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Energy backcasting A proposed method of policy analysis

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Abstract

There have recently emerged a number of analyses which suggest that there exists a large potential for "soft energy" policy paths. It is difficult to illustrate this argument using conventional forecasting techniques, therefore these analyses tend to use an alternative method, called energy backcasting. This involves setting policy goals and then determining how those goals could be met. As yet, however, little attention has been paid to the theoretical aspects of backcasting techniques. In this article a specific backcasting method is proposed, which, it is argued, allows consideration of many factors obscured in traditional energy supply and demand forecasts.



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