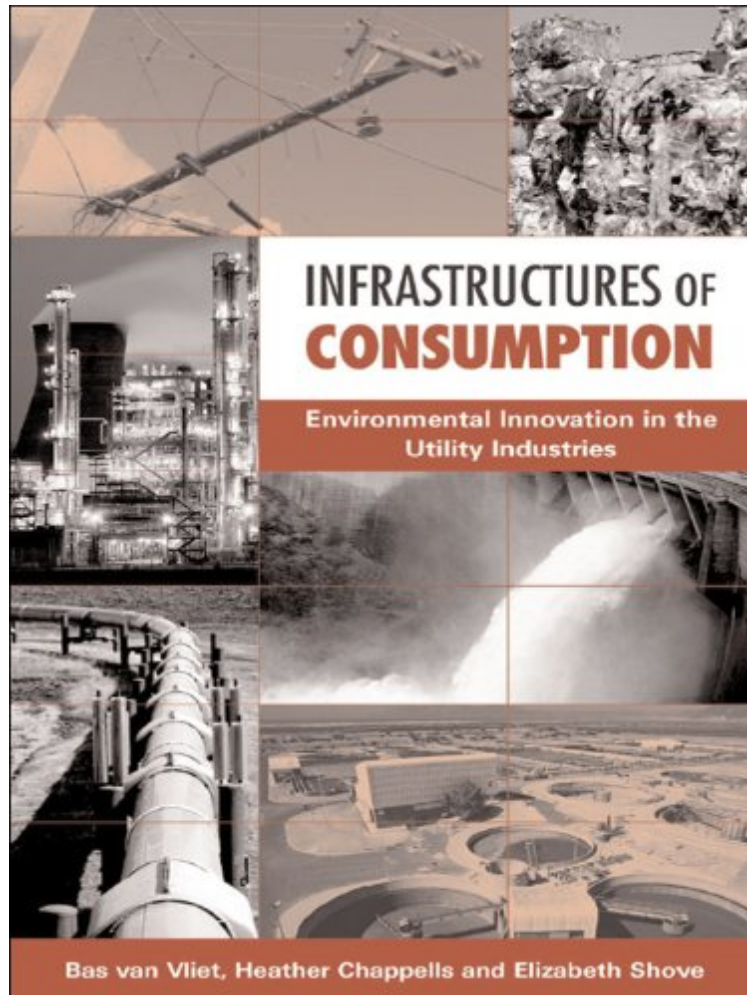


Infrastructures of Consumption: Environmental Innovation in the Utility Industries

Elizabeth Shove, Heather Chappells, Bas Van Vliet
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Elizabeth Shove, Heather Chappells, Bas Van Vliet : Infrastructures of Consumption: Environmental Innovation in the Utility Industries before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Infrastructures of Consumption: Environmental Innovation in the Utility Industries*:

For many years, a uniform and uncontested picture of utility system organization has endured across Europe. Provider and consumer roles have been largely taken for granted, and consumers have had little choice but to use the infrastructure of the only network provider available. Recent transformations have challenged this model. This book examines the ongoing environmental restructuring of consumption and provision in energy, water and waste systems.

In accounting for the distinctive environmental qualities, technical features, and institutional dynamics of utility systems this book challenges contemporary conceptualizations of consumers as the autonomous drivers of environmental change. Instead, utilities and users are positioned as the 'co-managers' of utility systems, and processes of environmental innovation are seen to depend on the systemic restructuring of demand.

"This is a remarkably thoughtful and thought-provoking book which fills an important gap in the literature on public and stakeholder participation in environmental issues ... [it provides excellent new analysis which can only help to create the fundamental] About the Author Bas van Vliet is Senior Lecturer at the Environmental Policy Group, Social Sciences Group, Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Heather Chappells is Research Associate, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University, UK. Elizabeth Shove is Reader in Sociology, Lancaster University