

Comprehending the Economic Aspects of Energy Supply and Use

Summary of a Delphi Study regarding the relevance
of basic economic knowledge in the field of energy

Abstract:

Transforming the German energy system with the intention of using efficient, sustainable energy based on renewable energy sources presents itself as a challenge for an entire generation. Citizens will be affected in a number of ways. As taxpayers and energy consumers, they will, for instance, have to make a financial contribution to the “Energiewende” [change in energy policy in Germany]. At the same time, they – as (economic) citizens, consumers and members of the labour force – should/will be actively involved in the transformation process as well as in the controversial debates that ensue regarding this change. Discussing energy supply and energy usage places numerous demands on the citizens. Alongside scientific, technical and political knowledge and abilities, according to the thesis, basic economic knowledge and abilities are also required by citizens to address these particular demands. It has, however, yet to be scientifically clarified how the area of school and out-of-school Economic Energy Education can be formulated in terms of content. In the framework of a Delphi Study, expert opinions regarding the educational relevance of economic aspects relating to energy supply and use from several perspectives were collected and pooled together. The theoretical foundations, the research design and the main results of this study are presented here. Implications for school and out-of-school Energy Education are also outlined.