



Public Awareness and Performance Relating to the Implementation of a Low-Carbon Economy in China: A Case Study from Zhengzhou

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to examine levels of awareness and performance relating to the promotion of a Low-carbon economy (LCE) among the general public in Zhengzhou, China. The data and information used were derived from 300 questionnaires distributed randomly among households in the west, south and north urban districts of Zhengzhou. The results indicate a combination of high awareness with poor understanding of LCE programmes among respondents, with the poor understanding probably due to a shortage of appropriate information from trusted sources and shortcomings in education. Respondents generally showed positive attitudes toward pro-environmental actions, such as refusing to use plastic bags, waste recycling, water and energy conservation. Apart from regulation and policies, they considered education and economic incentives as effective mechanisms to promote LCE implementation. Overall those consulted responded favourably towards the prospect of LCE, with some reservations. Results of the study, though limited, suggest that the general public in China has the potential to be a facilitator of environmental improvements in the country.

KEYWORDS

Low-Carbon Economy, China, The General Public, Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Awareness

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