Classic explanations about organizational responses to climate change in the developing world focus on issues of collaborative governance. However, the relationship between climate change and local government management is loosely treated. Due to its implications for greenhouse gas emissions, this paper uses the waste management sector as a case study to examine how variation in local governance factors may have differential effects on the performance of two waste services. Solid waste collection from the streets and final waste disposal services are examined. The results illustrate that performance differences may reflect the gaps in municipal administrative complexity to properly address intricate waste services. Civil society organizations and local political actors also influence these outcomes. Using a mixed method research design, this paper conducts a comparative study based on a panel dataset of Peruvian municipalities from eight states between 2014–2016 and interviews and ethnography of four municipal case studies.

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