

Climate change adaptation in sustainable energy and climate planning

Elis Vollmer
University of Tartu



UNIVERSITY
OF TARTU

1632

Climate adaptation measures are a crucial part of sustainable energy and climate action plans.

But why?

Protecting Infrastructure and Energy Supply

Climate change can lead to extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, which can damage energy infrastructure and disrupt energy supply.

By adapting energy systems to be more resilient, we can reduce the risk of power outages and ensure a reliable energy supply, even in the face of climate-related disruptions.

Reducing Economic Impact

Climate-related disasters can result in significant economic losses.

Adapting the energy sector helps minimize these losses by ensuring that businesses, industries, and households have access to stable and affordable energy, even in a changing climate.



Enhancing Energy Security

Climate change can affect the availability of traditional energy sources, such as fossil fuels.

By diversifying the energy mix and investing in renewable energy sources, countries can reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and enhance energy security, making them less vulnerable to supply disruptions and price fluctuations.

Mitigating Health Risks

Extreme heatwaves and air pollution, exacerbated by climate change, can pose health risks, especially in urban areas.

Sustainable energy planning can lead to cleaner energy sources and improved air quality, reducing the health impacts of climate change.



Supporting Sustainable Development

Sustainable energy practices are essential for achieving long-term sustainable development goals.

Adaptation measures in energy planning can contribute to environmental sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote clean and efficient energy technologies.

Meeting Climate Targets

To limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as outlined in the Paris Agreement, it is essential to both mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the climate changes that are already occurring.

Sustainable energy and climate planning is a crucial part of this effort.

Resilience to Uncertainty

Climate change brings a degree of uncertainty regarding the specific impacts and their timing.

Adapting energy systems helps nations and communities become more resilient to these uncertainties and better prepared for a range of possible climate scenarios.



Long-Term Cost Savings

While there may be initial costs associated with adapting energy infrastructure and systems, these investments can lead to long-term cost savings by reducing the need for emergency responses, repairs, and rebuilding in the aftermath of climate-related disasters.



Global Interconnectedness

The energy sector is globally interconnected, with energy resources and supply chains crossing international borders. Addressing climate change adaptation in energy planning requires international cooperation to ensure the stability of global energy systems.

Social Equity

Vulnerable populations are often disproportionately affected by climate change impacts.

Inclusive and equitable adaptation measures can help protect the most vulnerable communities and reduce social disparities in access to energy services and resources.



In conclusion

Addressing climate change adaptation in sustainable energy and climate planning is **crucial for safeguarding infrastructure, reducing economic risks, ensuring energy security, protecting public health, supporting sustainable development, and meeting global climate goals**. It is an integral part of a comprehensive strategy to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

Climate change adaptation in sustainable energy and climate planning is **an ongoing process** that requires the integration of climate resilience into energy policies, infrastructure investments, and long-term planning to ensure a sustainable and secure energy future in the face of a changing climate.



Thank you!



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

CEESEU-DIGIT project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE Clean Transition Programme under grant agreement No 101077297. The sole responsibility of the content of this material lies with the authors. It does not necessarily represent the views of European Union, and neither EASME nor the European Commission are responsible for any use of this material.