

# OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

## Erik Nordman

*Grand Valley State University  
Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar*

### **“Analyzing Polycentric Climate Governance in the 2030 Districts Energy Program”**



**Monday, March 2, 2020**

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

The 2030 District program encourages commercial building owners to make 50% cuts in building energy use, water use, and transportation emissions by 2030. Twenty cities have joined so far. Participating cities agree to the overall goals but each city develops its own method for monitoring progress and encouraging compliance. However, it is unclear how Districts are implementing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. I analyzed the 2030 Districts using the “club theory” of voluntary programs and the Institutional Analysis and Development framework. Analysis of 2018 progress reports suggests that 2030 Districts have strict standards but low to moderate levels of monitoring and enforcement. Three Districts already achieved the interim energy target of a 20% reduction in building energy use by 2020. Additional research will investigate the mechanisms of monitoring and enforcement, the potential for positive “behavioral contagions,” and other issues.

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[Erik Nordman](#) is an associate professor of natural resources management at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. He teaches courses in the social dimensions of resource management, including natural resource policy and environmental economics. He is writing a book about Elinor Ostrom’s work on common pool resources to be published by Island Press in Spring 2021. During his previous sabbatical, he served as a Fulbright Visiting Professor at Kenyatta University in Nairobi.

*Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu); 812/855–3151).*