Governing transitions towards Low-Carbon Transport Systems



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- The LETS program and research areas
- Governance dilemmas for transport systems
- Thinking about Transition Governance



About LETS

- Aim: To identify, explore and suggest ways that Sweden can implement low-carbon energy and transport systems for 2050, in order to reach the ambitious climate policy objectives suggested by the 2°C target.
- Form: A multidisciplinary research program 2009-2012.



• **Expected results:** To produce new knowledge, but also to synthesize and interpret existing knowledge for more informed choices by decision makers, planners and other stakeholders.



Research areas

LETS consists of six research areas or work packages:

- WP0: Future Policy Scenarios and Alternative Pathways
 - Which alternative pathways lead to a low-carbon society?
- WP1: Governance Developing Institutions and Policy
 - What governance approaches, in terms of institutions and policy, are needed?
- WP2: Urban and Regional Planning and Infrastructure
 - What changes are needed to (re)organize the built environment and transport system?
- WP3: Markets, Industry and Policy for Bioenergy
 - What are the sustainability challenges, policy options and commercial opportunities involved in governing the transition to an increased share of biomass in energy supply?
- WP4: Citizen-Consumers and Voluntary Instruments
 - What is the role of voluntary instruments among citizens and consumers to induce change?
- WP5: Logistics and Goods Transport
 - Which logistics and goods transport configurations result in low carbon dioxide emissions and how can they be implemented?



Transition governance?

- Do we need new policy instruments, new institutions, new policy paradigms?
- Is reform of existing policies, institutions enough?
- If yes, what type of reforms?



What type of reform?

Robyn Eckersley (2004) The Green State

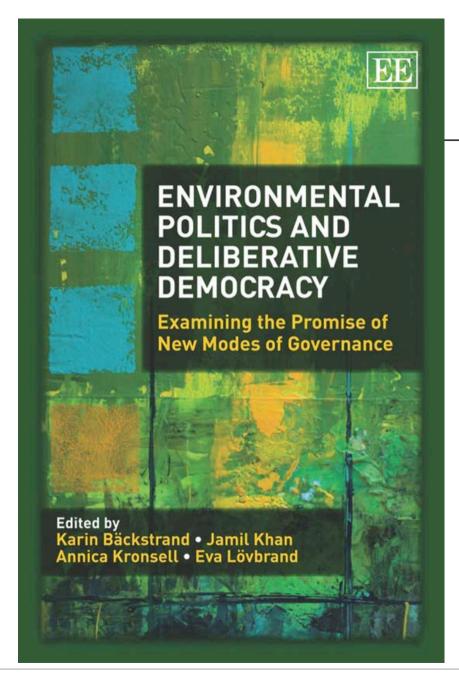
- 1. New policy instruments
- 2. New or re-defined policy objectives
- 3. Changed policy paradigm
- 4. State imperative

What type of Governance dilemmas for Sweden?



- Energy System: Power grids, Bioenergy and Landuse, Decarbonize basic industry,
- Transport system: to break trends of increasing transport of goods and persons
 - Technical solutions
 - Economic policies
 - Integrated Transport and Physical Planning
 - Strengthened regional planning
 - Reformulate transport objectives

(LETS working paper: Att styra mot ett klimatsmart samhälle)





Governance as Form and Rationallity



Forms of Governance

- Hierarchy
- Market
- Network

Rationality: logic behind, how can we steer?

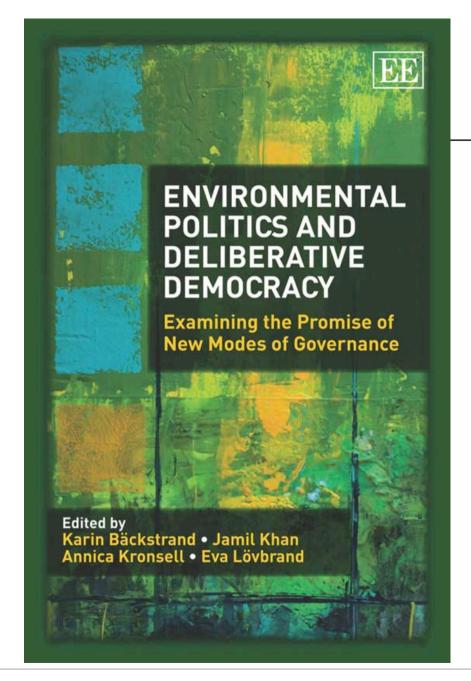
- Administrative
- Economic
- Deliberative
 (John Dryzek)

Governance rationalities:



- Administrative Rationality
 Steering via civil servants, (politicians) experts
- 2. Economic rationality
 Steering through the price or cost
- 3. Deliberative rationality

 Steering through communication and learning





'A Deliberative turn in Environmental Policy rhetoric but not really in practice'



Thank you!