

## Collaborative Governance in Waste Management (Case Study: Lahat Regency)

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### ABSTRACT

*Solid waste management is a complex public issue that requires collaboration among multiple stakeholders. Lahat Regency continues to face challenges, including increasing waste generation, limited infrastructure, human resources, and financial capacity, as well as low community participation in waste segregation at the source. This study aims to analyze the implementation of collaborative governance in solid waste management in Lahat Regency using the Collaborative Governance Regime (CGR) framework developed by Emerson, Nabatchi, and Balogh (2012). This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach. Data were collected through interviews, observations, and document analysis involving the Environmental Agency of Lahat Regency, Harapan Waste Bank, DP Partner Main Waste Bank, and Anugerah Waste Collector. Data were analyzed through data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings indicate that solid waste management in Lahat Regency involves the local government, waste banks, waste collectors, and the community in community-based waste reduction and management initiatives. From the CGR perspective, the system context, collaborative drivers, collaboration dynamics, and collaborative actions have been established through regulatory support, leadership, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of capacity-building programs, public awareness campaigns, waste segregation, and waste utilization initiatives. These collaborative efforts have strengthened community-based waste management, enhanced the capacity of waste banks, and developed an economically valuable waste utilization chain. However, the effectiveness of collaboration remains constrained by limited resources, low community participation, and suboptimal coordination among stakeholders.*

## INTRODUCTION

Waste management is a strategic issue in environmental governance faced by various countries, including Indonesia. Population growth, urbanization, changes in consumption

patterns, and economic activity have led to a continuous increase in waste generation, impacting environmental quality and public health. In line with *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) Goal 12 on *Responsible Consumption and Production*, waste management is directed at reducing waste generation, increasing recycling, and strengthening the participation of various stakeholders. In Indonesia, this commitment is realized through Law Number 18 of 2008 concerning Waste Management and various derivative regulations that emphasize the importance of integrated waste management through collaboration between the government, the community, and the private sector.

Lahat Regency is one of the regions in South Sumatra Province that faces challenges in waste management. According to data from the National Waste Management Information System (SIPSN), Lahat Regency has a relatively high waste generation rate, while waste management capacity still faces limitations in facilities and infrastructure, human resources, budget, and low community participation in waste sorting at source. This situation indicates that waste management cannot rely solely on local governments but requires synergy between stakeholders, including waste banks, collectors, business actors, and the community.

*Collaborative governance* approach is relevant for explaining how various actors build cooperation in solving waste problems. The *Collaborative Governance Regime* (CGR) framework developed by Emerson, Nabatchi, and Balogh (2012) explains that the success of collaboration is influenced by *the system context, collaborative drivers, collaboration dynamics, collaborative actions, and collaborative outcomes*. Although numerous studies on waste management have been conducted, most research still focuses on technical, institutional, or community participation aspects separately. Research examining waste management through a CGR perspective is still relatively limited, particularly in the context of local government.

Based on these conditions, this study aims to analyze the implementation of *Collaborative Governance* in waste management in Lahat Regency using the *Collaborative Governance Regime* (CGR) framework. This research is expected to enrich public administration studies on collaborative governance and provide recommendations for local governments and stakeholders in strengthening collaboration towards more effective, participatory, and sustainable waste management.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive design to analyze the implementation of *Collaborative Governance* in waste management in Lahat Regency. The research analysis uses the *Collaborative Governance Regime* (CGR) framework developed by Emerson, Nabatchi, and Balogh (2012), including *system context, collaborative drivers, collaboration dynamics, collaborative actions, and collaborative outcomes*.

Data were obtained through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation studies. Informants were selected purposively *based on their involvement and understanding of waste management*. These included the Lahat Regency Environmental Agency, the DP

Partner Main Waste Bank, the Harapan Waste Bank, and the Anugerah Waste Collector. Secondary data came from laws and regulations, institutional reports, and the National Waste Management Information System (SIPSN).

Data analysis was conducted following the stages of Creswell and Creswell (2018), namely data management, *coding*, grouping themes, and interpreting research results. Data validity was maintained through triangulation of sources and techniques by comparing interview results, observations, and documentation to increase the credibility of the research findings.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Overview of the Lahat Regency Environmental Service

This research was conducted at the Lahat Regency Environmental Agency (DLH), a regional agency responsible for administering environmental government affairs, particularly waste management. Based on Lahat Regent Regulation Number 10 of 2023, the DLH has the authority to formulate policies, implement waste management, foster community development, and coordinate with various stakeholders to achieve sustainable environmental management. In the context of this research, the DLH plays the primary role of coordinating waste management implementation in Lahat Regency.

Waste management in Lahat Regency involves not only the local government but also various non-governmental actors, such as the DP Partner Main Waste Bank, the Harapan Waste Bank, collectors, and the community as the primary waste generators. The involvement of these actors demonstrates that waste management is carried out through interdependent relationships in waste reduction, sorting, utilization, and transportation. This situation demonstrates that solving waste problems cannot be done sectorally but requires collaboration between stakeholders.

The complexity of the problem, characterized by high waste generation, limited resources, and the need for increased community participation, makes Lahat Regency a relevant context for examining the implementation of *Collaborative Governance*. Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing the interactions and dynamics of collaboration between local governments, waste banks, collectors, and the community in waste management using the *Collaborative Governance Regime* (CGR) framework developed by Emerson, Nabatchi, and Balogh (2012).

### *Collaborative Drivers*

The research results show that collaboration in waste management in Lahat Regency is driven by various factors reflecting the collaborative drivers dimension within the Collaborative Governance Regime (CGR). The primary factor driving collaboration is the increasing volume of waste generated, which is disproportionate to the local government's capacity to provide facilities and infrastructure, budget, and human resources. Furthermore, low community participation in waste sorting at source means that waste management cannot

be addressed solely through a government approach, but requires the involvement of various stakeholders.

This situation creates a relationship of interdependence *between* local governments, waste banks, collectors, and the community. Local governments require community support in reducing and sorting waste from the source, waste banks require government guidance and facilitation to carry out their operations, while collectors play a role in distributing the sorted results so that they have economic value. On the other hand, all actors also benefit from collaboration, such as increased effectiveness of waste management, increased community participation, and increased utilization of waste with economic value. This collaborative process is initiated by the Environmental Agency through outreach, coaching, and mentoring activities that encourage community involvement and the development of waste bank institutions.

These findings indicate that *uncertainty* , *interdependence* , *consequential incentives* , and *initiating leadership* have become driving factors for the formation of collaboration, as stated by Emerson, Nabatchi, and Balogh (2012). The complexity of waste problems, limited government capacity, benefits obtained by actors, and local government leadership are the basis for the formation of collaborative governance in waste management in Lahat Regency.

### ***Collaborative Dynamics***

The research results show that collaborative dynamics have developed through communication, coordination, and coaching conducted by the Environmental Agency, waste banks, and the community. These interactions foster a shared understanding of the importance of waste reduction through source sorting and the reuse of waste that still has economic value. Trust between actors has also begun to develop through joint activities, particularly between local governments and waste banks.

Waste banks have gained recognition as government partners in supporting waste management, although regulatory strengthening and institutional certainty are still needed. Conversely, the involvement of collectors remains limited to operational relationships, thus not yet fully integrated into collaborative mechanisms. Nevertheless, local governments and waste banks have demonstrated a commitment to maintaining cooperation through coaching, mentoring, and implementing waste reduction programs within their respective capacities.

These findings indicate that the dimensions of *principled engagement* and *shared motivation* have developed through communication, trust, and commitment between stakeholders. However, internal legitimacy and the involvement of all actors, particularly collectors, still need to be strengthened to ensure more inclusive and sustainable collaboration.

### ***Collaborative Actions***

Research result show that capacity action together realized through coordination between government regions, waste banks, and communities in various activity management garbage . Form collaboration implemented covering socialization, waste bank development,

education society, sorting rubbish House stairs, and utilization rubbish through network collectors. The Environmental Service plays a role as coordinator at a time facilitator who connects various actor in accordance with their respective functions.

Although However, the implementation of collaboration still faces several obstacles. Inter-actor cooperation is largely based on coordination and ongoing programs, but is not yet supported by formal mechanisms, cooperation agreements, or technical regulations that clearly define the division of roles. Consequently, the sustainability of collaboration still depends on the initiative of implementers in the field and has not been fully institutionalized.

This situation demonstrates that the capacity for collective action has been established through leadership, coordination, and the use of shared resources. However, institutional aspects still require strengthening to ensure collaboration has certainty, consistency, and long-term sustainability.

### ***Collaborative Outcomes***

Research results show that collaboration in waste management has yielded various positive results. The involvement of local governments, waste banks, communities, and collectors has increased community participation in waste sorting activities, strengthened the institutional capacity of waste banks, and increased the utilization of waste with economic value. Furthermore, collaboration has contributed to a reduction in the amount of waste entering landfills (TPA) through the application of the principles of *reduce, reuse, and recycle* (3R).

However, the results of the collaboration have not been fully optimal due to budgetary constraints, limited facilities and infrastructure, low community participation in some areas, and the suboptimal involvement of all actors in the collaborative mechanism. Therefore, strengthening regulations, institutions, coordination between stakeholders, and increasing community capacity are crucial factors in strengthening the sustainability of *Collaborative Governance* in waste management in Lahat Regency.

Overall, the research results indicate that waste management in Lahat Regency reflects the implementation of *the Collaborative Governance Regime* through the involvement of various complementary actors in achieving common goals. However, the effectiveness of this collaboration still requires strengthening institutional aspects, coordination, and community participation to ensure more effective, adaptive, and sustainable waste management.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **Conclusion**

The research results show that waste management in Lahat Regency has implemented the principles of Collaborative Governance through the involvement of local governments, waste banks, collectors, and the community in waste reduction and management activities. Based on the Collaborative Governance Regime (CGR) framework, collaboration is formed due to the complexity of waste problems, limited capacity of local governments,

interdependence between actors, and government leadership in encouraging participation from various parties. The dynamics of collaboration develop through communication, coordination, and shared commitments manifested in outreach activities, waste bank development, household waste sorting, and the utilization of waste with economic value.

This collaboration has contributed to improving community-based waste management, strengthening the capacity of waste banks, and developing the waste utilization chain. However, the effectiveness of this collaboration still faces challenges such as limited resources, suboptimal coordination between stakeholders, and low community participation in waste sorting at source. Therefore, strengthening institutions, coordination, and community participation are crucial for realizing a more effective and sustainable waste management system.

### Suggestion

The Lahat Regency Government needs to strengthen collaborative mechanisms through more structured coordination, increased guidance for waste banks, and expanded public education on waste sorting at source. Furthermore, strengthening partnerships between the government, waste banks, and waste collectors needs to be continuously developed to support the sustainable use of economically valuable waste. Further research is recommended to involve a wider range of actors and examine institutional aspects and the sustainability of collaboration to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the implementation of *Collaborative Governance* in waste management.

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