

Special Issue

Social Dimensions of Sustainable Household Energy Consumption

Message from the Guest Editors

Research on sustainable household energy has shifted from technical efficiency and individual behaviour to a multidisciplinary, socially grounded perspective. The focus now lies on community-centred strategies that place consumers within wider socio-economic networks.

Participatory approaches build on trust, shared values, and local knowledge to foster collective action, while engagement extends beyond incentives to embed energy practices in social and cultural contexts. The field increasingly connects household energy to sharing and circular economy frameworks, integrating smart technologies—such as meters, demand-side management, and distributed resources—with community initiatives.

This social turn also raises issues of energy poverty and justice, and highlights literacy, perceptions, and values as key drivers of household choices. Climate discourse further underscores the role of peer influence, awareness, and engagement in reshaping practices. For this Special Issue, we invite studies examining these social dimensions through empirical, methodological, theoretical, or policy lenses.

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Energies is an international, open access journal in energy engineering and research. The journal publishes original papers, review articles, technical notes, and letters. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts which bridge the gaps between research, development and implementation. The journal provides a forum for information on research, innovation, and demonstration in the areas of energy conversion and conservation, the optimal use of energy resources, optimization of energy processes, mitigation of environmental pollutants, and sustainable energy systems.

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