Seoul’s Changing Governance for a Low-carbon Metropolis

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One Less Nuclear Power Plant (2012-2020)

• The **One Less Nuclear Power Plant** initiative aimed to reduce the city’s energy demand by an amount equal to the capacity of one nuclear power plant

• The initiative was announced on April 2012 and laid out its ambitious goal of reducing energy consumption by 2 million TOE, equivalent to the production capacity of one nuclear power plant, by 2014 (Phase One)

• The longer-term objective is to reach 20% energy self-sufficiency by 2020 (Phase Two)

• Seoul has saved a total of 6.87 million TOEs of energy over 9 years (2012-2020) of the initiative
One Less Nuclear Power Plant
Phase 1 vs. Phase 2

Phase 1 (2012-2014)
• [Vision] Building energy independence
• [Goal] Reduce energy consumption by 20 million TOE
• [Strategy] Production, efficient use of new renewable energy, and reducing overall energy consumption

Phase 2 (2014-2020)
• [Vision] Seoul – An energy-self-reliant city
• [Goal] Reduce energy consumption by 40 million TOE, reduce GHGs by 10 million tons
• [Strategy] Change social structure through institutionalization
One Less Nuclear Power Plant Phase 2 (2014-2020)

Total Energy Production and Savings
4 Million TOE

By 2020
20% Energy Self-Reliance

Reduction of GHG Emission
10 Million Tons CO₂/uitv.eq

- All 10 million Seoulites lead the energy self-sufficiency movement by turning themselves from energy consumers to energy producers.
- Energy production and efficiency consumption of energy become entrenched in citizens’ daily lives.
- Sustainable, quality jobs are created by promoting the energy industry.
- A virtuous cycle is created in which citizen participants to energy production make profits and donate back to the society.
Introduction of a Variety of Citizen-led Energy Programs

• From the beginning, Seoul has recognized the importance of the citizen base and actively pursued citizen-participatory governance from the planning stage to the implementation.

• The most representative civic engagement program in Seoul is the **Energy Independence Neighborhood**

• Other programs include organizing the **Guardian Angel for Energy** for students, training the **Green Leaders** to promote energy policies and expand practices, and promoting **Energy Cooperative** activities.
Introduction of a Variety of Citizen-led Energy Programs

- **Energy Independent Neighborhood** is a 3-year program to support residents' voluntary energy-saving practices at the community level.

- Since 2012, Seoul has created **251 energy-independent neighborhoods** and recruited **50 more** in 2022.

- Priority is given to greenhouse gas reduction projects, environmental education, and campaigns that utilize **the characteristics of each neighborhood**.
Deliberative and Communicative Governance of the Energy Policy Board

- Seoul has established and operated citizen governance structures to play a substantial role in environmental, climate, and energy policy-making and implementation.
- The structure included the Green Seoul Citizens Committee, the Energy Policy Committee, and the Sustainable Development Committee.
- Among them, the Energy Policy Commission is evaluated as a successful example of citizen participatory governance in Seoul’s energy transition policy.
Deliberative and Communicative Governance of the Energy Policy Board

- The **Energy Policy Commission** was a governance organization that merged the Citizen's Committee and the Executive Committee of the One Less Nuclear Power Plant Committee in 2019 based on the Seoul Ordinance on Energy

- The **Citizen's Committee** served as the highest decision-making structure, with the Mayor of Seoul as co-chair and various representatives participating to determine policy directions

- The **Executive Committee** was composed of experts and civic activists, with the Head of the Climate and Environment Division as co-chair, and played a substantive role in project implementation and management
Carbon Neutrality: Post-‘One Less Nuclear Power Plant’

- The first deputy mayor for administration was appointed as chairman
The 2050 Seoul Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth Commission (2022.09)

Ordinance for Climate Change Adaptation

Framework Ordinance on Green New Deal

Framework Ordinance on Low Carbon and Green Growth

Seoul Metropolitan Government Framework Ordinance on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth

Climate Change Commission

Green New Deal Commission

2050 Seoul Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth Commission

Abolishment

Establishment
Expansion of the 2050 Seoul Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth Commission (2023.04)

- **Advisory functions** such as reviewing carbon neutrality-related ordinances and administrative plans added to the existing carbon neutrality policy deliberations and resolutions
- **Two new subcommittees**, ‘Greenhouse Gas Reduction’ and ‘Climate Crisis Adaptation’, were established
- **15 new experts** for subcommittees were appointed, and the number of committee members was increased from 25 to 40
- **A new civilian chairperson** was appointed, and the system was changed to a **city-civilian co-chairperson system** with the first deputy mayor for administration