



PALGRAVE STUDIES IN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH FUTURE EARTH

Business and Policy Solutions to Climate Change

From Mitigation to Adaptation

Edited by

Thomas Walker · Stefan Wendt
Sherif Goubran · Tyler Schwartz

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Palgrave Studies in Sustainable Business In
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Preface

Our planet's climate is changing, and we are heading to a world that is at least 2 °C warmer than it was prior to the world's industrialisation. Predictions for this future suggest that freshwater will be scarce, extreme weather events will become a frequent reality, global sea levels may rise up to 2.4 m above today's levels, and flooding and wildfires will no longer be discrete events. In light of these consequences, this collection aims to ignite an academic discussion regarding the necessary and potentially urgent adaptation actions required.

The book does not intend to cause panic for its readers. Instead, it explores how we can adapt to this “new” world and assesses the readiness of our businesses and policies to a future where climate change is a reality. The book stresses the importance of transformational strategies to adaptation, in contrast to incremental approaches that may be misaligned with the possibly extreme consequences of climate change.

The editors invited researchers, practitioners, and entrepreneurs who are at the intersection of business, policy and climate research to share their solutions and adaptation strategies to our climate-induced economic, technical, urban, and societal challenges. The editors accepted contributions that shed new light on our understanding of vulnerabilities and risks, present new and emerging processes for internalizing adaptation in existing business and policy approaches, and identify new barriers to large-scale and/or local climate change adaptation. The editors

encouraged the contributors to move beyond the current disciplinary divides and present novel interdisciplinary approaches. In addition, they encouraged contributions that employ scenario analyses in their investigations and study the social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions of this complex future world.

The resulting collection reviews and critically analyses new business and policy approaches regarding solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation across different locations and economic sectors and presents new ways to overcome conflicts in business and policy adaptation trajectories. In these contributions, the authors make connections to the business and policy aspects of the book by applying ethical and behavioural frameworks, studying the role of financial tools and instruments, and exploring the role of civil engineering in the adaptation of cities. In many instances, the accepted chapters focus on emerging challenges and themes regarding adaptation, including health, well-being, air quality, urban planning, production and consumption, waste, threats to indigenous communities, and biodiversity.

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Part I

Introduction



1

Climate Change Adaptation: An Overview

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and Tyler Schwartz

1 Introduction

Climate change mitigation, understood as an approach to reduce human-induced emissions, has taken center stage in climate action debates and efforts in the last decades. Numerous publications, reports, books, and conventions have presented, analyzed, and compared the actions and strategies

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