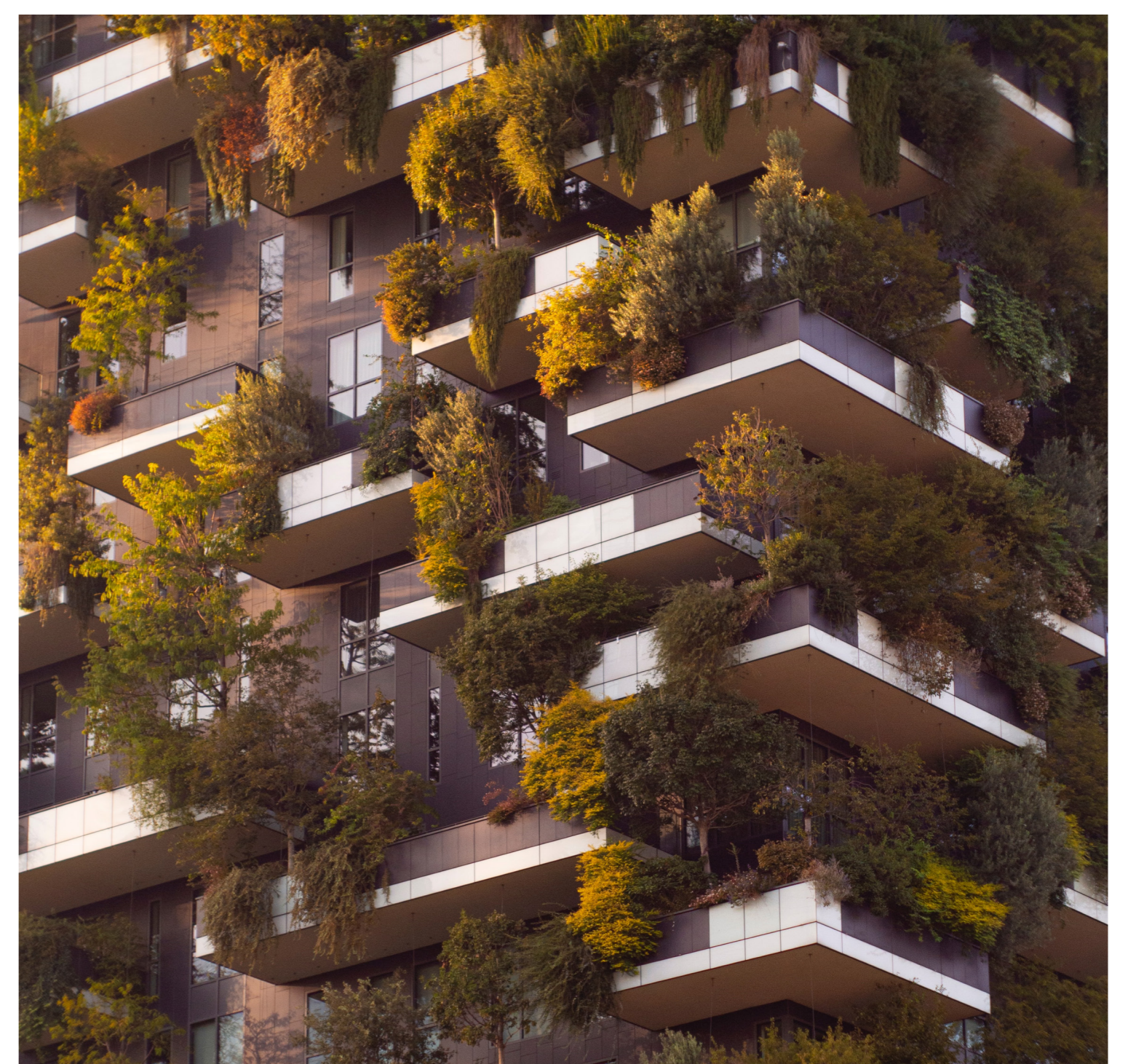


The Challenges of Municipalities during the Energy Transition



This thesis evaluates the challenges faced by Swiss municipalities during the energy transition.

By means of a stakeholder analysis and expert interviews, the relevant actors were investigated for the energy transition at municipality level. In addition, an ecosystem analysis was carried out to identify drivers, barriers and success factors showing which aspects promote or hinder the energy transition locally. Possible conflict potentials were illustrated through systems thinking by analysing how changes in barriers and drivers affect the local energy transition. A recommendation of best practices for municipalities was derived from the results.

The results show that internal community actors (energy commission, municipality executive & municipality president), as well as local residents and building owners represent key players.

The financial resources and ambition of a municipality have been identified as drivers. What municipalities lack, however, is access to qualitative data and planning tools to tackle the local energy transition successfully.

This could be enhanced through partner projects with neighbouring municipalities, external consultants and local universities. Additionally, a lack of concretisation of the cantonal guidelines for municipalities to better define their role in the energy transition was found.

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