Exploring The Impact Of Aging Population On Energy Consumption In The European Union: Implications For Energy Policy

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Abstract

Examining the link between older adults, energy consumption, and carbon emissions in the EU is important due to the aging population's impact on energy demand and sustainability. Older adults typically have higher energy needs, such as heating, cooling, and time spent at home, making it vital to understand their consumption patterns for effective energy policies. With the EU's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, assessing their contribution to emissions is essential. Additionally, addressing energy poverty among older adults ensures policies reduce emissions while promoting social equity and affordable energy access. This paper provides an overview of the empirical literature on the role of the older population in energy consumption within the context of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. By analyzing statistical trends in population aging, energy consumption, and carbon dioxide emissions in the EU from 1990 to 2021, this paper explores how the increasing share of older populations has impacted energy demand and emissions. It also examines the policy implications for achieving carbon neutrality while addressing the specific energy needs of older adults. Additionally, the paper highlights key policy challenges identified in the literature and discusses their implications for balancing energy objectives with the social and economic needs of an aging population.

Keywords: older people, energy consumption, trends. low-carbon economy