

The significance of energy consumers for the development of affordable and clean energy: a review of the literature from management and policy perspectives

Weroste Tungerti*

Department of Civil Engineering, Rajamangala University of Technology Isan, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000, Thailand

Abstract

The global energy landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by the urgent need to address climate change, ensure energy security, and promote sustainable economic growth. At the heart of this transformation lies the critical role of energy consumers. The traditional model of centralized energy generation and distribution is giving way to a more decentralized, cleaner, and consumer-driven approach. This article presents a comprehensive review of the literature, examining the significance of energy consumers for the development of affordable and clean energy from both management and policy perspectives. The energy sector is evolving rapidly due to a confluence of factors, including technological advancements, environmental concerns, and changing consumer preferences. These changes are reshaping the energy landscape, moving it from a fossil fuel-based, top-down system to a more sustainable and consumer-oriented paradigm.

Keywords: Business continuity • Local businesses • Financial resources

Introduction

Local businesses often face unique challenges when it comes to implementing BCM. They may have limited financial resources, expertise, and time to dedicate to complex planning and implementation processes. FCMs offer a practical solution to these challenges. FCMs are a mathematical modeling tool that can represent complex systems and relationships in a visual and intuitive manner. They are particularly well-suited for modeling and analyzing systems with uncertainty and imprecision, making them a valuable tool for local businesses looking to implement BCM. FCMs can help local businesses identify potential risks by incorporating data from various sources, such as historical incident data, industry trends, and expert knowledge. The relationships between risks and their potential impact can be represented in the FCM, allowing businesses to prioritize their focus [1,2]. Relationships in the FCM indicate how risks affect critical processes, how mitigation strategies reduce risk levels, and how resources support critical processes and mitigation efforts.

Literature Review

One of the defining characteristics of this transformation is the increasing role of decentralized energy resources. These include solar panels, wind turbines, and energy storage systems, which enable consumers to generate, store, and manage their energy. This shift towards decentralization allows consumers to play a more active role in energy production and consumption. Climate change and environmental concerns have accelerated the transition to clean energy sources. As a result, governments and organizations are

*Address for Correspondence: Weroste Tungerti, Department of Civil Engineering, Rajamangala University of Technology Isan, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000, Thailand, E-mail: werostet@gmail.com

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under pressure to adopt more sustainable energy practices. Consumers are increasingly environmentally conscious and are demanding cleaner energy options. Consumer behavior is another driving force in the energy transition. Consumers are now more informed, tech-savvy, and demanding when it comes to their energy choices. They seek transparency, control, and options that align with their values. To understand the real-world impact of consumer-centric energy solutions, it's essential to examine case studies and practical applications. The literature offers several examples that illustrate how management and policy initiatives have contributed to the development of affordable and clean energy [3,4].

Discussion

Effective management strategies are essential to harness the potential of energy consumers in advancing affordable and clean energy solutions. The literature provides valuable insights into the management practices that empower consumers and drive the transition to sustainable energy systems. Demand-side management strategies focus on optimizing consumer energy use. This can involve time-of-use pricing, demand response programs, and smart grid technologies. Research suggests that well-implemented DSM programs can reduce peak energy demand and enhance grid efficiency. Promoting energy efficiency is a cornerstone of clean energy management. Organizations and governments offer incentives, subsidies, and education to encourage energy-efficient practices and technologies among consumers. Consumer engagement and education play a pivotal role in shaping energy consumption patterns. Studies highlight the importance of providing consumers with information, tools, and incentives to make informed decisions about their energy usage. Energy policies, at the national and international levels, are instrumental in shaping the energy landscape. The literature reveals the significance of policy frameworks in enabling the transition to affordable and clean energy, with a strong focus on consumer empowerment. Many countries have implemented Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and incentives to promote the use of renewable energy sources. These policies encourage investment in clean energy technologies and often result in cost reductions for consumers [5,6].

Conclusion

The transition to affordable and clean energy is inseparable from the

empowerment of energy consumers. The literature underscores the pivotal role of management strategies and policy frameworks in enabling this transition. By engaging consumers, promoting energy efficiency, and incentivizing the adoption of clean technologies, a sustainable energy future becomes not only possible but also economically attractive. As governments, organizations, and consumers continue to collaborate and innovate, the path toward a cleaner and more affordable energy future becomes clearer. The literature reviewed in this article offers valuable insights and examples, providing a roadmap for achieving a sustainable energy landscape in the years to come. By embracing the potential of energy consumers, we can build a future where clean and affordable energy is not just a goal but a reality.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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