

Does community management influence household adoption of rooftop solar photovoltaics in rural China?

This paper examines inequality in household adoption of rooftop solar photovoltaics in rural China through a qualitative study of three villages. The Chinese government promotes distributed solar to drive low-carbon development. However, community management and China's institutional system influence unequal access.

Can a family install a rooftop photovoltaic system?

In communities embracing the collective leasing mode, all families possess equal opportunity to install rooftop photovoltaic systems; however, household income varies. Families with larger roof areas can install multiple photovoltaic sets and garner more rent.

Do community-level support and household resources affect photovoltaic adoption?

We find that structural opportunities provided by communities and households' own resource endowments have an additive effect on adoption. This highlights the need to consider both community-level support and household resources when evaluating photovoltaic adoption and energy justice.

Do local authorities play a role in household rooftop photovoltaic adoption?

The research revealed salient geographic disparities in household rooftop photovoltaic adoption, closely associated with the role of local authorities (particularly village committees) in new energy promotion schemes.

How can village committees improve photovoltaic adoption?

Families with larger roof areas can install multiple photovoltaic sets and garner more rent. In this mode, village committee involvement can effectively mitigate constraints on photovoltaic adoption such as lack of energy services provided by enterprises and imperfect information mechanisms (Kiprop et al. 2019; Kowalska-Pyzalska 2017).

Do villagers have a role in photovoltaic negotiations?

From a procedural justice standpoint, the village committee acts as an agent negotiating with photovoltaic enterprises while villagers participate limitedly (e.g., voting at meetings). Regarding pricing roof resources and determining cooperation specifics, villagers' absence in negotiations diminishes the fairness of the process.

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