

Firm innovation strategies in alternative energy systems

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SOCIAL IMPACT

This thesis makes contribution to the knowledge in an important area – clean and alternative sources of energy. Clean, alternative sources of energy are a key component of the more sustainable economy we are seeking in the 21st century. Sustainable alternative energy like biomass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind, hydrogen fuel cells, tidal and wave offers tremendous benefits for meeting current global energy needs, which are clean and green.

Globally, many governments and institutions are focused on transitioning from fossil fuel-based energy sources such as coal, oil and gas to cleaner, renewable sources of energy. It has been understood that the key to tackling the climate crisis is to end reliance on energy generated from fossil fuels, which is the main cause of climate change.

However, despite tremendous global efforts, the transition from fossil fuels has been wrought with many difficulties, mostly involving systemic, regulatory and industrial bottlenecks and red tape.

Other than the important role of policies, in the removal of fossil-fuel subsidy, for example, another important consideration that can and is enabling a transition to cleaner alternative sources of energy is the role of firms. So to this end, this research lends to our understanding of alternative energy industries by analysing the factors and interactions that occurs

The research also contributes to theory by analysing the influence of technology on firm innovation strategy and the interaction across three levels – the firm, the industry and the technology.