

Fundamentals

Energy is essential for society's progress, enabling people to improve their living standards. Access to energy also increases demand for energy.

The relationship between living standards and energy is clear, as seen in this chart showing the U.N.'s Human Development Index and national per capita energy consumption. A significant part of the global population goes without the reliable energy access that people in developed nations take for granted: In many of these developing countries, significant portions of the population lack access to electricity and clean cooking fuels.

By 2020, the world is expected to have 2 billion more people, most of whom will be in the developing world. As their living standards rise, so too will global energy demand.

2019 U.N. Human Development Index

