

# Economic growth and energy consumption: The Energy-Environmental Kuznets Curve for Latin America and the Caribbean

Pablo-Romero M.D.P.

De Jesús J.

This paper investigates the relationship between economic growth and energy consumption using the hypothesis postulated for the Energy-Environmental Kuznets Curve, which assumes an inverted-U shape relationship between income and energy consumption. Panel data for 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries for the period 1990-2011 were used. Absolute energy consumption was chosen as an environmental pressure indicator, because energy consumption is the major contributor of emissions pollutants. The results obtained in the estimations show that the hypothesis postulated for the Energy-Environmental Kuznets Curve is not supported for the region. On the contrary, the results show an exponential growth as Gross Value Added grows. Also, notable differences are shown between the analyzed economies. © 2016 Elsevier Ltd.

Economic growth

Energy consumption

Environmental Kuznets Curve

Latin America and the Caribbean

Panel data

Economic analysis

Economic and social effects

Energy utilization

Economic growths

Environmental Kuznets curves

Environmental pressures

Exponential growth

Gross value added

Inverted u shapes

Latin America and the Caribbean

Panel data

Economics