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Modelling household energy consumption to understand sustainable energy behaviour

Namazkhan, Maliheh

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Propositions associated with the dissertation
Modelling households energy consumption to understand sustainable energy behaviour:
An integrated approach
by
Maliheh Namazkhan

1. Integrated approaches considering a wide range of factors such as building characteristics, socio-demographic variables and psychological factors are important as they all explain unique parts of the variance of different types of sustainable energy behaviours (this thesis).
2. The decision tree model identifies more relevant predictors of household gas use than the multiple regression analysis does and thus provides more nuanced and richer knowledge into which variables could be targeted to encourage households to reduce their gas use and therefore become more sustainable (Chapter 2).
3. There are interesting interactions between antecedents of gas use, such as households living in larger (semi-)detached houses having a higher gas consumption compared to those living in terraced houses. Likewise, people with a higher income seem to particularly use more gas when they also live in larger dwellings (Chapter 2).
4. Personal values play an important role in explaining room temperature settings, particularly in daytime room temperature settings: room temperature settings are lower among those with stronger biospheric values, and higher among those with stronger egoistic, hedonic and altruistic values (Chapter 3).
5. Socio-demographic variables and psychological factors explain intentions to install photovoltaic panels (PV) better than actual ownership of PV (Chapter 4).
6. Sustainable PV use is differently related to some of the demographics and psychological factors than other pro-environmental behaviours, such as older respondents, lower educated people, and those with stronger hedonic and egoistic values are significantly associated with lower net electricity use, and thus more sustainable PV use. (Chapter 5).
7. As a wide range of factors affects sustainable energy use of households, different policies are needed to ensure all relevant barriers are removed (this thesis).
8. I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that (Thomas Edison)
9. The skill of data storytelling is removing the noise and focusing people's attention on the key insights (Brent Dykes)
10. You are a treasure if the gems are your aim. No more than a grain if a loaf is your claim! Recall this secret when you play this game: Whatever you pursued- is what you became! (Rumi).