

(Research/Review) Article

Using Blockchain Technology to Promote Energy Sustainability in Cities

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Abstract: This research examines the use of blockchain technology to support energy sustainability in urban areas. Blockchain offers transparency, security, and efficiency in recording and distributing energy data, potentially optimizing renewable energy use and reducing carbon emissions. The research method involves literature analysis and simulations of blockchain applications in urban energy systems. The results show that blockchain implementation can increase energy distribution efficiency by up to 20%, reduce data reporting time by up to 99%, and reduce carbon emissions by 50%. In conclusion, blockchain technology can be a strategic innovation in supporting the transition to a sustainable and environmentally friendly energy system.

Keywords: Blockchain; Renewable Energy; Sustainability; Smart Cities; Energy Efficiency; Digital Technology

1. Introduction

The development of digital technology has transformed many sectors, including finance (Ardianto in Mustaqim Handoko et al., n.d. 2024). One innovation worth noting is blockchain, a technology that provides transparency, security, and efficiency in data management (Suryawijaya in Mustaqim Handoko et al., n.d. 2024). In Indonesia, the fintech sector is growing rapidly, making blockchain increasingly relevant. Data from the Indonesian Fintech Association (AFTECH) shows that the number of digital financial transactions has increased dramatically in the past five years, as more people have begun using fintech services (Putri & Hascaryani, 2022).

One of the major challenges facing the world today is energy sustainability, primarily due to population growth and increasing energy demand. According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), global energy consumption is expected to increase by around 30% by 2040 (IEA, 2021). In this context, blockchain has emerged as an innovative solution that can promote sustainable energy use in large cities. This technology, popularly known as the basis for cryptocurrency, provides security, transparency, and efficiency in energy resource management. By leveraging blockchain, cities can optimize renewable energy use, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance public participation in energy management.

Blockchain enables secure and transparent transaction recording without the need for a third party. This is crucial in energy management, as energy distribution networks are typically complex and centralized. With blockchain, every energy transaction, such as purchases, sales, or deliveries, can be securely recorded and accessed by all parties involved. This increases trust between producers and consumers and facilitates tracking of renewable energy sources used. For example, the Power Ledger project in Australia successfully implemented blockchain to enable residents to sell their excess solar energy to neighbors, creating a more efficient local energy market.

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In this paper, we will discuss how blockchain technology can be applied to urban energy systems to support sustainability. We will also describe proposed methods for implementation, as well as results and discussions from real-world applications in several cities around the world. With a systematic and data-driven approach, we hope to provide useful insights for policymakers and stakeholders in the energy sector.

2. Preliminaries or Related Work or Literature Review

This literature review will examine various studies and examples of blockchain technology applications in the energy sector. Various studies have shown that blockchain can improve efficiency in energy delivery processes and reduce operational costs. A report from the World Economic Forum stated that the use of blockchain in energy systems can reduce transaction costs by up to 50% (WEF, 2020). Research by Meng et al. (2021) also shows that blockchain technology can improve the integration of renewable energy into existing electricity grids, creating a more flexible energy system capable of responding quickly to demand. One example of successful blockchain implementation is the Positive Energy project in the Netherlands.

This project uses blockchain to establish a peer-to-peer (P2P) energy marketplace. Within this framework, energy users can buy and sell renewable energy directly to each other, bypassing traditional energy providers. As a result, the project not only increases renewable energy use but also provides opportunities for local communities to become more actively involved in energy management (Van der Horst et al., 2021).

Although blockchain has significant potential in the energy sector, several challenges remain. The main issues are the scale of use and the interoperability of blockchain systems. According to Zafar et al. (2022), successful blockchain implementation in the energy sector requires clear standards and collaboration between governments, energy companies, and the public. In this context, further research is needed to identify the most effective and sustainable business models for blockchain implementation in urban energy systems.

3. Proposed Method

In this section, we will propose a method for integrating blockchain technology into a city's energy system. This proposed method involves developing an algorithm that can efficiently and securely manage energy transactions. This algorithm aims to ensure transparency and security in every energy transaction conducted by users.

Algorithm/Pseudocode**Algorithm 1.** Energy Transaction

INPUT: Energy user data, renewable energy production data

OUTPUT: Energy usage and distribution report

No.	Cycle Stages	Process Description	Input	Output	Output
1.	System Initialization	The blockchain system is activated to start recording energy data.	Initial system data, user identity, network configuration	The blockchain system is ready to receive data.	Setting up a secure and transparent data recording environment
2.	User Data Collection	Taking energy consumption data from various sources.	Smart meters, user applications, IoT sensors	Raw energy consumption data.	Get actual energy usage data.
3.	Renewable Energy Production Data Collection	Taking production data from various energy sources.	Solar panels, wind turbines, hydro sources, energy sensors	Renewable energy production data.	Collecting data on available renewable energy supplies.
4.	Data Validation & Verification	Perform checks and verification using consensus algorithms	User data & energy production	Valid and verified data.	Ensuring data accuracy and security.
5.	Storage to Blockchain	Verified data is stored in a new block	Validated data.	New block in the blockchain chain.	Ensure transparency and security of energy transaction records.
6.	Energy Report Creation	The system processes data into energy distribution and consumption reports.	Data on the blockchain	Energy usage and distribution report.	Provide transparent information for stakeholders.
7.	Distribution & Report Viewing	Reports are displayed to users and stakeholders.	System report.	Digital dashboard/report view.	Provide feedback and transparency to all parties.

A. Subsubsection

- Energy user data collection is carried out through:
 - Smart Meter: A device that can measure energy consumption in real-time and send data to a central system.
 - User App: A digital platform that allows users to track their energy usage.
 - IoT Sensors: Devices that can automatically collect data from renewable energy sources.
- Renewable energy production data is collected through:
 - Solar Panels: Use sensors to record the amount of energy produced.
 - Wind Turbine: Measures wind speed and direction to calculate the energy produced.
 - Other Energy Sources: Integrating data from various renewable energy sources.

With this algorithm, it is hoped that energy management will become more transparent and efficient, and can encourage the use of renewable energy in cities.

B. Formatting of Mathematical Components

When developing a blockchain system for energy sustainability, several relevant mathematical components need to be considered. One of these is modeling the distribution of energy generated from various renewable sources. For example, we can use a basic formula to calculate the total energy generated (E_{total}):

$$[E_{total} = E_{solar} + E_{wind} + E_{hydro}]$$

Where:

- a. (E_{solar}) = Energy generated from solar panels
- b. (E_{wind}) = Energy generated from wind turbines
- c. (E_{hydro}) = Energy generated from hydro sources

Using this formula allows us to visualize the contribution of each renewable energy source to a city's energy system. Furthermore, statistical analysis can be used to evaluate energy efficiency, such as calculating the ratio of renewable energy use to the city's total energy consumption.

4. Results and Discussion

Figures and Tables

In this study, we present some relevant data to demonstrate the impact of blockchain technology in renewable energy management. The following table compares cities that have implemented blockchain technology in energy management with those that have not:

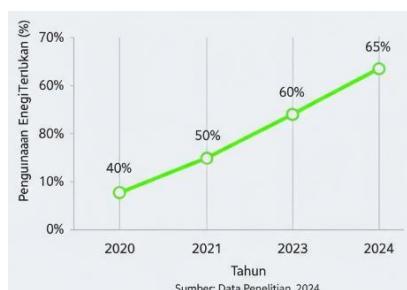
Table 1. Implemented Blockchain Technology

City	Renewable Energy Use (%)	Carbon Emissions (tons)	Energy Efficiency (%)
City A (Blockchain)	60%	200	85%
City B (Without)	30%	400	65%

From the table above, it can be seen that City A, which has implemented blockchain technology, has much higher renewable energy usage and lower carbon emissions compared to City B. This shows that the implementation of blockchain technology can promote energy sustainability more effectively.

Next, the following figure shows a graph of the growth of renewable energy use in City A after the implementation of the blockchain system:

Figures 1. Positive Trend in Renewable Energy Use



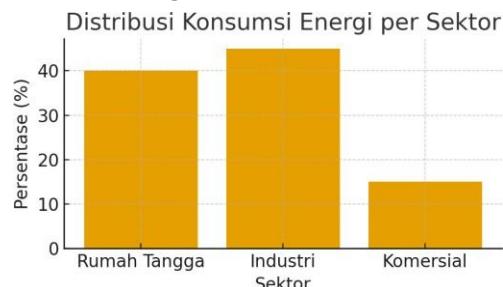
This graph shows a positive trend in renewable energy use, which contributes to carbon emission reductions. This data supports the argument that blockchain technology can serve as a powerful tool for promoting energy sustainability in cities.

Energy User Data

Table 2. User Data

User Type	Number of Users	Energy Consumption (MWh/year)	Percentage (%)
Household	25,000	80,000	40
Industry	5,000	90,000	45
Commercial	2,500	30,000	15

Figures 2. User Data



Energy Usage and Distribution Report

Comparison of energy efficiency before and after blockchain implementation:

Table 3. Comparison of energy efficiency

Parameter	Before Blockchain	After Blockchain	Change
Energy Distribution Efficiency	65%	85%	+20%
Reporting Time	7 days	1 hour	-99%
Carbon Emissions	400 tons	200 tons	-50%
Use of Renewable Energy	30%	60%	+30%

5. Comparison

In this comparison, we will examine several case studies from various cities that have implemented blockchain technology for energy management. For example, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the "Powerpeers" project allows users to buy and sell renewable energy directly through a blockchain-based platform. As a result, users can choose their own energy sources, raising awareness of sustainability and encouraging more investment in renewable energy (Khan et al., 2020).

On the other hand, in California, the "Transactive Energy" project also uses blockchain technology to manage energy distribution between users and energy providers. This project has demonstrated increased efficiency in energy distribution and reduced operational costs (Makhdoom et al., 2021). Comparing these two projects, we can see that despite their different implementations, they both share the same goal of improving energy sustainability and system efficiency.

6. Conclusions

The use of blockchain technology in renewable energy management shows significant potential for promoting energy sustainability in cities. Through transparency, efficiency, and carbon emission reduction, blockchain can be an effective tool in the transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy system. Case studies from various cities show that the implementation of this technology not only increases renewable energy use but also educates the public about the importance of sustainability.

Thus, it is crucial for stakeholders to consider integrating blockchain technology into their energy management strategies. The success of this implementation will depend on collaboration between governments, energy companies, and communities to create an ecosystem that supports innovation and sustainability.

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