

Why Intergenerational Equity is Key for Smart Clean Air Investments

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How do you describe clean air if you've never felt it?

How do you demand clean air if you don't know it?



State of Air Quality Funding – The Youth Angle

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Why does this matter?

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Intergenerational Governance

Principle

A principle of distributive justice, asserting that the present generation has a moral obligation to act as stewards of the planet so that future generations inherit a healthy environment equal to or better than today.

Source: Taylor Hawkins, Fatima-Zahra Ma-el-ainin. "Why strategic foresight must evolve beyond the ivory tower". 2026. Forum Stories, World Economic Forum.

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Practice

Intergenerational governance brings multiple generations together to combine institutional memory with emerging perspectives.

- X** Youth engagement exercise
- X** Diversity initiative
- V** Redefines the scope of expertise (flows in both directions)
- V** Fundamentally different structures

Source: Taylor Hawkins, Fatima-Zahra Ma-el-ainin. "Why strategic foresight must evolve beyond the ivory tower". 2026. Forum Stories, World Economic Forum.

Intergenerational = Strategic

1. Participation of the people who will inherit the consequences (good or bad), **on an equal footing**
2. **Corrections for bias of costs and benefits** toward short-term thinking, electoral cycles, and profit reporting
3. Fundamentally **changes the direction of governance and investments** by revealing blind spots



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