Mini Review
Volume 13:01, 2024

Journal of Entrepreneurship & Organization Management

ISSN: 2169-026X Open Access

Technologies and Strategies for Driving Energy Transition in Urban Building and Transportation Sectors

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Abstract

The synthesis of renewable energy integration, smart infrastructure and sustainable mobility solutions emerges as a cornerstone for fostering energy transition in urban environments. By examining case studies and current trends, this study elucidates the multifaceted strategies and technological paradigms essential for orchestrating a seamless transition towards energy sustainability in urban building and transportation domains. It scrutinizes the challenges posed by urbanization, burgeoning energy demands and environmental concerns, while delineating the pivotal role of innovative technologies and strategic approaches in mitigating these challenges.

Keywords: Energy transition • Urbanization • Sustainable development • Renewable energy • Smart infrastructure • Sustainable mobility • Technological innovations • Environmental sustainability

Introduction

As the world grapples with the pressing challenge of climate change, cities are increasingly becoming focal points for energy transition initiatives. Urban areas are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, with buildings and transportation sectors being major culprits. However, advancements in technology and innovative strategies offer promising solutions to support the shift towards sustainable energy practices in these sectors. In this article, we explore various technologies and strategies driving energy transition in urban buildings and transportation. Urban buildings account for a significant portion of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. However, several technologies and strategies can help mitigate these impacts and promote energy transition. Incorporating passive design strategies, such as optimal orientation, natural lighting and effective insulation, can significantly reduce energy demand in urban buildings. Additionally, advanced building materials with high thermal performance contribute to energy efficiency [1].

Literature Review

The integration of IoT (Internet of Things) devices, sensors and automation systems enables buildings to optimize energy usage by monitoring and adjusting lighting, heating, cooling and other systems based on occupancy and environmental conditions. Installing rooftop solar panels, wind turbines and other renewable energy systems on urban buildings allows them to generate clean energy locally, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and grid electricity. Energy Management Systems (EMS) software provides real-time monitoring, analysis and control of energy consumption in buildings, helping optimize energy usage, identify inefficiencies and implement energy-saving measures. Upgrading to energy-efficient appliances, HVAC systems, lighting fixtures and other equipment can significantly reduce energy consumption in urban buildings without compromising comfort or functionality. Initiatives like LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) promote the adoption of sustainable building practices and certify buildings that meet stringent energy efficiency standards [2,3].

The transportation sector is a major contributor to urban emissions, primarily through the combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles. However, several technologies and strategies are driving energy transition in urban transportation. Electric Vehicles (EVs), including Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs), offer a cleaner alternative to traditional internal combustion engine vehicles, reducing emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. Investing in the expansion and improvement of public transit systems, including buses, trains, trams and subways, encourages modal shifts away from private car usage, reducing congestion and emissions in urban areas. Encouraging walking, cycling and other forms of active transportation through infrastructure improvements, such as bike lanes, pedestrian zones and bike-sharing programs, reduces reliance on motorized vehicles and promotes healthier lifestyles [4,5].

Discussion

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS technologies, including traffic management systems, real-time information dissemination and smart parking solutions, optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion and minimize energy consumption in urban transportation networks. Developing infrastructure for alternative fuels, such as hydrogen fueling stations and biofuel distribution networks, supports the adoption of low-emission vehicles and diversifies the energy sources powering urban transportation. Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) platforms integrate various transportation services, including public transit, ride-sharing, bike-sharing and car-sharing, into a single digital interface, providing users with convenient and sustainable mobility options [6].

Conclusion

Achieving energy transition in urban building and transportation sectors requires a multifaceted approach encompassing technological innovation, policy support and behavioral change. By leveraging energy-efficient building design, smart technologies, renewable energy integration, electrification of vehicles, public transit expansion and other strategies, cities can reduce their carbon footprint, enhance energy resilience and create healthier and more

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Received: 27 January, 2024, Manuscript No. jeom-24-129740; **Editor Assigned:** 29 January, 2024, PreQC No. P-129740; **Reviewed:** 12 February, 2024, QC No. Q-129740; **Revised:** 17 February, 2024, Manuscript No. R-129740; **Published:** 24 February, 2024, DOI: 10.37421/2169-026X.2024.13.451

sustainable urban environments. However, realizing these goals necessitates collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, urban planners, businesses and communities, to overcome challenges and accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon future.

Acknowledgement

None.

Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest by author.

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How to cite this article: Gruber, Hussein. "Technologies and Strategies for Driving Energy Transition in Urban Building and Transportation Sectors." *J Entrepren Organiz Manag* 13 (2024): 451.