

Energy Engel Coefficient: A New Indicator for Measuring Poverty

Topic:

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• We propose a new Energy Engel Coefficient (EEC) indicator to measure poverty as the proportion of energy used for cooking.

• Compared to monetary-based indicators, the EEC better fits Engel's Law, which holds that poorer households spend a greater proportion of their income on food.

• Chinese Residential Energy Consumption Survey (CRECS) dataset

• EEC can capture behavioral information and changes in household welfare
• EEC can complement traditional indicators to identify poverty that is otherwise ignored.