A systematic bibliometric review of clean energy transition: Implications for low-carbon development

Wei Zhang¹, Binshuai Li¹, Rui Xue²*, Chengcheng Wang³, Wei Cao¹

¹ School of Statistics, Shandong University of Finance and Economics, Jinan, China, ² Centre for Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Finance, Department of Applied Finance, Macquarie Business School, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, ³ School of Humanities and Foreign Languages, Qingdao University of Technology, Qingdao, China

* rui.xue@mq.edu.au

Abstract

More voices are calling for a quicker transition towards clean energy. The exploration and exploitation of clean energy such as wind energy and solar energy are effective means to optimise energy structure and improve energy efficiency. To provide in-depth understanding of clean energy transition, this paper utilises a combination of multiple bibliometric mapping techniques, including HistCite, CiteSpace and R Bibliometrix, to conduct a systematic review on 2,191 clean energy related articles obtained from Web of Science (WoS). We identify five current main research streams in the clean energy field, including Energy Transition, Clean Energy and Carbon Emission Policy, Impact of Oil Price on Alternative Energy Stocks, Clean Energy and Economics, and Venture Capital Investments in Clean Energy. Clearly, the effectiveness of policy-driven and market-driven energy transition is an important ongoing debate. Emerging research topics are also discussed and classified into six areas: Clean Energy Conversion Technology and Biomass Energy Utilisation, Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology, Policy-Making in Clean Energy Transition, Impact of Clean Energy Use and Economic Development on Carbon Emissions, Household Use of Clean Energy, and Clean Energy Stock Markets. Accordingly, more and more research attention has been paid to how to improve energy efficiency through advanced clean energy technology, and how to make targeted policies for clean energy transition and energy market development. This article moves beyond the traditional literature review methods and delineates a systematic research agenda for clean energy research, providing research directions for achieving low-carbon development through the clean energy transition.

1 Introduction

Currently, many countries worldwide have proposed and implemented their green recovery plans [1–3]. Public voices for transitioning to clean energy are increasingly high, shifting
investors’ attention from traditional energy markets to clean energy markets. Therefore, it is important and urgent to systematically understand how to transition to a “clean” world.

Considering this context, the key research question of this study is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current progress of the clean energy transition and illustrate a research agenda for emerging areas that await more academic and practical attention. To address the research question, this study provides a systematic literature review of 2,191 articles on clean energy related areas obtained from the Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection database over the period from 1950 to 2020. Using a combination of multiple bibliometric mapping techniques, we identify the main streams of current research and propose important topics for future research, providing comprehensive insights for the developments in clean energy transitions and a theoretical basis for more effective ways to achieve carbon neutrality.

Current main streams of clean energy research identified by bibliometric analysis include Energy Transition, Clean Energy and Carbon Emission Policy, Impact of Oil Price on Alternative Energy Stocks, Clean Energy and Economics, and Venture Capital Investments in Clean Energy.

Specifically, the Energy Transition research stream focuses on the barriers to energy transition at the national and household level [4]. Given the governments’ dominant role in promoting the clean energy transition [5], the Clean Energy and Carbon Emission Policy stream concentrates on assessing governments’ related policies and their impacts on carbon emissions. The Impact of Oil Price on Alternative Energy Stocks stream centres around the influencing factors on clean energy stock prices; existing studies show that oil prices, technology stock prices, and interest rates are prominent factors affecting clean energy stock prices [6]. The Clean Energy and Economics stream tends to apply econometric models to test the causal relationship between clean energy consumption and socio-economic variables such as economic growth [7] and foreign direct investment (FDI) [8]. As the soaring demand for clean energy attracts a significant amount of venture capital inflows, especially the private ones [9], the identification and minimisation of investment risk for investors remains the major topic for current research in Venture Capital Investments in Clean Energy.

We further employ the cluster analysis of articles published in recent five years (2015–2020) to propose the emerging trends and future directions in clean energy research. Clean Energy Conversion Technology and Biomass Energy Utilisation, Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology, Policy-Making in Clean Energy Transition, Impact of Clean Energy Use and Economic Development on Carbon Emissions, Household Use of Clean Energy, and Clean Energy Stock Markets are trending topics in the clean energy transition.

Specifically, a growing trend in Clean Energy Conversion Technology and Biomass Energy Utilisation aims to enhance the efficiency and reliability of the biomass gasification system [10, 11]. Research in Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology has been paying more attention to explore ways to effectively integrate new energy resources with traditional ones, construct an efficient hybrid energy system, and resolve the environmental problems incurred from the use of clean energy [12, 13]. Because of the significant discrepancies in the influences of local governments’ clean energy policies [14, 15], the Policy-Making in Clean Energy Transition research continues to explore how local governments should formulate policies conducive to the development of clean energy. The Impact of Clean Energy Use and Economic Development on Carbon Emissions stream provides policymakers with emission reduction recommendations. It starts to investigate the implications of clean energy use and various economic factors, particularly on carbon productivity and carbon transfer [16]. The vital issue of Household Use of Clean Energy research is to increase the heating system’s energy efficiency and to accelerate the energy transfer of clean cooking [17]. Finally, studies on Clean Energy.
Energy Stock Markets examine the correlation between clean energy stock prices and the overall stock market, green bond market, electricity market, and coal market [18, 19].

Through systematic reviews of current and trending topics in clean energy research, we aim to delineate a critical research agenda for clean energy transition as an effective way to achieve a low-carbon development and carbon neutrality. The article proceeds as follows. Section 2 introduces the literature retrieval process, the bibliometric techniques used and the descriptive information of existing literature on clean energy. Section 3 illustrates the citation map to identify current main streams in clean energy research and provides a critical review of every stream. Section 4 proposes emerging areas and trending topics. Section 5 concludes the article and provides an agenda for future research in the clean energy transition.

2 Research methods

2.1 Literature retrieval process

The method of literature retrieval and bibliometric analysis used in this study is illustrated in Fig 1. Specifically, we collect basic information and cited references of clean energy articles from Web of Science (WoS) over the period of 1950 to June 2020, with themes limited to “clean energy” and journal sources limited to “SSCI, SCIE, A&HCI.” A total of 2,652 initial articles is retrieved. For validation purposes, we have implemented manual checks to select relevant articles, resulting in 471 irrelevant articles removed. Following Linnenluecke et al. (2017) [20], we then add another ten most cited clean energy articles into our database. Therefore, we obtain 2,191 articles in our final dataset.

Table 1 shows the basic information of sample articles. The next section will introduce the bibliometric techniques used, i.e., R Bibliometrix, HistCite and CiteSpace, to analyse these clean energy articles.

2.2 Bibliometric techniques

2.2.1 R Bibliometrix. Bibliometrix is a widely-used R-package developed by Massimo and Corrado (2017) [21]. It provides access to a wide range of bibliometric functions and excellent visualisation tools. This article uses Bibliometrix to carry out descriptive statistical analysis to illustrate the diagrams for the number of publications over time and the author-keyword-journal connections (Sankey diagram).

2.2.2 HistCite. HistCite is a citation software developed by Eugene (2004) [22]. The citation map generated by HistCite is highly useful for mapping out the relationships among highly cited publications [23]. It is a popular tool for researchers to explore research hotspots and how research themes develop over time. It is an essential tool for bibliometric analysis. This paper utilises HistCite to generate the citation map of 50 highly cited articles as guidance to identify key streams of clean energy research.

2.2.3 CiteSpace. CiteSpace is a Java visualization application developed by Chen (2017) [24]. It has powerful bibliometric and visualization functions and is extremely popular in research. It generates a spectrum of colors to depict the literature network’s temporal orders and uses algorithms such as LLR for cluster labeling extraction. This article uses this application to cluster keywords of relevant literature from 2015 to 2020 to identify future research hotspots.

2.3 Descriptive information

2.3.1 Publications over time. Fig 2 illustrates the number of publications from 2000 to 2019. The sample ends at June 2020 and the total number of publications from January 2020 to
Table 1. Basic information.

| Description                | Observations |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Source journals            | 298          |
| Documents                  | 2,191        |
| Average citations per document | 24         |
| References                 | 81,825       |
| Keywords                   | 6,682        |
| Authors                    | 6,496        |

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261091.t001

Fig 1. Flow chart of main method steps.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261091.g001
June 2020 is 274; so to make the diagram more illustrative, we do not include the publication number of 2020. Fig 2 indicates a three-stage development of clean energy research. The first stage (from 2000 to 2010) is the initial stage, with an average of 17.5 articles published per year. The period of 2011–2015 is the developing stage, with an average of 97.4 articles published per year. The publications in the clean energy areas experience a significant increase from 2016, with an average number of 291.5 publications per year (2016–2019). It signals a robust momentum in clean energy research. The clean energy transition is crucially important to mitigate climate change issues and achieve carbon neutrality. Therefore, it is expected to continue to (exponentially) grow in the next few decades.

2.3.2 Author-Keyword-Journal (AKJ) analysis. Fig 3 displays the Sankey diagram, i.e., the author-keyword-journal diagram. The three columns in Fig 3 are the top 20 authors, keywords, and source journals in clean energy research, respectively. The Sankey diagram gives a graphical overview of influential clean energy research. The keywords broadly fall into the following categories: Clean Energy Stock Performance, Clean Energy and Economy Growth, Energy Consumption and Carbon Emissions, Clean Energy Power Generation, and Clean Energy Policy. The major publishing journals in the clean energy area include Renewable Energy, Journal of Cleaner Production, Energy Policy, Energy Economics, Applied Energy, etc.

3 Developments in clean energy transition research

3.1 Identification of current research streams

In this section, we utilise HistCite to generate a citation network map for the top 50 cited articles in clean energy transition research. We then apply the triangulation process [23] to assign titles for each research stream, laying the foundation for the systematic review of these research
3.2 Review of main research streams

3.2.1 Energy transition. The transition from traditional energy towards clean energy remains the major challenge for the first half of the 21st century [4]. We discuss the Energy Transition stream from two perspectives: obstacles in clean energy transition and influencing factors on household energy transition.

3.2.1.1 Obstacles in the clean energy transition. Current major challenges to clean energy transition include subsidies to traditional energy, high initial capital cost, high transaction cost, high financing risk, lack of price risk assessment, lack of clean technology, low market acceptance rate, and immature regulatory systems [25–28]. Luthra et al. (2015) [29] categorised 28 obstacles to the clean energy transition into seven dimensions: economy and finance, market, awareness and information, technology, ecology and geography, culture and behavior, political and government issues. For an in-depth look, the more challenging obstacles are ecological problems, consumers’ lack of awareness of clean technology, inability to obtain solar radiation data, technical complexity, rehabilitation disputes and lack of political commitment.

3.2.1.2 Influencing factors on household energy transition. Household energy use is a substantial part of energy consumption. Investigating the driving factors affecting household energy transition is an effective way to promote clean energy transition. Researchers conduct surveys on households in urban and rural areas in China, India, Brazil, Ethiopia, Guatemala,
Table 2. Top 50 cited articles.

| #  | Author                          | Journal                  | LCS   | GCS   |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1  | Phillips and Perron (1988)      | Biometrika               | 34    | 5,856 |
| 2  | Pesaran et al. (2001)           | Journal of Applied Econometrics | 31    | 3,814 |
| 3  | Painuly (2001)                  | Renewable Energy         | 10    | 385   |
| 4  | Brown (2001)                    | Energy Policy            | 8     | 64    |
| 5  | Brown et al. (2001)             | Energy Policy            | 10    | 247   |
| 6  | Im et al. (2003)                | Journal of Econometrics  | 29    | 4,375 |
| 7  | Henriques and Sadorsky (2008)   | Energy Economics         | 49    | 203   |
| 8  | Shafiee and Topal (2009)        | Energy Policy            | 5     | 726   |
| 9  | Bürer and Wüstenhagen (2009)    | Energy Policy            | 14    | 201   |
| 10 | Wei et al. (2010)               | Energy Policy            | 14    | 267   |
| 11 | Menyah and Wolde-Rufael (2010)  | Energy Policy            | 21    | 308   |
| 12 | Lin et al. (2010)               | Energy Policy            | 5     | 81    |
| 13 | Apergis et al. (2010)           | Ecological Economics     | 18    | 272   |
| 14 | Pao and Tsai (2011)             | Energy                  | 26    | 328   |
| 15 | Shirimali and Kniefel (2011)    | Energy Policy            | 5     | 83    |
| 16 | Kumar et al. (2012)             | Energy Economics         | 56    | 116   |
| 17 | Sadorsky (2012a)                | Energy Economics         | 61    | 190   |
| 18 | Sadorsky (2012b)                | Energy Policy            | 23    | 48    |
| 19 | AlFarra and Abu-Hijleh (2012)   | Energy Policy            | 5     | 36    |
| 20 | Marcus et al. (2013)            | Organization & Environment | 5    | 29    |
| 21 | Lee (2013)                      | Energy Policy            | 32    | 156   |
| 22 | Bohl et al. (2013)              | Energy Economics         | 13    | 38    |
| 23 | Yi (2013)                       | Energy Policy            | 9     | 57    |
| 24 | Hoppmann et al. (2013)          | Research Policy          | 5     | 106   |
| 25 | Managi and Okimoto (2013)       | Japan and the World Economy | 35    | 68    |
| 26 | Sbia et al. (2014)              | Economic Modelling       | 29    | 165   |
| 27 | Wen et al. (2014)               | Energy Economics         | 19    | 40    |
| 28 | Yuan et al. (2014)              | Energy Policy            | 6     | 62    |
| 29 | Baldi et al. (2014)             | Energy Policy            | 6     | 30    |
| 30 | Shafiei and Salim (2014)        | Energy Policy            | 12    | 224   |
| 31 | Pao et al. (2014)               | Energy Policy            | 9     | 42    |
| 32 | Rahut et al. (2014)             | Energy                  | 9     | 44    |
| 33 | Guo et al. (2014)               | Energy Economics         | 6     | 73    |
| 34 | Rebrodeo (2015)                 | Energy Economics         | 26    | 61    |
| 35 | Inchauspe et al. (2015)         | Energy Economics         | 15    | 32    |
| 36 | Khalfaoui et al. (2015)         | Energy Economics         | 6     | 84    |
| 37 | Polzin et al. (2015)            | Energy Policy            | 5     | 107   |
| 38 | Behera et al. (2015)            | Energy                  | 6     | 31    |
| 39 | Bhattacharya et al. (2016)      | Applied Energy           | 20    | 293   |
| 40 | Bondia et al. (2016)            | Energy                  | 24    | 51    |
| 41 | Paramati et al. (2016)          | Energy Economics         | 14    | 81    |
| 42 | Shezan et al. (2016)            | Journal of Cleaner Production | 6    | 73    |
| 43 | Paramati et al. (2017b)         | Energy Economics         | 6     | 42    |
| 44 | Rebrodeo et al. (2017)          | Energy Economics         | 27    | 63    |
| 45 | Dutta (2017)                    | Journal of Cleaner Production | 21   | 37    |
| 46 | Ahmad (2017)                    | Research in International Business and Finance | 15   | 21    |
| 47 | Cai et al. (2018)               | Journal of Cleaner Production | 10   | 61    |
and other countries. Their results show that 1) household income and fuel prices are the dominant factors affecting household energy transition, 2) household size, household members’ occupations, and education levels are also important factors, and 3) the availability and cost of clean energy alternatives have a significant impact on rural household energy transition [30–42].

3.2.2 Clean energy and carbon emission policy. The high carbon energy represented by raw coal was still the main factor in promoting the growth of energy-related CO2 emissions [43]. Appropriate and effective policies are needed to accelerate the clean energy transition. The majority of countries worldwide have set goals to increase the share of clean energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, resulting in various supportive policies [44]. Existing policies concentrate around quantity-driven policies. For instance, levying a carbon tax is a typical quantity-driven policy. Guo et al. (2014) [5] argues that a moderate carbon tax significantly reduces carbon emissions and fossil fuel consumption, with a minimal impact on economic growth. But a more recent study claims that carbon taxes are not always good for the environment [45]. Another example is feed-in tariffs (FIT), a quantity-driven policy targeted at specific technology [46]. It is generally regarded as an effective policy for clean

| #  | Author                          | Journal                        | LCS | GCS |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 48 | Ahmad et al. (2018)            | Economic Modelling            | 10  | 14  |
| 49 | Reboredo and Ugolini (2018)    | Energy Economics              | 6   | 11  |
| 50 | Emir and Bekun (2019)          | Energy & Environment          | 6   | 48  |

Note: LCS is abbreviated for local citation score, representing the number of citations by other 2,190 sample articles; GCS is abbreviated for global citation score, representing the number of citations by all other articles from WoS.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261091.t002

Fig 4. Citation network map of highly cited articles.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261091.g004
energy transition due to its advantages of low costs, low risks, and high innovation incentives [47–51].

3.2.3 Impact of oil price on alternative energy stocks. The way how oil prices affect stock prices works as follows. On the one hand, rising oil prices increase production and service costs and decrease cash flow turnover, leading to a stock price drop. On the other hand, rising oil prices also indicate the mounting inflation pressure and discount rate, resulting in stock price drop [52]. As a critical component of the stock market, energy stocks are also highly correlated with oil prices [52–55]. Nevertheless, the negative impact of oil prices may only be a short-term effect for clean energy stocks [5].

3.2.4 Clean energy and economics. The clean energy transition is closely related to economic development [7]. In Fig 4, the theme of Clean Energy and Economy contains comparatively more nodes (articles), the majority of which use different econometric models to examine the relationship between clean energy consumption and socio-economic variables such as economic growth and FDI. In the short term, there exists a positive correlation and bidirectional causal relationship between clean energy consumption and economic development. In the long run, clean energy consumption will positively affect on economic growth [8, 56–60]. The empirical results of Paramati et al.(2016) [8] indicate that there is a unidirectional causality running from FDI to clean energy consumption, with inflows of FDI having a positive impact on the latter. Moreover, the results of Paramati et al.(2016) [8] also show that the development of the stock market has brought more investment in the clean energy industry and plays a significant role in promoting clean energy transition.

3.2.5 Venture capital investments in clean energy. Venture capital (VC) is one of the main drivers of technology advancement, especially in new and innovative fields such as clean energy. As the demand for clean energy increases, there has been a surge of venture capital inflows, especially private VCs, into clean energy companies [9, 61, 62]. Currently, clean energy has become the third-largest venture investment field [63]. In addition, there are also risks embedded in clean energy investments, including market risks, technology risks, human resource risks, and more importantly, regulatory risks [64]. However, it is feasible to reduce market risks through appropriate business models, reduce technology risks through publicly funded R&D projects, reduce human resource risks through market liberalisation, and reduce regulatory risks through effective government policies [64, 65].

4 Emerging research areas
To illustrate the emerging topics in clean energy transition research, we utilise CiteSpace to conduct cluster analysis on sample articles published in recent five years, from 2015 to 2020. The following two sections provide basic information on identified emerging topics and provide a detailed analysis of the relevant literature.

4.1 Identifications of emerging research areas
Fig 5 demonstrates the keyword co-occurrence network map of recent five years’ publications in clean energy transition areas, with a larger circle (keyword) representing more frequent occurrence, and darker colour representing earlier occurrence (publication time). The lines connecting circles (keywords) refer to co-occurrence.

Using cluster analysis, CiteSpace classifies recent five years’ publications into seven clusters, reflecting seven emerging research topics in clean energy research. The clustered emerging topics include Surface Properties, Fuel Cell, Energy Transition, CO₂ Emission, Household Fuel Use, Oil Price, and Wind Farm. Once again, we apply the triangulation process to define the title of each cluster (area) and provide more details in Table 3.
4.2 Analyses of emerging research areas

4.2.1 Clean energy conversion technology and biomass energy utilization. Converting industrial waste and household garbage into clean energy can help deal with the current shortage of clean energy and protect the environment through the recycling process. Studies show

Table 3. Summary of emerging research areas clusters 1 and 6 have large common features and are thus combined together as “Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology” by triangulation process.

| Cluster ID | Cluster Title                | Size | Silhouette | Year | Keyword-Frequency                                                                 | Research Area                                                                 |
|------------|------------------------------|------|------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0          | Surface Properties           | 81   | 0.691      | 2017 | bioma-68; natural gas-40; biogas-31; CO$_2$-31; water-27                          | Clean Energy Conversion Technology and Biomass Energy Utilisation              |
| 1          | Fuel Cell                   | 71   | 0.654      | 2016 | system-172; optimisation-113; design-77; generation-77; management-61            | Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology                                  |
| 2          | Energy Transition            | 60   | 0.709      | 2016 | renewable energy-230; policy-106; technology-89; power-72; electricity-64        | Policy Making in Clean Energy Transition                                       |
| 3          | CO$_2$ Emission              | 57   | 0.840      | 2017 | CO$_2$ emission-125; economic growth-109; energy consumption-64; carbon emission-56; carbon dioxide emission-52 | Impact of Clean Energy Use and Economic Development on Carbon Emissions       |
| 4          | Household Fuel Use          | 50   | 0.738      | 2017 | combustion-34; fuel-34; air pollution-32; cost-28; coal-25                      | Household Use of Clean Energy                                                 |
| 5          | Oil Price                   | 38   | 0.861      | 2017 | clean energy-185; performance-137; model-112; market-60; oil price-35           | Clean Energy Stock Markets                                                     |
| 6          | Wind Farm                   | 35   | 0.781      | 2016 | energy-177; impact-149; China-126; emission-101; consumption-79                  | Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology                                  |

Note: Size denotes the number of articles included in each cluster; Silhouette denotes within-cluster correlation, ranging from 0 to 1, with a larger value representing a higher correlation; Keyword-Frequency denotes the occurrence frequency of each keyword; and Research Area is the theme for each cluster generated by triangulation process.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261091.t003
that kitchen waste, animal waste, agricultural waste, forestry waste, waste plastics and waste tyres can be converted into clean energy through advanced technologies such as thermochemical conversion or hydrothermal carbonisation [10, 66–70]. Research on improving these conversion technologies is a trending research hotspot. For example, biomass gasification is a feasible and practical clean energy conversion technology, but it faces crucial challenges to effectively eliminate the tar generated during the gasification process [11, 71, 72]. Another trending research topic in this area is to enhance the efficiency and reliability of biomass gasification. In addition, with the continuous advancement of clean energy conversion technology, how to formulate policies to implement more effective classifications of waste and refuse continues to be an urgent issue to be further explored.

4.2.2 Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology. Comprehensive utilisation of various energy resources is an ideal approach to alleviate the energy crisis [73]. Many scholars have investigated how to integrate various new and traditional energy resources, including photovoltaics, batteries, diesel, wind energy, and solar energy, to build a highly effective hybrid energy system [12, 13, 74]. Research on the development of clean energy battery systems, the optimisation of power station scale, and generator systems also receives extensive academic attention [75, 76].

Electricity generation from clean energy, such as wind and solar, plays a key role in the clean technology optimisation research [77, 78]; however, a series of problems are setting obstacles for it. For instance, wind power generation has a high level of uncertainty, and there are potential exposure risks to the operation of a power grid [79, 80]. Therefore, research on wind power generation in recent years tends to focus on wind flow models with the expectation to achieve a more accurate prediction of wind power generation [79, 81]. Besides, considering the negative impact of the wind power plant on the environment, researchers have made significant explorations on the environmental effects of wind farms and on the selection of wind farm locations for harnessing wind energy [82–87]. Resolving the problems arising from the use of clean energy is an important topic to be further examined.

4.2.3 Policy-making in clean energy transition. Regulations and legislations guarantee the secure transition towards clean energy. The government thus plays an essential role in addressing the potential risks incurred by the clean energy transition process. Relevant policies involve electricity price standards, emission trading system, clean energy investment policies, and the use of innovative finance tools in clean energy support [14, 15, 88, 89]. Tingey and Webb (2020) [90], Bayulgen (2020) [91] and Proedrou (2019) [92] evaluate the practices of local government in the UK, US, and EU in terms of the clean energy transition. Their results indicate that although most local governments have adopted clean energy policies, the effectiveness of these policies varies substantially. To improve the effectiveness of energy policies, the views of different local energy users should be taken into account [93]. Therefore, what policies local governments should formulate to accelerate clean energy development will continue to be one of the research hotspots in clean energy transition research.

4.2.4 Impact of clean energy use and economic development on carbon emissions. A large body of literature concentrates on how clean energy, economic growth, land resource use, industrial restructuring, financial market development, the application of new technology and R&D activities affect carbon emissions in recent clean energy areas [16, 94–100]. And it is likely to be a hot issue worth studying in the future. With the improvement of carbon emission measurement methods, research on the impact of the aforementioned factors on carbon productivity and carbon transfer is attracting increasing scholarly attention [101–103]. Moreover, from a micro point of view, the role of enterprises, as an essential component of the national economy, in environmental governance will become another trending research direction [104].
4.2.5 **Household use of clean energy.** Given that household energy use for heating and cooking is an essential part of energy use, recent studies have made substantial progress on enhancing the heating system’s energy efficiency and advancing the clean energy transition for cooking [17, 105–108]. Moreover, in terms of the driving factors on the household clean energy transition, more recent literature indicates that household income and energy prices are found to have significant effects on household energy use decisions. Therefore, energy poverty is also an issue worth future research attention [109–111].

4.2.6 **Clean energy stock markets.** Without support from the financial markets, the clean energy industry alone cannot secure the desired level of clean energy development. In effect, clean energy stocks have recently become a popular investment asset for investors, especially for those with strong considerations for environmental protection [18, 112]. In addition to the follow-up research on the impact of oil price on clean energy stock prices [19, 113, 114], increasingly great attention has been focused on the relationship between clean energy stock investment and its driving factors, including the overall stock market, bond market, electricity market, coal market, gold market, silver market and many more [18, 112, 115–118]. Therefore, we reckon that the relationship between clean energy stocks and the financial markets, especially the green bond market [119] and the carbon market [53], has great potential to be explored in future clean energy research.

5 **Conclusions**

Clean energy transition plays a crucial role in post-pandemic green recoveries and carbon neutrality. To advance understanding of clean energy transition, this paper provides a systematic review of existing clean energy literature through a combination of bibliometric analysis techniques. Overall, there has been a surging trend of clean energy research since 2000, especially after 2016, clean energy research has experienced exponential growth.

We collect clean energy literature from the Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection database over the period from 1950 to 2020. Using bibliometric analysis, we identify and provide a comprehensive review of five current main research streams in the clean energy area, including Energy Transition, Clean Energy and Carbon Emission Policy, Impact of Oil Price on Alternative Energy Stocks, Clean Energy and Economics, and Venture Capital Investments in Clean Energy. Main challenges and opportunities facing the current clean energy transition with respect to each research stream are investigated.

To illustrate emerging research topics that attract more recent academic attention, we apply bibliometric cluster analysis to clean energy literature published in recent five years (from 2015 to 2020). Six trending research areas in the clean energy field are proposed and analysed, including Clean Energy Conversion Technology and Biomass Energy Utilisation, Optimisation of Energy Generation Technology, Policy-Making in Clean Energy Transition, Impact of Clean Energy Use and Economic Development on Carbon Emissions, Household Use of Clean Energy, and Clean Energy Stock Markets.

Future research agenda of clean energy awaits theoretical and practical exploration. We propose that the advancement of clean technology is at the heart of clean energy transition and post-pandemic green recovery. Funding for clean energy transition is a critical challenge that needs innovative financial instruments and policy support. Thus green bond markets, carbon taxes and emission trading system (ETS) need in-depth investigation. With more disruptive financing tools available such as crowdfunding, efforts from enterprises and individuals also deserve more attention. In addition, international collaborations on clean energy transition projects are highly recommended. Intensive international collaborations and cooperations are of high importance to achieve the low-carbon development. The completion of the global
warming goal needs collective contributions from all countries over the world. A community of common destiny for all of humankind cannot be successfully built with efforts from only a small number of highly engaged countries. The current collaboration in clean energy research lacks worldwide collaborations in climate change actions. Therefore, it is highly recommended that all countries shall shoulder their responsibilities in climate change mitigation and adaptation, with steady growth of environmental investments and frequent collaborations with leading countries in climate change actions.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: Rui Xue.

Data curation: Binshuai Li.

Methodology: Chengcheng Wang.

Software: Binshuai Li, Wei Cao.

Validation: Chengcheng Wang.

Visualization: Wei Cao.

Writing – original draft: Wei Zhang.

Writing – review & editing: Wei Zhang, Rui Xue.

References

1. Shaikh I. Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the energy markets. Econ Chang Restruct. 2021; 1–52. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10644-021-09320-0

2. Wan D, Xue R, Linnenluecke M, Tian J, Shan Y. The impact of investor attention during COVID-19 on investment in clean energy versus fossil fuel firms. Financ Res Lett. 2021; 101955. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.frl.2021.101955

3. Tian J, Yu L, Xue R, Zhuang S, Shan Y. Global low-carbon energy transition in the post-COVID-19 era. Appl. Energy. 2021; 118205. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2021.118205

4. Verbruggen A, Fischedick M, Moomaw W, Weir T, Nadaï A, Nilsson LJ, et al. Renewable energy costs, potentials, barriers: Conceptual issues. Energ Policy. 2010; 38(2): 850–861. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2009.10.036

5. Guo Z, Zhang X, Zheng Y, Rao R. Exploring the impacts of a carbon tax on the Chinese economy using a CGE model with a detailed disaggregation of energy sectors. Energ Econ. 2014; 45: 455–462. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2014.08.016

6. Bondia R, Ghosh S, Kanjilal K. International crude oil prices and the stock prices of clean energy and technology companies: Evidence from non-linear cointegration tests with unknown structural breaks. Energy. 2016; 101: 558–565. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2016.02.031

7. Ekholm T, Krey V, Pachauri S, Riahi K. Determinants of household energy consumption in India. Energ Policy. 2010; 38(10): 5696–5707. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2010.05.017

8. Paramati SR, Ummalla M, Apergis N. The effect of foreign direct investment and stock market growth on clean energy use across a panel of emerging market economies. Energ Econ. 2016; 56: 29–41. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2016.02.008

9. Ghosh S, Nanda R. Venture Capital Investment in the Clean Energy Sector. Harvard Business School Entrepreneurial Management Working Paper. 2010. http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1669445

10. Bijarchiyan M, Sahebi H, Mirzamohammadi S. A sustainable biomass network design model for bioenergy production by anaerobic digestion technology: Using agricultural residues and livestock manure. Energy Sustain Soc. 2020; 10(1): 1–17. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13763-020-00252-7

11. AlNouss A, McKay G, Al-Ansari T. Production of syngas via gasification using optimum blends of biomass. J Clean Prod. 2020; 242: 118499. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.118499

12. Diab F, Lan H, Zhang L, Ali S. An environmentally friendly factory in Egypt based on hybrid photovoltaic/wind/diesel/battery system. J Clean Prod. 2016; 112(5): 3884–3894. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.07.008
13. Singh S, Chauhan P, Aftab MA, Ali I, Hussain SMS, Ustun TS. Cost optimization of a stand-alone hybrid energy system with fuel cell and PV. Energies. 2020; 13(5): 1295. https://doi.org/10.3390/en13051295

14. Polzin F, Migendt M, Täube FA, von Flotow P. Public policy influence on renewable energy investments—A panel data study across OECD countries. Energi Policy. 2015; 80: 98–111. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2015.01.026

15. Carley S, Baldwin E, MacLean LM, Brass JN. Global expansion of renewable energy generation: An analysis of policy instruments. Environ Resour Econ. 2017; 68(2): 397–440. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10640-016-0025-3

16. Akram R, Chen F, Khalid F, Ye Z, Majeed MT. Heterogeneous effects of energy efficiency and renewable energy on carbon emissions: Evidence from developing countries. J Clean Prod. 2020; 247: 119122. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.119122

17. Zahn M, Michaelowa K, Dasgupta P, Sachdeva I. Health awareness and the transition towards clean cooking fuels: Evidence from Rajasthan. PLOS ONE. 2020; 15(4): e231931. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231931 PMID: 32348323

18. Dutta A, Bouri E, Das D, Roubaud D. Assessment and optimization of clean energy equity risks and commodity price volatility indexes: Implications for sustainability. J Clean Prod. 2020; 243: 118669. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.118669

19. Pham L. Do all clean energy stocks respond homogeneously to oil price? Energ Econ. 2019; 81: 355–379. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2019.04.010

20. Linnenluecke MK, Chen X, Ling X, Smith T, Zhu Y. Research in finance: A review of influential publications and a research agenda. Pac-Basin Financ J. 2017; 43: 188–199.

21. Massimo A, Corrado C. Bibliometrics: An R-tool for comprehensive science mapping analysis. J Informet. 2017; 11: 959–975. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2017.08.007

22. Eugene G. Historiographic Mapping of knowledge domains literature. J Inf Sci. 2004; 30(2): 119–145.

23. Linnenluecke MK, Marrone M, Singh AK. Conducting systematic literature reviews and bibliometric analyses. Aust J Manage. 2020; 45(2): 175–194. https://doi.org/10.1177/0312896219877678

24. Chen C. Citespace II: Detecting and visualizing emerging trends and transient patterns in scientific literature. J Am Soc Inf Sci Tec. 2006; 57(3): 359–377. https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.20317

25. Painuly JP. Barriers to renewable energy penetration; A framework for analysis. Renew Energ. 2001; 24(1): 73–89. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0960-1481(00)00186-5

26. Reddy S, Painuly JP. Diffusion of renewable energy technologies—Barriers and stakeholders’ perspectives. Renew Energ. 2004; 29(9): 1431–1447. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2003.12.003

27. Owen AD. Renewable energy: Externality costs as market barriers. Energ Policy. 2006; 34(5): 632–642. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2005.11.017

28. Robert P, Pell R, Tijsseling L, Goodenough K, Wall F, Dehaine Q, et al. Towards sustainable extraction of technology materials through integrated approaches. Nat Rev Earth Environ. 2021; 2: 665–679. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-021-00211-6

29. Luthra S, Kumar S, Garg D, Haleem A. Barriers to renewable/sustainable energy technologies adoption: Indian perspective. Renew Sust Energ Rev. 2015; 41: 762–776. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2014.08.077

30. Heltberg R. Fuel switching: Evidence from eight developing countries. Energ Policy. 2004; 32(5): 869–887. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2004.04.018

31. Pachauri S. An analysis of cross-sectional variations in total household energy requirements in India using micro survey data. Energ Policy. 2004; 32(15): 1723–1735. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0301-4215(03)00162-9

32. Gupta G, Köhlin G. Preferences for domestic fuel: Analysis with socio-economic factors and rankings in Kolkata, India. Ecol Econ. 2006; 57(1): 107–121. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2005.03.010

33. Farsi M, Filippini M, Pachauri S. Fuel choices in urban Indian households. Environ Dev Econ. 2007; 12(6): 757–774. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1355777X07003932

34. Narasimha Rao M, Reddy BS. Variations in energy use by Indian households: An analysis of micro level data. Energy. 2007; 32(2): 143–153. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2006.03.012

35. Pachauri S, Jiang L. The household energy transition in India and China. Energi Policy. 2008; 36(11): 4022–4035. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2008.06.016

36. Peng W, Hisham Z, Pan J. Household level fuel switching in rural Hubei. Energy Sustain Dev. 2010; 14(3): 238–244. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esd.2010.07.001

37. Pandey VL, Chaubal A. Comprehending household cooking energy choice in rural India. Biomass Bioenerg. 2011; 35(11): 4724–4731. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biombioe.2011.09.020
38. Onoja AO, Idoko O. Econometric analysis of factors influencing fuel wood demand in rural and peri-urban farm households of Kogi State. Consilience. 2012; 8: 115–127. https://doi.org/10.7916/d83x869t

39. van der Kroon B, Brouwer R, van Beukering PJH. The energy ladder: Theoretical myth or empirical truth? Results from a meta-analysis. Renew Sust Energ Rev. 2013; 20: 504–13. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2014.01.071

40. Sehjpal R, Ramji A, Soni A, Kumar A. Going beyond incomes: Dimensions of cooking energy transitions in rural India. Energy. 2014; 68: 470–477. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2015.03.059

41. Behera B, Rahut DB, Jeetendra A, Ali A. Household collection and use of biomass energy sources in South Asia. Energy. 2015; 85: 468–480. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2015.03.059

42. Zhou X, Gu A. Impacts of household living consumption on energy use and carbon emissions in China based on the input-output model. Adv Clim Chang Res. 2020; 11(2): 118–130. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accre.2020.06.004

43. Ma Y, Song Z, Li S, Jiang T. Dynamic evolution analysis of the factors driving the growth of energy-related CO2 emissions in China: An input-output analysis. PLOS ONE. 2020; 15(12): e243557. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0243557

44. Ali G, Abbas S, Pan Y, Chen Z, Hussain J, Sajjad M, et al. Urban environment dynamics and low carbon society: Multi-criteria decision analysis modeling for policy makers. Sustain. Cities Soc. 2019; 51: 101763. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2019.101763

45. Nie J, Shi C, Xiong Y, Xia S, Liang J. Downside of a carbon tax for environment: Impact of information sharing. Adv Clim Chang Res. 2020; 11(2): 92–101. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accre.2020.06.006

46. Groba F, Breitschopf B. Impact of renewable energy policy and use on innovation: A literature review. DIW Berlin Discussion Paper. 2013.

47. Menanteau P, Finon D, Lamy M. Prices versus quantities: Choosing policies for promoting the development of renewable energy. Energy Policy. 2003; 31(8): 799–812. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0301-4215(02)00133-7

48. Held A, Ragwitz M, Haas R. On the success of policy strategies for the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources in the EU. Energ Environ-U K. 2006; 17(6): 849–868. https://doi.org/10.1260/09583050677938849

49. Lipp J. Lessons for effective renewable electricity policy from Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom. Energy Policy. 2007; 35(11): 5481–5495. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2007.05.015

50. Fouquet D, Johansson TB. European renewable energy policy at crossroads—Focus on electricity support mechanisms. Energy Policy. 2008; 36(11): 4079–4092. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2008.06.023

51. Bürer MJ, Wüstenhagen R. Which renewable energy policy is a venture capitalist’s best friend? Empirical evidence from a survey of international cleantech investors. Energy Policy. 2009; 37(12): 4997–5006. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2009.06.071

52. Henriques I, Sadorsky P. Oil prices and the stock prices of alternative energy companies. Energ Econ. 2008; 30(3): 998–1010. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2007.11.001

53. Kumar S, Managi S, Matsuda A. Stock prices of clean energy firms, oil and carbon markets: A vector autoregressive analysis. Energ Econ. 2012; 34(1): 215–226. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2011.03.002

54. Sadorsky P. Correlations and volatility spillovers between oil prices and the stock prices of clean energy and technology companies. Energ Econ. 2012; 34(1): 248–255. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2011.03.006

55. Managi S, Okimoto T. Does the price of oil interact with clean energy prices in the stock market? Jpn World Econ. 2013; 27: 1–9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japwor.2013.03.003

56. Pao H, Li Y, Fu H. Clean energy, non-clean energy, and economic growth in the MIST countries. Energ Policy. 2014; 67: 932–942. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2013.12.039

57. Bhattacharya M, Paramati SR, Ozturk I, Bhattacharya S. The effect of renewable energy consumption on economic growth: Evidence from top 38 countries. Appl Energ. 2016; 162: 733–741. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2015.10.104

58. Paramati SR, Apergis N, Ummalla M. Financing clean energy projects through domestic and foreign capital: The role of political cooperation among the EU, the G20 and OECD countries. Energ Econ. 2017; 61: 62–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2016.11.001

59. Cai Y, Sam CY, Chang T. Nexus between clean energy consumption, economic growth and CO2 emissions. J Clean Prod. 2018; 182: 1001–1011. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.02.035
60. Emir F, Bekun FV. Energy intensity, carbon emissions, renewable energy, and economic growth nexus: New insights from Romania. Energ Environ-U K. 2019; 30(3): 427–443. https://doi.org/10.1177/0958305X18793108

61. Wüstenhagen R, Menichetti E. Strategic choices for renewable energy investment: Conceptual framework and opportunities for further research. Energy Policy. 2012; 40: 1–10. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2011.06.050

62. Sadorsky P. Modeling renewable energy company risk. Energ Policy. 2012; 40: 39–48. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2011.06.064

63. Wüstenhagen R, Wuebker R, Bürer MJ, Goddard D. Financing fuel cell market development: Exploring the role of expectation dynamics in venture capital investment. In: Pogutz S, Russo A, Migliavacc P, editors. Innovation, markets and sustainable energy. Bocconi University, Italy; 2009. Chapter 8. https://doi.org/10.4337/9781848449329.00019

64. Wüstenhagen R, Teppo T. Do venture capitalists really invest in good industries? Risk-return perceptions and path dependence in the emerging European energy VC market. Int J Technol Manage. 2006; 34(1/2): 63–87. https://doi.org/10.1504/IJTM.2006.009448

65. Guerrero-Liquet G, Sánchez-Lozano J, García-Cascales M, Lamata M, Verdegay J. Decision-making for risk management in sustainable renewable energy facilities: A case study in the Dominican Republic. Sustainability-Basel. 2016; 8(5): 455. https://doi.org/10.3390/su8050455

66. Wang C, Fan Y, Hornung U, Zhu W, Dahmen N. Char and tar formation during hydrothermal treatment of sewage sludge in subcritical and supercritical water: Effect of organic matter composition and experiments with model compounds. J Clean Prod. 2020; 242: 118586. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.118586

67. Wang Z, Burra KG, Zhang M, Li X, Policella M, Lei T, et al. Co-pyrolysis of waste tire and pine bark for syngas and char production. Fuel. 2020; 274: 117878. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2020.117878

68. Yao D, Wang C. Pyrolysis and in-line catalytic decomposition of polypropylene to carbon nanomaterials and hydrogen over Fe-and Ni-based catalysts. Appl Energ. 2020; 265: 114819. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2020.114819

69. Zhou Y, Engler N, Li Y, Nelles M. The influence of hydrothermal operation on the surface properties of kitchen waste-derived hydrochar: Biogas upgrading. J Clean Prod. 2020; 259: 121020. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.121020

70. Ali G, Abbas S, Tanikawa H, Ahmed S, Afroz N, Qamer FM. Comparative cost analysis of waste recycling for best energy alternative. J Biod Environ Sci, 2013; 3(8):2220–6663.

71. Casari N, Pinelli M, Suman A, Candido A, Morini M. Deposition of syngas tar in fuel supplying duct of a biomass gasifier: A numerical study. Fuel. 2020; 273: 117579. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2020.117579

72. Cheng L, Wu Z, Zhang Z, Guo C, Ellis N, Bi X, et al. Tar elimination from biomass gasification syngas with bauxite residue derived catalysts and gasification char. Appl Energ. 2020; 258: 114088. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2019.114088

73. Li Y, Wang J, Han Y, Zhao Q, Fang X, Cao Z. Robust and opportunistic scheduling of district integrated natural gas and power system with high wind power penetration considering demand flexibility and compressed air energy storage. J Clean Prod. 2020; 256: 120456. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.120456

74. Lund PD. Clean energy systems as mainstream energy options. Int J Energ Res. 2016; 40(1): 4–12. https://doi.org/10.1002/er.3283

75. Rosales-Asensio E, García-Moya FJ, González-Martínez A, Borge-Diez D, de Simón-Martín M. Stress mitigation of conventional water resources in water-scarce areas through the use of renewable energy powered desalination plants: An application to the Canary Islands. Energy Rep. 2020; 6: 124–135. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egyr.2019.10.031

76. Siddiqui O, Dincer I. Development and evaluation of a solar-based integrated ammonia synthesis and fuel cell system. J Clean Prod. 2020; 256: 120393. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.120393

77. Kholoie H, Abboliah A, Shafie-Khah M, Siano P, Nojavan S, Anvari-Moghaddam A, et al. Co-optimized bidding strategy of an integrated wind-thermal-photo voltaic system in deregulated electricity market under uncertainties. J Clean Prod. 2020; 242: 118434. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.118434

78. Zhang Q, Zhao Y. Supply-side load optimization after considering environmental cost. Pol J Environ Stud. 2020; 29(3): 2455–2466. https://doi.org/10.15244/pjes/111579

79. Cheng W, Cheng R, Shi J, Zhang C, Sun G, Hua D. Interval power flow analysis considering interval output of wind farms through affine arithmetic and optimizing-scenarios method. Energies. 2018; 11: 3176. https://doi.org/10.3390/en11113176
80. Borunda M, Cruz JD, Garduno-Ramirez R, Nicholson AE. Technical assessment of small-scale wind power for residential use in Mexico: A Bayesian intelligence approach. PLOS ONE. 2020; 15(3): e230122. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230122 PMID: 32163479

81. Simons PJ, Cheung WM. Development of a quantitative analysis system for greener and economically sustainable wind farms. J Clean Prod. 2016; 133: 886–898. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.06.030

82. Mo J, Huang T, Zhang X, Zhao Y, Liu X, Li J, et al. Spatiotemporal distribution of nitrogen dioxide within and around a large-scale wind farm—A numerical case study. Atmos Chem Phys. 2017; 17(23): 14239–14252. https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-17-14239-2017

83. Passoni G, Rowlcliffe JM, Whiteman A, Huber D, Kusak J. Framework for strategic wind farm site prioritisation based on modelled wind reproduction habitat in Croatia. Eur J Wildlife Res. 2017; 63(2): 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-017-1092-7

84. Lemos Buhlões R, Souza De Santana E, Alisson Bandeira Santos A. Use of analytic hierarchy process for wind farm installation region prioritization—Case study. Energies. 2020; 13(9): 2284. https://doi.org/10.3390/en13092284

85. Negro V, Del Campo JM, Frades JL, Antón MM, Esteban MD, López-Gutiérrez J, et al. Impact of offshore wind farms on marine ecosystems, pelagic species and fishing. J Coastal Res. 2020; 95(sp1): 118–122. https://doi.org/10.2112/SI95-023.1

86. Xie J, Fu J, Liu S, Hwang W. Assessments of carbon footprint and energy analysis of three wind farms. J Clean Prod. 2020; 254: 120159. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.120159

87. Zhang X, Xu L, Chen Y, Liu T. Emergy-based ecological footprint analysis of a wind farm in China. Ecol Indic. 2020; 111: 106018. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2019.106018

88. Swain RB, Karimu A. Renewable electricity and sustainable development goals in the EU. World Dev. 2020; 125: 104693. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.104693

89. Zhang X, Xu L, Chen Y, Liu T. Emergy-based ecological footprint analysis of a wind farm in China. Ecol Indic. 2020; 111: 106018. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2019.106012

90. Tingey M, Webb J. Governance institutions and prospects for local energy innovation: Laggards and leaders among UK local authorities. Energ Policy. 2020; 138: 111211. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2019.111211

91. Bayulgen O. Localizing the energy transition: Town-level political and socio-economic drivers of clean energy in the United States. Energy Res Soc Sci. 2020; 62: 101376. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2019.101376

92. Proedrou F. Behind the EU’s energy and climate policy conundrum: Erroneous power toolbox, deadlocks and the way forward. JCMS—J Common Mark S. 2019; 58(2): 402–418. https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.12925

93. Yan X, Cui S, Xu L, Ali G. Carbon Footprints of Urban Residential Buildings in Xiamen: A Household Survey Approach. Sustainability. 2018; 10(4): 1131–1141. https://doi.org/10.3390/SU10041131

94. Ike GN, Usman O, Sarkodie SA. Testing the role of oil production in the environmental Kuznets curve of oil producing countries: New insights from method of moments quantile regression. Sci Total Environ. 2020; 711: 135208. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.135208 PMID: 31818555

95. Usman A, Ullah S, Ortu G, Chishti MZ, Zafar SM. Analysis of asymmetries in the nexus among clean energy and environmental quality in Pakistan. Environ Sci Pollut R. 2020; 27(17): 20736–20747. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-020-08372-5 PMID: 32246426

96. Mohammad YB, Arfat AS, Shambhu S. Exploring environment-energy-growth nexus in OECD countries: A nonparametric approach. Biomass Conversion and Biorefinery. 2021. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13399-021-01835-w

97. Ali G, Abbas S, Exploring CO2 sources and sinks nexus through integrated approach: Insight from pakistan. J Environ Informatics. 2013; 1: 112–122. https://doi.org/10.3808/jei.201300250

98. Shayeb S, Richard F, Raju S, Angela BH. Elevated salinity and water table drawdown significantly affect greenhouse gas emissions in soils from contrasting land-use practices in the prairie pothole region. Biogeochemistry. 2021; 155:127–146 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1007/RS.3-52942/V1

99. Ramírez-Contreras NE, Munar-Flores D, Hilf S, Juan CE, Ocampo-Duran A, Ruiz-Delgado J, GHG Balance of Agricultural Intensification & Bioenergy Production in the Orinoquia Region, Colombia. Land. 2021; 10(3): 289.

100. Hong C, Burney JA, Pongratz J, Nabel JEMS, Mueller ND, Jackson RB, et al. Global and regional drivers of land-use emissions in 1961–2017. Nature. 2021; 589: 554–561. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-03138-y PMID: 33505037
101. Han D, Li T, Feng S, Shi Z. Application of threshold regression analysis to study the impact of clean energy development on China’s carbon productivity. Int J Env Res Pub He. 2020; 17(3): 1060. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17031060 PMID: 32046165

102. Yang Y, Xue R, Yang D. Does market segmentation necessarily discourage energy efficiency. PLOS ONE. 2020; 15(5): e0233034.

103. Ali G, Nitivattananon V, Mehmood H, Sabir M, Sheikh S-R, Abbas S. A synthesis approach to investigate and validate carbon sources and sinks of a mega city of developing country. Environ Dev. 2012; 4, 54–72.

104. Tian J, Pan C, Xue R, Yang X, Wang C, Ji X, et al. Corporate innovation and environmental investment: The moderating role of institutional environment. Adv Clim Chang Res. 2020; 11(2): 85–91. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accre.2020.05.003

105. Bhandari R, Pandit S. Electricity as a cooking means in Nepal-A modelling tool approach. Sustainability-Basel. 2018; 10(8): 2841. https://doi.org/10.3390/su10082841

106. Shankar AV, Quinn AK, Dickinson KL, Williams KN, Masera O, Charron D, et al. Everybody stacks: Lessons from household energy case studies to inform design principles for clean energy transitions. Energ Policy. 2020; 141: 111468. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2020.111468 PMID: 32476710

107. Xu Z, Liu F, Xu W, Wang Z, Yang Y, Xu C, et al. Atmospheric air quality in Beijing improved by application of air source heat pump (ASHP) systems. J Clean Prod. 2020; 257: 120582. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.120582

108. Das I, Lewis JJ, Ludolph R, Bertram M, Adair-Rohani H, Jeuland M. The benefits of action to reduce household air pollution (BAR-HAP) model: A new decision support tool. PLOS ONE. 2021; 16(1): e245729. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0245729 PMID: 33481916

109. Wang B, Li H, Yuan X, Sun Z. Energy poverty in China: A dynamic analysis based on a hybrid panel data decision model. Energies. 2017; 10(12): 1942. https://doi.org/10.3390/en10121942

110. Osano A, Maghanga J, Munyenza CF, Chaka B, Olal W, Forbes PBC. Insights into household fuel use in Kenyan communities. Sustain Cities Soc. 2020; 55: 102039. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2020.102039

111. Swain SS, Mishra P. Determinants of adoption of cleaner cooking energy: Experience of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in rural Odisha, India. J Clean Prod. 2020; 248: 119223. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.119223

112. Rezec M, Scholtens B. Financing energy transformation: The role of renewable energy equity indices. Int J Green Energy. 2017; 14(4): 368–378. https://doi.org/10.1080/15435075.2016.1261704

113. Dutta A. Oil and energy sector stock markets: An analysis of implied volatility indexes. Journal of Multinational Financial Management. 2018; 44: 61–68. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mulfin.2017.12.002

114. Chen Y, Zheng B, Qi F. Modeling the nexus of crude oil, new energy and rare earth in China: An asymmetric VAR-BEKK (DCC)-GARCH approach. Resour Policy. 2020; 65: 101545. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2019.101545

115. Dutta A, Bouri E, Noor MH. Return and volatility linkages between CO2 emission and clean energy stock prices. Energy. 2018; 164: 803–810. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2018.09.055

116. Dutta A. Impact of silver price uncertainty on solar energy firms. J Clean Prod. 2019; 225: 1044–1051. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.04.040

117. Lin B, Chen Y. Dynamic linkages and spillover effects between CET market, coal market and stock market of new energy companies: A case of Beijing CET market in China. Energy. 2019; 172: 1198–1210. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2019.02.029

118. Razmi SF, Ramezanian Bajgiran B, Behname M, Salari TE, Razmi SMJ. The relationship of renewable energy consumption to stock market development and economic growth in Iran. Renew Energ. 2020; 145: 2019–2024. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2019.06.166

119. Gianfrate G, Peri M. The green advantage: Exploring the convenience of issuing green bonds. J Clean Prod. 2019; 219: 127–135. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.02.022