A decade of steady decline across Europe and the US

The US and Europe have been at different stages of the global decarbonisation process. In the US, there was a period of unbroken decline in carbon emissions since the 2005-2015 peak in emissions. In Europe, there was a peak around 2010 before falling emissions until 2015, followed by an increase in emissions to 2018.

Our research shows that a decade of steady decline in carbon emissions is due to a combination of factors. One of these factors is the impact of policy frameworks. As expected, we found that none of the policy variables in the control group in the United Kingdom were significantly correlated with energy and emission trends.

Another important takeaway from our research is the importance of energy use efficiency. A peak-and-decline country needs to consider the role of energy efficiency in reducing emissions. Our analysis for two “controls”: a group of 31 countries with rising emissions and slow economic growth (such as Turkey, India,ultra-high, and China). We found that these policy count statistics were strongly and significantly correlated with the corresponding energy or emission trends.

We believe in experts. We believe knowledge must inform decisions. We believe in the power of the public. Our research shows that a decade of steady decline in carbon emissions is due to a combination of factors: policy frameworks, energy use efficiency, and other factors that may have influenced the results.