



Call for papers - Special Session on Energy use, urbanization and the spatial structure of cities

We are pleased to invite you to contribute papers for a Special Session on **Energy use, urbanization and the spatial structure of cities**, which we will organize at the 11th RSAI World Congress on April 25-28, 2016. The RSAI World Congress will take place in Istanbul (Turkey) and will be a major international event.

Aim and scope

This special sessions aims to bring together papers that study the impact of urban form and (increasing) urban density on energy use and emissions by households and firms.

People and firms cluster in urban areas, causing cities to act as engines of national and global economic growth. At the same time, cities are associated with about 70% of global energy consumption and energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. The good news, and general finding in the literature, is that both increasing urban density and increasing city size reduce households' average energy consumption (Glaeser and Kahn 2010). The basic idea underlying this so-called compact city argument is that a higher population density makes cities more environmentally friendly because it decreases average commuting distance, increases public transport usage, while smaller housing units help to reduce transport and home energy use.

However, increasing population density also tends to reduce local air quality for an increasing number of people. This suggests the existence of a trade-off in city planning between reducing global greenhouse gas emissions on the one hand, and improving local air quality on the other. Moreover, the compact city argument tends to undervalue that a higher population density will spark relocation of firms and households, because an increasing-density policy affects prices, wages and land rents. The implied sorting processes may undermine the environmental success of high density policies. Also, existing research on the relationship between energy use and city structure focuses almost exclusively on developed countries. But there are good reasons to believe that in developing countries the involved mechanisms lead to different outcomes, particularly in those countries that face the combination of low incomes and rapid urbanization.

We invite papers that study:

- the impact of city structure on energy use, including the role of spatial sorting processes
- the apparent trade-off between per capita energy use and local air quality in urban environments
- urban policies to stimulate the transition towards low-carbon cities
- the relation between energy use and urbanization in developing countries
- the links between energy resources, firm location and city formation (in developing countries)

Session Organizers:

Dr. Peter Mulder, Department of Spatial Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
(Chair)

Dr. Birte Pfeiffer, GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Institute of African Affairs
Hamburg, Germany

Submitting an abstract

Please submit an abstract (400-500 words) indicating title; authors(s), affiliations and emails (indicate the corresponding author); three keywords; and two potential topics to the session Organizers, by sending an e-mail to p.mulder@vu.nl and birte.pfeiffer@giga-hamburg.de.

Abstract submission deadline: December 15, 2015

Details about the Conference: <http://2016worldcongress.regionalscience.org/>