



## Energy Efficiency and the Law

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### Abstract

Energy efficiency may be the most substantial and most rapid contributor in making the transition to a new energy future, and requires us to consider the demand side as well as how to produce more on the supply side. This chapter will inquire into how law plays a role in promoting or hindering energy efficiency, in fields such as transport, housing, and capital investment.

### The Role of Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is a question of getting more of the services we want out of each unit of energy that we use; more warmth, more light, more transport, more economic activity. Or, to put it another way, it is a question of reducing the amount of energy required to produce a given level of services or activity. Energy efficiency is the relationship between the productivity we obtain and the primary energy that we use. In technical terms, some inefficiency in the use of energy is inevitable. It is implicit in the laws of thermodynamics that some energy is always lost when it is converted from one form to another, or put to use. A coal-fired power station loses much of the energy in the coal that is supplied to it up the flue and in cooling water. The heat generated by the engine of a car is a similar conversion loss; it is energy that is not used to move the car. But the amount lost can be reduced. How can we make such reductions in conversion and in use of energy?

Improvements to energy efficiency mean that the amount of economic output or satisfaction of human needs per unit of energy can be increased. There are various aspects to energy efficiency; scientists and engineers will see it one way, economists

another, and environmental activists a different one again. Efficiency takes different forms; in electricity, for example, there is generation efficiency, transmission efficiency, and end-use efficiency. Energy efficiency can be understood as one of the elements of energy sustainability, the others being energy conservation and renewable energy sources. In fact energy conservation - the reduction of energy use - can conveniently be considered along with efficiency. (In developing and developed countries alike, care is needed to make sure that energy conservation is not advocated in a way that sounds as if people should simply do without.)

论文全文:  Energy Efficiency and the Law.rar





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