmental protection awareness, cultivate citizens' sense of environmental responsibility and behavioral habits, and form a joint force for the whole society to participate in ecological and environmental protection [3].

### ***3.2 Analysis of relevant cases at home and abroad***

There are many successful cases both domestically and internationally that have proven that ecological environment protection and economic development can achieve coordinated development. For example, Qinghai Province in western China has achieved significant economic growth and environmental improvement through the vigorous development of new energy industries, especially wind and photovoltaic power generation. Qinghai Province has abundant wind and solar energy resources, which provide unique advantages for its development of renewable energy. The government actively guides investment, supports technological innovation, and has formulated a series of preferential policies, attracting a large amount of funds and talents to enter the new energy field. Through large-scale construction of wind and photovoltaic power projects, Qinghai Province has successfully achieved a reduction in dependence on traditional energy. The rapid development of the new energy industry has not only brought new economic growth points to Qinghai Province, but also created a large number of employment opportunities. Meanwhile, due to the cleanliness and low-carbon emission characteristics of new energy, the environmental quality of Qinghai Province has been significantly improved. The improvement of air quality and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions have played a positive role in protecting the ecological environment and addressing climate change. The successful experience of Qinghai Province shows that vigorously developing the new energy industry is an effective way to achieve the synergy between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities. The government's guidance and support measures are crucial, including support in preferential policies, investment guidance, technological innovation, and other aspects. At the same time, the development of related industries also requires active investment from enterprises, and emphasizes the concepts of environmental protection and sustainable development. The establishment of this collaborative mechanism can achieve a win-win situation of economic growth and environmental improvement, providing useful reference and inspiration for other resource exhausted cities.

In addition, Denmark has made significant breakthroughs in the development of the wind energy industry, becoming a leading global supplier of wind energy technology and equipment, and thus achieving rapid economic growth. Denmark has unique wind energy resources, and the government actively promotes the development of the wind energy industry by formulating a series of incentive policies and regulations to encourage investment and innovation. Denmark is committed to developing efficient and reliable wind energy technologies, continuously improving and innovating to enhance the efficiency and reliability of wind energy equipment. Danish companies have made significant breakthroughs in wind turbines, blade design, control systems, and have become a leading global wind energy technology supplier. Denmark's wind energy technology and equipment are renowned for their efficiency, reliability, and environmental friendliness, and are widely used in wind power projects around the world. The rapid development of the wind energy industry has brought economic growth and employment opportunities to Denmark. Denmark's wind energy industry has become one of the important pillars of the national economy, bringing stable tax and foreign exchange income to the country. At the same time, large-scale wind power projects have also created a large number of employment opportunities, involving various links such as manufacturing, installation, and operation and maintenance. In addition to economic benefits, Denmark's wind energy development has also brought environmental benefits. Wind energy is a clean and renewable energy source, and the use of wind power can reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and is of great significance for addressing climate change. Denmark's wind energy industry provides clean energy to the country, improves air quality, protects the environment, and makes positive contributions to sustainable development. Denmark's successful experience in developing the wind energy industry provides useful reference and inspiration for other countries. Government support and guidance are key to promoting the development of the wind energy industry, while innovation and investment by

enterprises also play an important role. By cultivating local technologies and enterprises, strengthening international cooperation and exchanges, other countries can also make breakthroughs in the field of wind energy, achieving a win-win situation of economic growth and environmental improvement.

Another case is Germany's energy transition policy, also known as *Energiewende*. Germany has vigorously developed renewable energy sources such as wind and solar in the past few years, reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and promoting the development of a green economy. This policy not only brings a large number of employment opportunities and economic growth to Germany, but also effectively reduces carbon dioxide emissions, thereby improving environmental quality. This move has also promoted innovation and development in related industries, promoted the transformation and application of scientific and technological achievements, and laid a solid foundation for the sustainable development of the German economy. This successful experience provides useful reference and inspiration for the synergistic mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities.

### ***3.3 Theoretical basis and practical model of collaborative development***

The coordinated development of ecological environment protection and economic development has its theoretical foundation and practical model support. In theory, the concept of green development proposes the idea of combining economic development with ecological environment protection, emphasizing the rationality of sustainable development and resource utilization. In addition, the theory of circular economy also emphasizes reducing environmental pressure and promoting sustainable economic development through resource recycling and reuse.

In practice, some countries and regions have explored some collaborative development models. For example, the ecological compensation mechanism is a common practice model that integrates environmental protection into economic development considerations, provides economic compensation to polluters, and promotes enterprises to improve environmental benefits. In addition, green finance is also an important practical model that promotes the synergy between economic development and environmental protection by guiding funds towards the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development.

In short, the synergistic relationship between ecological environment protection and economic development is an important prerequisite and guarantee for achieving sustainable development. By formulating strict environmental laws and regulations, promoting innovation and application of green technologies, cultivating environmental protection awareness, and exploring effective practical models, a positive interaction between economic development and ecological environment protection can be achieved, and the goal of sustainable economic and social development can be achieved.

## **4. Collaborative mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities**

Resource exhausted cities face a dual pressure between ecological environment protection and economic development, and how to achieve a positive interaction between the two has become an urgent problem to be solved. In this context, government regulation and policy support, citizen participation and social responsibility, industrial transformation and innovation drive have become key mechanisms for achieving synergy between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities.

### ***4.1 Government regulation and policy support***

The government plays a crucial role in the ecological environment protection and economic development of resource exhausted cities. By formulating and implementing relevant policies and regulations, strengthening environmental supervision and law enforcement, enterprises can effectively constrain and regulate their production activities, reduce environmental pollution and resource waste. At the same time, the government can also guide enterprises to increase investment in environmental protection technology and facilities, promote the development of green industries, and promote economic restructuring and upgrading through fiscal and tax policies, reward and subsidy mechanisms, and other means.

In addition, the government should strengthen the planning and management of resource depleted

cities, reasonably layout urban functional areas, optimize resource utilization structure, promote circular economy and low-carbon development, and create a livable and business friendly urban environment. The government can also actively guide and support environmental research and technological innovation, providing technical and intellectual support for promoting ecological environment protection and economic development.

#### ***4.2 Citizen participation and social responsibility***

Citizen participation and social responsibility are indispensable and important components of ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities. As participants and beneficiaries of urban construction and development, citizens should establish environmental protection awareness, consciously abide by environmental regulations, actively take actions to save resources and reduce pollution, and contribute to improving the urban ecological environment. At the same time, citizens should also pay attention to the environmental behavior of enterprises, promote their social responsibility and fulfill their environmental protection obligations through public opinion supervision and social organization participation.

Social responsibility should also become an important aspect of enterprise management and development. Enterprises should consciously practice the concept of green production, increase investment in environmental protection, improve production processes, promote clean production technologies, and reduce resource consumption and environmental pollution. At the same time, enterprises should also pay attention to the cultivation of employee environmental awareness and the construction of environmental management systems, establish the environmental image of the enterprise, and establish social reputation.

#### ***4.3 Industrial transformation and innovation drive***

Industrial transformation and innovation drive are important ways to achieve synergy between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities. Traditional high energy consuming and highly polluting industries must be phased out and transformed, industrial structure adjusted, and green and low-carbon industries developed. The government can tilt funds, technology, and talent towards the fields of environmental protection and new energy, promote the research and application of green technology and clean energy, and promote the development of emerging industries.

### **5. Conclusion**

The synergistic mechanism between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource exhausted cities is crucial for achieving sustainable development goals. As the main participants, the government, enterprises, and citizens need to work together to establish effective collaborative mechanisms and promote a positive interaction between ecological environment protection and economic development.

The government plays an important role in it, and should strengthen the formulation and implementation of environmental protection regulations, as well as increase investment in environmental protection technology and facilities. At the same time, the government also needs to guide enterprises to increase investment in environmental protection facilities, promote the development of green industries, and promote economic restructuring and upgrading through financial and tax policies, reward and subsidy mechanisms, and other means. In addition, the government should strengthen the planning and management of resource exhausted cities, reasonably layout urban functional areas, optimize resource utilization structure, promote circular economy and low-carbon development, and create a livable and business friendly urban environment.

Enterprises should practice social responsibility, demonstrate the concept of green production, increase investment in environmental protection, improve production processes, promote clean production technologies, and reduce resource consumption and environmental pollution. At the same time, enterprises should also pay attention to the cultivation of employee environmental awareness and the construction of environmental management systems, establish the environmental image of the enterprise, and establish social reputation.

As participants and beneficiaries of urban construction and development, citizens should establish

environmental protection awareness, consciously abide by environmental regulations, actively take actions to save resources and reduce pollution, and contribute to improving the urban ecological environment. At the same time, citizens should also promote corporate social responsibility and fulfill environmental protection obligations through public opinion supervision and social organization participation.

Industrial transformation and innovation drive are important ways to achieve synergy between ecological environment protection and economic development in resource depleted cities. The government can tilt funds, technology, and talent towards the fields of environmental protection and new energy, promote the research and application of green technology and clean energy, and promote the development of emerging industries. Innovation driven is also an important driving force for promoting the coordinated development of resource exhausted cities.

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