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Conference Paper

GLOBAL CITIES ADAPTIVE STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Zhang Ying
Institute of Ecological Civilization, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China

Abstract.
Rapid urbanization and climate change are changing the conditions for sustainable development, which poses critical challenges for energy security and economic resilience. China and Indonesia have higher ratios of urban populations compared to the rest of the world. Cities are increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events, shifting energy demands and infrastructure stress. This research uses a qualitative case study methodology to examine adaptive strategies for urban environments within the framework of energy transformation and ecological sustainability. The study uses theoretical approaches of sustainable development, energy security and resilience, drawing on empirical evidence drawn from China, Indonesia, and individual cities globally. The findings indicate that transformation to renewable energy reduces the risk of climate change and energy and generates jobs. The adaptation plans of city agencies should incorporate climate resiliency, new technology and inclusive planning. China's industrial transformation and renewable energy leadership provide insights for emerging economies, including Indonesia, in how to confer urban resilience and economic benefits in the race for the global energy transition.

Keywords: climate change; economic resilience; energy security; renewable energy transition; urbanization

Corresponding Author:
Zhang Ying

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Introduction

Urbanisation as a consequence of climate change is altering the course of global sustainable aspirations (1,2). Cities as nodes of population, trade and transportation experience the compounded risk. Over half the world's population lives in urban areas and that figure continues to rise. Around two thirds of the Chinese population and 58% of the Indonesian population lived in cities: an above average proportion in both cases. The frequency and severity of weather events is growing due to climate change, which in turn affects energy usage, burdens infrastructure, and alters industrial activity. These challenges are particularly concerning in an era of global shift towards alternative energy sources and of the long-term sustainability of the environment.

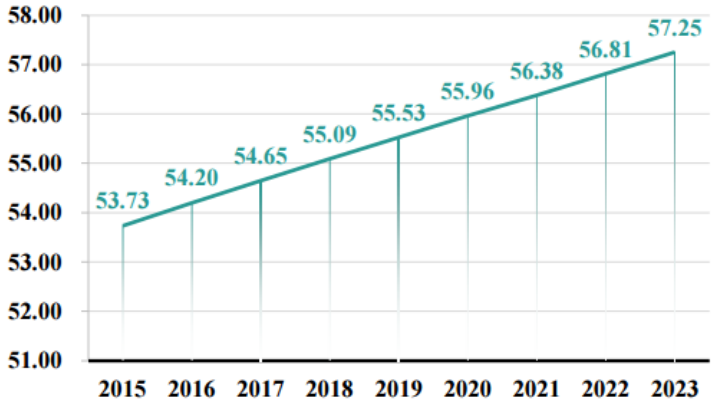

Figure 1. Urban Population (% of Total Population)
Source: Ying (2025)

Literature Review

Theoretical Studies

Urbanization and climate change are interconnected global phenomena (1,5). Theories of sustainable development stated that urban areas act as both drivers of economic growth and sources of environmental stress (6). The concept of ecological civilization provides a balancing framework for human development and ecological integrity, focusing on clean energy transitions, industrial restructuring, and resilience building. Theories of energy security stated the importance of diversifying energy sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuel imports (7). Meanwhile, resilience theory highlights the capacity of urban systems to adapt to uncertainty, whether from climate shocks, economic fluctuations, or geopolitical risks (8). Cities must develop adaptive strategies that combine energy transition, social inclusion, and long-term planning.

Empirical Studies

China's experience with urbanization has offers significant lessons for developing countries (3,4,9–11). There are more than 80 cities in the country with populations of over 10 million, which makes them very vulnerable to natural disasters caused by climate change. Extreme heat, storms, and floods have affected even the most industrialized cities. For example, in Beijing, record rainfall caused major flooding in the city and deaths. In the same way, other cities experiences show that climate change also affecting infrastructure and public safety in areas like Houston and Texas.

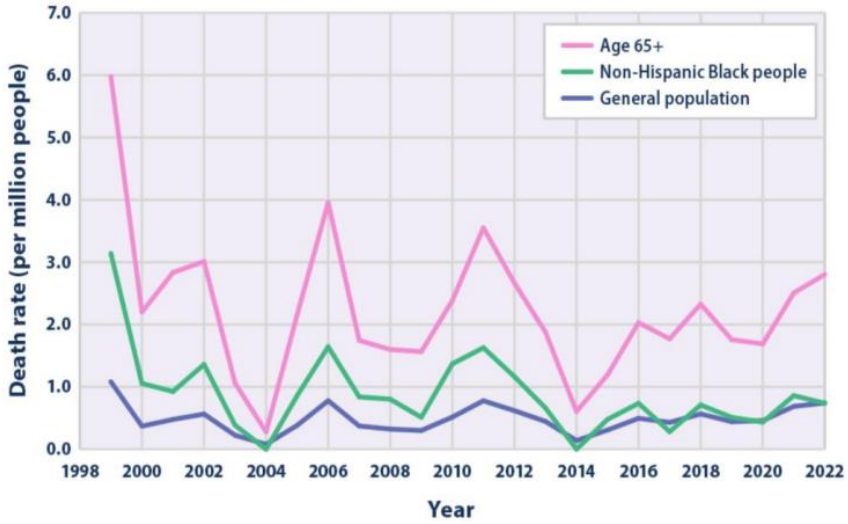

Figure 2. Summer Deaths due to Heat and Cardiovascular Disease in the U.S.
Source: Ying (2025)

The Paris Agreement and previous reflect the urgency to shift into to renewable energy (12–14). Scientists agree that reducing fossil fuels usage by shifting to renewable energy is necessary to achieve less dangerous environment. The Dubai agreement in 2023 predicted that the use of renewable energy will increase in the next ten years, supported by wind, solar, and storage technologies.

Renewable energy in China presents opportunities and risks (15–17). Wind turbines, solar panels and battery production have created millions of jobs and made the country a world leader in the renewable energy sector. Research from the International Energy Agency indicates that the rise of renewable energy creates more jobs than the fossil fuel industry. This scenario suggests that energy transition could improve energy security and economic resiliency, with the further industrial potential of mineral-rich countries like Indonesia (3,4).

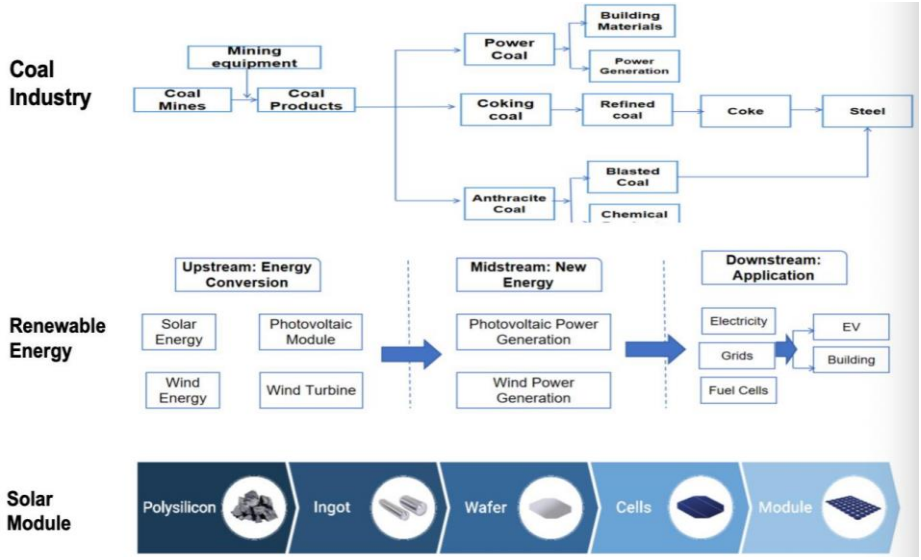

Figure 3. Longer Supply Chains Opportunity from Energy Transition
Source: Ying (2025)

Methods

Qualitative case study method is used in the study and the research focuses on urban resilience, energy transition and especially economic security in the climate change context (18,19). The method draws on the national policy landscape, global climate agreements, institutional reports, and empirically based cases of China, Indonesia, and selected global cities. The data source comprises of contents about urbanization, climate-related hazards, renewable energy uses and programs towards industrial development. The unit of analysis are city-level adaptation responses and state-driven industrial policies for reconciling environmental pressures with energy security and economic adaptation. The triangulation the study is done with information from official publications, reports by international organizations and peer-reviewed academic literature, ensuring true grasp of how urban adaptation, energy transition and economic resilience correlate.

Results and Discussion

The energy transition is a chance to make energy security and the economy stronger (20,21). Unlike fossil fuels that are usually geographically concentrated, renewable energy sources are well distributed. Many countries can get solar and wind power at home without having to pay for it, making it easier to get away from the ups and downs of the global energy market. Furthermore, industries that employ renewable energy need new supply chains for important minerals like lithium, tin, and nickel. That gives countries with a lot of resources new economic opportunities (22). Electric vehicles (EVs) Industries are one example of the phenomena. The growth of the electric vehicle (EV) industry is

changing the way energy is traded around the world. The growth also makes countries less reliant on oil imports. Adding electric mobility to cities helps to cut carbon emissions, improve air quality, and make cities more resilient by giving them more options for transportation and power generation (23).

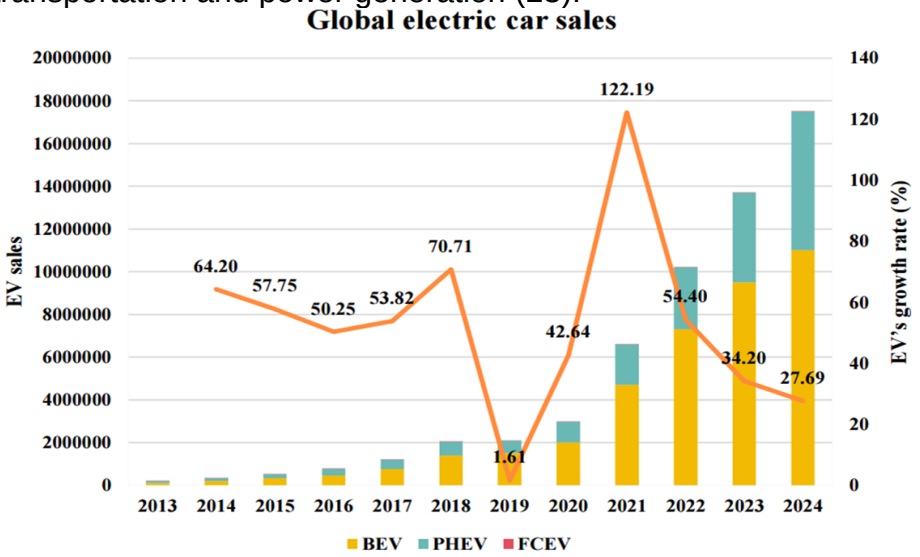

Figure 4. Global Electric Car Sales
Source: Ying (2025)

Cities should be adaptive climate change adaptation, energy transition, and economic growth (24,25). Consideration must be given for extreme weather and energy demand fluctuations and near-constant transformations in technology. The adaptive measures in Jakarta and Shanghai highlight the importance of long-time planning related climate neutrality target by 2050-2060. Cities must implement flexible policies to protect vulnerable groups, and must link short-term interventions to long-term goals, with engagement of all community members.

China's policies in renewable energy and electric cars demonstrate that downstream development strategies can pay off big. By shifting to more advanced processing and modernizing industry, China became the world's leader in manufacturing sustainable energy. For countries like Indonesia, such programs may serve as a lesson on how to harness its abundant natural resources for enhancing its industrial capacity and economic robustness (3,4).

Conclusion

Both climate change and urbanization are challenges for cities' long-term planning. The transition to renewable energy is an imperative and an opportunity. The transition could boost energy security, economic stability and long-term growth. Real-world case studies in China and elsewhere have shown how renewable power

can generate jobs, deliver more sources of energy, and make communities more resilient. For cities to adapt well, they must be agile and plan for the long term while doing everything in their power in the short term, and they should put inclusiveness first. They can also learn from China and replicate its industrial upgrading and downstream penetration.

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