

ABSTRACT

Energy policy of Poland in the light of the assumptions of the climate policy of the European Union

Poland, being a member of the European Union since 2004, is obliged to implement the climate provisions of the Community. Conducting energy policy is a significant challenge for public authorities in the context of achieving EU goals, achieving economic growth and development, and the well-being of Citizens. Problems with the implementation of energy policy are exacerbated by the increase in the imposed restrictions, orders and bans of the EU, as well as the growing burden of transition costs on households and businesses.

The purpose of the dissertation was to analyze and evaluate Poland's energy policy in light of the European Union's climate policy, as well as to prepare solutions and changes in this area, in order to improve the implementation of these policies and make them closer to the citizens. The six chapters of the dissertation discuss issues concerning the role of energy in the national economy, the formation of climate policy in the world, the implementation and conduct of climate policy in the EU, Poland's energy policy, as well as examine the preferences of young consumers for selected elements of energy and climate policy, both Polish and EU, and prepare recommendations for further action.

The study confirms the main hypothesis, which assumes the increasing strength of the influence of climate policy on the implemented energy policy in Poland, and the low effectiveness of Poland's energy policy measures aimed at achieving climate goals. The result of low effectiveness is an increase in the energy burden on citizens and businesses, a deepening of social and economic disparities, as well as increasing tensions within society.

The survey yielded important insights. It was observed that young people taking part in the survey valued a clean and safe living environment significantly more than reducing carbon emissions. Young men participating in the survey were significantly more critical of EU climate policy than young women. Young women, on the other hand, were more willing to participate in a potential plant-based diet program as long as they did not emit methane from meat consumption. Young people were willing to engage in energy-saving behavior, but had a low propensity to accept higher energy prices. Young people, both men and women, did not accept restrictions on consumers' personal freedom done in the name of climate goals. They disagreed with the ban on gasoline car registration and the policy of eliminating the automobile industry. When respondents planned their life goals, they did so in moderation, leaving consumerism out

of their expectations. The survey revealed that climate policy is implemented in a way that leaves the public out of the decision-making process, individual countries are not allowed to apply their own programs, and a system of mandates, punishments and repressive measures prevails. Young people do not want such a climate policy.

In this light, Polish energy policy looks even worse. Despite their knowledge of the hard and harsh fiscal rules of European climate policy, Polish authorities and various governments have done little to build a strong renewable energy sector. Current measures, while right, are at least a decade late. The costs of bad energy policy are borne by Poland's energy users. Polish companies pay more into the emissions trading system than the Polish budget receives.

The research carried out in the paper made it possible to make key findings. EU climate policy urgently needs to be reformed to make it more realistic and socialized. The idea is to decentralize goal-setting and build policies that incentivize rather than prohibit. As it stands now, climate policy will not be able to continue because there is growing public resistance to its key provisions. Poland appears to be a central location for changes that could reshape the cultivation of this policy in Europe. The paper presents numerous proposals for positive changes in the area under discussion. The author hopes that the recommendations and conclusions of the study will help decision-makers make sound decisions on climate and energy policy.

Keywords: *energy policy, climate policy, climate change, energy, national economy*