

Original Research

Energy Consumption and Carbon Dioxide Emissions of Residential Buildings in Lahore, Pakistan

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Abstract

In Pakistan, an increase in the urban population in recent decades has led to rising demand for energy and so has consequently increased carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. In this study, a questionnaire-based survey was conducted on a sample of 300 residential buildings in Lahore, and their CO₂e emissions from electricity and natural gas consumption were calculated using IPCC methodology. The results show that both electricity and natural gas consumption released 7.65 MMtCO₂e during the one-year study period. It was found that income class ($p < 0.001$), house area ($p < 0.001$), the size (tons) of AC ($p < 0.001$), number of kitchens ($p < 0.01$), building type ($p < 0.001$) and season ($p < 0.001$) had a significantly positive relationship with energy consumption and CO₂e emissions. Conversely, roof insulation ($p < 0.01$) had a significantly negative relationship with energy consumption and CO₂e emissions. The study emphasizes the need of policy formulation to improve thermal characteristics of existing buildings and implementation of building energy codes for new housing construction. It is also recommended to raise awareness among dwellers for the adoption of energy conservation measures to reduce CO₂e emissions.

Keywords: CO₂e emissions, electricity, natural gas, roof insulation, building type, residential buildings

Introduction

The Earth's climate is warming with a gradual rise in temperature due to the buildup of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The concentration of CO₂ has risen from 278 ppm (pre-industrial era) to 402.8 ppm in 2015 and has caused a 1.4°C rise in average global temperature [1]. With this warming trend, the incidences of natural disasters have increased over the past four decades

and 2016 recorded the 3rd consecutive warmest year, with a global average temperature rise of 0.90°C above the 20th century average temperature [2]. A number of international treaties and conventions have been signed and ratified by many governments to avoid the devastating potential impacts of climate change by limiting global warming to 2°C as committed to in the Paris Agreement and subsequent commitments made in the Conference of Parties each year [1].

A significant amount of GHGs are being added by anthropogenic activities, including buildings, agriculture, solid waste disposal, industry, transport and

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energy sectors [1]. Being home to 207 million people, the residential buildings of Pakistan are consuming electricity (49% of the total produced) and natural gas at an increasing rate with an estimated 15.7 MtCO₂ emissions (83 kgCO₂/capita) in 2017 [3, 4]. These emissions have led to a rise of 0.6-1°C in the average temperature of Pakistan since the early 1900s [5], resulting in increased precipitation in Northern areas, droughts (1999-2000), cyclone Phet (2010), floods (2010-2014), and heat waves in Karachi and other areas of Pakistan [6], which is prone to natural disasters and is listed at 25th place in GHG-emitting countries and 10th in the climate risk index (2015) of the top 10 most affected countries [7].

To house the burgeoning urban population of Pakistan, both high-density multistoried and low-density open localities (either single or double storey) can be seen in its metropolitan cities accommodating residents from different income groups. Most of the urban buildings either share one or two common walls with the adjacent building and use roof or wall insulation less commonly, which puts pressure on energy consumption during extremes of weather to achieve thermal comfort.

In residential buildings, energy consumption from space and water heating/cooling, lighting and other household demands are potent sources of CO₂ emissions and have been found to be significantly related to household income. The insulation of the building envelope (walls and roof) and painted exterior (lighter reflective colors) play important roles in lowering residential energy demand by maintaining an indoor thermal balance [8, 9]. Residential energy demand is also related to building design, floor area, the impact of local shadowing, household size and the number and quality of appliances used in a house [10]. The use of energy efficient heating and cooling technologies and changing building design have a potential to reduce GHG emissions up to 2 GtCO₂ by 2050 [11]. For a country like Pakistan, this target can be achieved by provision of solar technology at household level and by the use of thermal insulation, natural lighting, ventilation and energy efficient appliances as the recommendations set in National Climate Change Policy (2012) and Building Energy Code-Energy Provisions 2011 of Pakistan [12]. To achieve energy efficiency, proper policy formulation and implementation is required, which will also curtail GHG emissions. In Pakistan, very little work has been done on the quantification of carbon footprint from residential buildings, and most of the work has been done in the transport, industrial and energy sectors [13].

This paper is focused on the estimation of carbon emissions from operational energy consumption (electricity and natural gas) in residential buildings of the city district of Lahore, Pakistan. The objectives of this research were to: (1) find the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO₂e) from residential energy consumption during the operational phase, and (2) determine the relationship between factors affecting energy consumption and consequent GHG emissions.

It was hypothesized that income, the area of the house, building type, roof insulation, use of energy-intensive appliances, and seasonal variations can affect residential energy consumption and CO₂e emissions.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

The study was conducted on the residential sector of Lahore (31.5204°N, 74.3587°E). It has a semi-arid climate with mean annual rainfall (583 mm) and temperatures reaching above 40°C in summer and near freezing point in winter with dense fog. The area receives insolation of 5.4 KWh/m²/day. The burgeoning urban population of the study area makes it the second largest populated urban center of the country. In 2014, the total population of Lahore was 9.75 million, with a total buildup area of 1772.53 km². The city is divided into nine administrative towns, i.e., Ravi, Allama Iqbal, Wagha, Shalimar, Data Ganj Baksh, Nishtar, Gulberg, Aziz Bhatti, and Samanabad and one cantonment area housing people from different income classes (Fig. 1). In these towns the single to multistoried houses are constructed with cement and bricks and mostly had lighter colored exteriors in order to reflect solar rays – especially in the long summer season. There were 731,000 household units in the city at the time of the survey provided with electricity and natural gas (NG) by two utility companies: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd. (SNGPL) [14, 15].

Study Design

A questionnaire-based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted by taking a random sample of 300 households derived using equation 1 [16] and ensuring representation of all socioeconomic classes from the study area. In equation 1, n = sample size, Z = normal variate or confidence level (95%), h = accepted error margin (5%), and P and Q are the probability of success and failure taken 70% and 30%, respectively:

$$n = (Z / h)^2 \times PQ \quad (1)$$

This sample size was designed considering the total number of Lahore households, and values of P and Q were set based on responses of the pilot test (considering the study hypotheses) conducted before the main survey. For the main survey, representative areas of the city based on low-, middle- and high-income residential developments in the city were targeted and a random face-to-face survey was conducted with the household head ensuring representation from all nine towns and one cantonment area of the city.

Data on residential (operational) electricity and natural gas consumption was collected from the utility

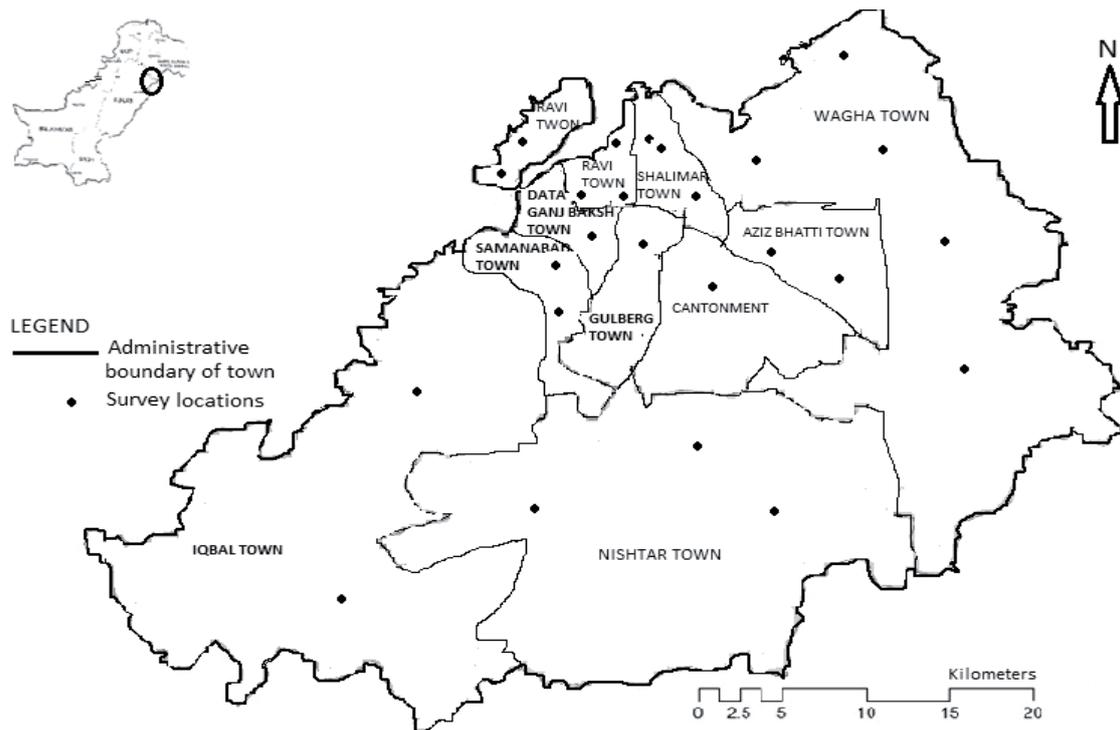


Fig. 1. Map of city district Lahore showing survey locations.

records provided by the respondents and where utility records were not available, the incomplete information was not considered for data analysis. In this manner, households were targeted for the survey more than the sample size designed, and only 300 responses with complete information were processed.

Research Instrument and Household Survey

A questionnaire of three sections concerned with demographics, building design, and the energy profile of the house was used for data collection. The demographic section was designed to acquire information about education, income class, household size, elderly family members (>60 years of age) and family occupancy patterns. Respondents were asked about the design of their house such as building type (attached/detached), house area, number of rooms and kitchens, roof insulation, any tree/building casting a significant shadow on the building and paint shade of the exterior. Respondents were also asked about their major energy uses such as space and water heating and cooling systems, lighting type and energy backup systems. Energy consumption from personal/private transport and electricity generation through backup generators was not included in the study as invoices for fuel consumption were not available.

A pilot study was carried out on a small sample of households, and the instrument was modified wherever required based on responses to the pilot test. Later the survey was conducted and a sample of 300 households was taken with one year record of their electricity

and natural gas consumption to determine the factors affecting energy consumption and CO₂e emissions in the surveyed area.

Estimation of Carbon Emissions

Electricity and gas bills of one year were collected from surveyed households. Carbon emissions (million metric tons of CO₂e) for summer (March-October) and winter (November-February) seasons were calculated using the tier 1 approach of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as country-specific emission factors (EF) were not available [17] by applying Eqs 2-5 [17, 18]:

$$\text{Emissions}_{\text{GHG, fuel}} = \text{FC}_{\text{fuel}} \times \text{EF}_{\text{GHG, fuel}} \quad (2)$$

...where Emission_{GHG, fuel} = GHG emissions from a certain type of fuel (electricity or natural gas in kg or metric ton), FC_{fuel} = amount of fuel combusted (TJ or kWh), and EF_{GHG, fuel} = default emission factor for a certain GHG by fuel type (kg GHG/TJ).

To calculate individual emissions from electricity and natural gas, Eq. 2 was modified:

$$\text{Electricity}_{\text{emissions}} = \text{FC}_{\text{electricity}} \times \text{EF}_{\text{electricity}} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Natural Gas}_{\text{emissions}} = \text{FC}_{\text{natural gas}} \times \text{EF}_{\text{natural gas}} \quad (4)$$

When natural gas (NG) is combusted it releases CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O. So it required quantification of all three gases, and total CO₂ emissions were calculated as

CO₂e by applying global warming potential (GWP) for each of the GHGs emitted during fuel consumption. For this, Eq. 4 was modified as [18]:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Natural Gas emissions} &= \sum (\text{FC}_{\text{natural gas}} \times \text{EF}_{\text{CO}_2} \\ &\times \text{GWP}_{\text{CO}_2}) + (\text{FC}_{\text{natural gas}} \times \text{EF}_{\text{CH}_4} \times \text{GWP}_{\text{CH}_4}) \\ &+ (\text{FC}_{\text{natural gas}} \times \text{EF}_{\text{N}_2\text{O}} \times \text{GWP}_{\text{N}_2\text{O}}) \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

The country-specific grid electricity EF for Pakistan (0.62163 KgCO₂e/kWh) was adopted from [19], default EF for natural gas from IPCC tier 1 approach [17] and global warming potentials (GWP) from [18].

Statistical Analysis

Microsoft Office Excel (Version 2010) and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 21.0 were used to analyze survey data. Descriptive statistics were used to find frequencies and percentages of items inquired in the survey. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was applied to study the effect of income and house area on energy consumption. Multiple comparisons were made using Tukey HSD. Multiple regression model was constructed to find the relationship between energy consumption and house area, number of kitchens, roof insulation and size of ACs. Univariate ANOVA was applied to determine the effects of building type, season and their interaction with energy consumption.

Average household emissions obtained from the current study were extrapolated to find CO₂e emissions from all the 731,000 households of Lahore as reported [15]. The extrapolated emissions were used to calculate potential rise in temperature by converting CO₂e emissions into equal units of ppm and temperature [20].

Results

Household Energy Use

Results of the demographic profile, building characteristics and the residential energy use of the respondents are presented in Table 1. Education level of the respondents shows that 39% had a graduation degree, post-graduates (36%) and 25% had matriculation (10 years of school education) or intermediate certifications (12 years of education). About 74.3% of the surveyed population had household size of 5-10 persons and belonged to low (45.7%), middle (35%) and upper (19.3%) income classes. The occupancy pattern showed high energy consumption from evening till early morning (74%). Most of the houses (61%) had elderly family members due to living in combined family systems.

Among the surveyed houses, 66% were living in houses with a floor area of 126.5 m² to 252.9 m² and only 9% were living in houses of 505.9 m² or more. Of these,

Table 1. Respondents' demographic profiles and building characteristics affecting household energy use.

Variable	N (%)
Demographic profile	
Education	
Matriculation	32 (10.7)
Intermediate	43 (14.3)
Graduation	117 (39)
Post graduate	108 (36)
Household size (Persons)	
<5	54 (18)
5-10	223 (74.3)
>10	23 (7.7)
Respondent's income group (PKR*/month)	
Low (<15,000 – 45,000)	137 (45.7)
Middle(45,001– 75,000)	105 (35)
Upper (>75,000)	58 (19.3)
Occupancy pattern	
Daytime	51 (17)
Evening	28 (9.3)
Evening till early morning	221 (74)
Elderly family member (age ≥ 60 years)	
Yes	183 (61)
No	118 (39)
Building characteristics	
Type of building	
Attached building	274 (91.3)
Detached building	26 (8.5)
House Area (m²)	
<126.5	48 (16)
126.5 - 252.9	197 (65.7)
252.9 – 404.7	28 (9.3)
404.7 – 505.9	19 (6.3)
>505.8	8 (2.7)
Number of rooms	
Less than 3 rooms	34 (11.3)
3-6 rooms	155 (51.7)
More than 6 rooms	111 (37)
Building's exterior paint shade	
Light shade	251 (83.6)
Dark shade	49 (16.4)
Number of kitchens	
Only one kitchen	159 (53)
Two kitchens	114 (38)
More than two kitchens	27 (9)

Table 1. Continued.

Variable	N (%)
Insulation material	
Polystyrene	48 (16)
Thermo-pore	39 (13)
No roof insulation	213 (71)
Energy use	
Space heater	
Electrical	45 (15)
Natural gas powered	170 (56.6)
Both	19 (6.3)
Do not have heater	66 (22)
Separate heaters for each room	
Yes	65 (21.6)
No	169 (56.3)
Do not have heater	66 (22)
Fuel source of geyser	
Electrical	24 (8)
Natural gas powered	189 (63)
Solar geyser	3 (1)
Do not have geyser	84 (28)
Number of geysers	
Only one	186 (62)
Two	27 (9)
More than two	3 (1)
Don't have geyser	84 (28)
Conical baffle installed in geyser	
Yes	68 (22.6)
No	111 (37)
Do not know	10 (3.3)
Do not have geyser	84 (28)
Instant geysers installed	
Yes	72 (24)
No	228 (76)

91.3% of houses were attached from either one or two sides and only 8.5% were detached (free-standing) from adjacent house units, all with varying numbers of floors. Other variables such as the number of kitchens showed that 53% had one kitchen while 38% had two and 9% had more than two kitchens. Most of the houses (51.7%) had 3-6 rooms. Both of these variables are determinants of energy demand for cooking, cooling and heating purposes. About 83.6% of house exteriors were painted with light color tones to lower the internal temperature of the building due to reflectance characteristics. In the current study, 77% of the respondents reported no tree causing significant shadow on their house, which could

Electricity backup system	
UPS	167 (55.6)
Generator	17 (5.6)
Solar UPS	11 (3.6)
No backup	105 (35)
Number of ACs	
Only one	112 (37.3)
Two	68 (22.6)
More than two	58 (19.3)
Do not have AC	62 (20.7)
Size of AC	
1 ton	60 (20)
1.5 ton	143 (47.6)
2 ton	35 (11.6)
Do not have AC	62 (20.7)
Hours of AC usage (Daily)	
<6 hours	34 (11.3)
6-10 hours	126 (42)
>10 hours	78 (26)
Do not have AC	62 (20.7)
Type of lighting in house	
FTL	35 (11.7)
CFLs	148 (49.3)
Incandescent bulb	3 (1)
FTL and LED lights	114 (38)
Type of gas backup system	
Gas compressor	29 (9.6)
Gas cylinder	67 (22)
Both	1 (0.3)
Any other	5 (1.6)
No backup	198 (66)

N = Frequency, % = Percentage, *(104.8 PKR = 1USD as per exchange rate of year 2017)

affect energy demand. The majority of the houses (71%) did not have any roof insulation, while only 16% of houses had polystyrene and thermo-pore (13%) insulated roofs.

A complete analysis of residential electricity and natural gas (NG) consumption was conducted. The majority of the houses had employed space heating (15% electrical space heaters, 56.6% NG, 6.3% both) and cooling systems (79% with air conditioners installed). There was high dependence on NG (63%) for water heating purposes and 71% of the houses had one or more geysers installed (either electric, natural gas or solar). The conical baffle installation in the geysers

was reported by 22.6% and the instant geyser (either electric or gas powered) installation by 24% of the respondents. Only 22% of respondents were relying on gas cylinders as backup in the case of gas load shedding for cooking and water heating purposes. The majority of the houses (55.6%) were using electricity to charge UPS (uninterruptible power supply) and 5% were using a generator (to produce electricity) as back-up in case of power outage, while the use of solar UPS was very rare (3.6%). There was high utilization of electricity in the current study for space cooling because the majority of the respondents had either one (37.3%), two (22.7%) or more than two (19.3%) air conditioners (AC) installed in their homes. Sizes of ACs ranged from 1 ton (20%), 1.5 tons (47.6%), and 2 tons (11.6%), with 62% running for 6-10 hours a day. For lighting, 49.3% of the houses used compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), while 11.7% used fluorescent tube lights (FTLs), halogen bulbs (1%), and both light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and FTLs (38%).

Relationship between Energy Consumption and Other Variables

On average, 2890±86.3 KWh of electricity and 11.84±0.33 Hm³ (1 Hm³ = 1000000 m³ = 35311 BTU) of NG was consumed in the surveyed houses. It can be seen from Table 2 that both electricity and gas consumption were significantly higher in the houses of areas greater than 404.7 m² ($p < 0.001$). A similar kind of relationship was observed between income and electricity consumption, with significantly higher ($p < 0.001$) consumption by middle and upper income

classes. No statistically significant relationship was observed between income and NG consumption because most of the residential stock of the city faces a gas shortage or load shedding when its demand is high in winter season.

Multiple regression analysis was conducted to evaluate the determinants of annual energy consumption by constructing a model representing the variables of electricity and NG consumption (Table 3). In the analysis, R^2 explained 13% and 12% variations in electricity and gas consumption, respectively, in influence of explanatory variables of the model. According to adjusted R^2 and F statistics, the model was a good fit at $p = 0.000$ in case of both energy sources. The term constant explains the affects of variables, which were extraneous to the model and which significantly affected annual energy consumption ($p < 0.01$ and $p < 0.001$ respectively). Area of the house ($p < 0.001$) and number of kitchens ($p < 0.01$) had a significant positive relationship with electricity and gas consumption, while application of roof insulating material ($p < 0.01$) had a significant negative relationship with gas consumption.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions (CO₂e)

It was found that the surveyed houses in Lahore released 7.65 MMtCO₂e/year (average 25.50±0.72 ktCO₂e/house) from both electricity and gas consumption. On average, electricity consumption was higher in the summer months (March-October) with the maximum in August (358.32±14.12 KWh), and is

Table 2. ANOVA of electricity and gas consumption with house area and income.

Variables	Electricity consumption (KWh)	Gas consumption (Hm ³)
	Mean±S.E	Mean±S.E
House area (m ²)		
<126.5	2600±244 ^c	9.49±0.733 ^c
126.5-252.9	2732±942 ^c	11.64±0.381 ^c
252.9-404.7	3039±284 ^{bc}	12.14±0.884 ^{bc}
404.7-505.9	4116±339 ^{ab}	17.45±1.751 ^a
>505.8	5088±521 ^a	16.61±2.920 ^{ab}
Summary Statistics	df = 4, $F = 9.569$, $p = 0.000$	df = 4, $F = 8.512$, $p = 0.000$
Income classes		
Low	2486±115 ^b	11.41±0.46
Middle	3121±143 ^a	12.10±0.55
Upper	3425±213 ^a	12.26±0.94
Summary Statistics	df = 2, $F = 10.612$, $p = 0.000$	df = 2, $F = 0.695$, $p = 0.500$

S.E = Standard Error

Means followed by different letters in a column for a particular variable differ significantly at $p < 0.001$ (Tukey HSD).

Table 3. Model – estimates of the determinants of annual electricity and natural gas consumption using multiple regression analysis.

Model	B	S.E	T	Sig.
Electricity consumption				
(Constant)	0.380	0.173	1.308	0.001
House area	0.255	0.052	6.382	0.000
Size of AC	0.168	0.034	3.352	0.001
Summary Statistics	$R^2 = 0.13$, Adjusted $R^2 = 0.11$, <i>S.E.</i> of estimate = 2.12, <i>F</i> -Statistics = 10.98, $p = 0.000$			
NG consumption				
(Constant)	1.739	0.218	7.985	0.000
House area	0.201	0.044	4.546	0.000
Number of kitchens	0.177	0.058	3.044	0.003
Roof insulation	-0.163	0.049	-3.314	0.001
Summary Statistics	$R^2 = 0.12$, Adjusted $R^2 = 0.11$, <i>S.E.</i> of estimate = 3.41, <i>F</i> -Statistics = 10.80, $p = 0.000$			

B = co-efficient, *S.E.* = Standard error

lower in the winter season (November-February) with a minimum in February (139.66±5.08 KWh) (Fig. 2). An opposite trend can be observed in NG consumption, where it was minimum in October (0.58±0.01 Hm³) and maximum in February (1.52±0.06 Hm³). Higher monthly gas consumption was observed during the winter season. There was more dependence on NG for space and water heating during the winter season (4.50 Hm³), but when taken collectively for the long summer season (March-October), gas consumption was found to be higher (7.34 Hm³) because of its high demand as a generator fuel during extended power outage hours in this season. During the study period, the sampled households consumed a total of 867,127 KWh of electricity and 3,553.5 Hm³ of natural gas.

A similar trend in electricity and gas emissions can be seen in Fig. 3, which shows that electricity emissions peaked in August (66.82 tCO₂e) and were at a minimum in February (26.04 tCO₂e). GHG

emissions from gas consumption were highest in February (986310 tCO₂e) and lowest in October (375108 tCO₂e). With the onset of winter, GHG emissions from gas consumption started increasing gradually from November to February, with a minimum of 439996 tCO₂e in November.

Building Type and CO₂e Emissions

Results of Univariate ANOVA revealed that both electricity and gas consumption were significantly affected by building type ($p < 0.001$) and season ($p < 0.001$), respectively (Table 4). However, the interaction of the two variables (building type × season) was significant for electricity consumption only ($p < 0.05$). Both electricity and gas consumption were higher in detached buildings than attached buildings (Table 5). Also, energy consumption was significantly associated with season, as (on average) both electricity and gas consumption were high in summer due to the

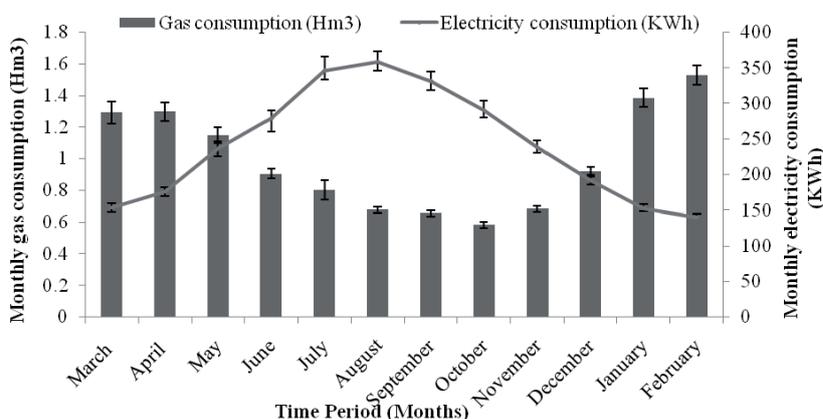


Fig. 2. Average monthly electricity and gas consumption in surveyed residential buildings.

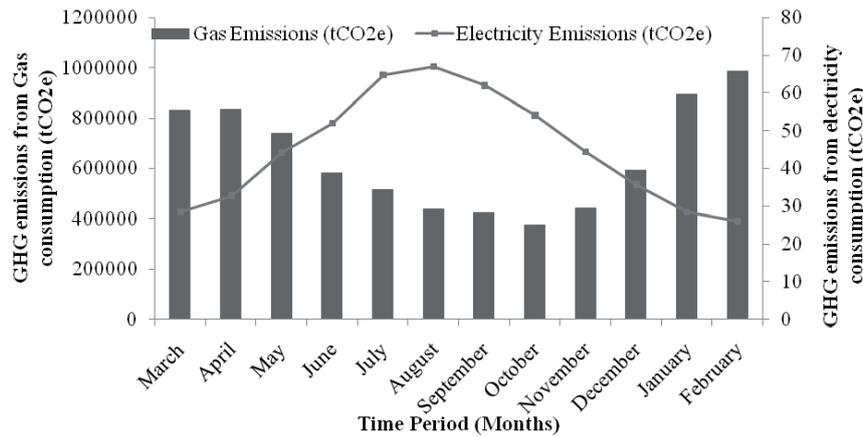


Fig. 3. Total monthly GHG emissions from electricity and gas consumption in one year.

use of AC and energy backup systems as mentioned above. This trend in energy consumption can be related to CO₂e emissions in both types of buildings. On average, a detached building had higher CO₂e emissions (2.46E-9±2.29E-10 tCO₂e from electricity and 32736±2426.4 tCO₂e from NG) as compared to the attached buildings (1.76E-9±5.38E-11 tCO₂e from electricity and 25090±761.2 tCO₂e from NG).

On the basis of average annual household CO₂e emissions (0.0255 MMtCO₂e/household), data was extrapolated for 731,000 Lahore households (Government of Punjab, 2013), and carbon emissions of 18.64 GtCO₂e (8.76 ppm) were estimated from the city’s residential building stock. The estimated emissions have a potential to raise atmospheric temperature by 0.07°C [20].

Discussion

Findings of this study revealed a strong association between income and energy consumption, which prompts dwellers to improve their standard of living. In the present study significantly higher electricity consumption was reported from middle and upper

income classes. Kus et al. [21] has reported a similar relationship of electricity consumption with income ($p<0.001$) in Turkey. Energy consumption is also related with time spent in the house. Santin et al. [22] found a significant relationship ($p<0.001$) between occupancy pattern and domestic energy consumption as related to the operation of different appliances for variable times of day.

According to the survey results, energy consumption and CO₂e emissions were significantly higher in detached buildings than in the attached houses in both seasons. On average, detached buildings were consuming 564 KWh/year and 1.775 Hm³/year of electricity and gas in excess to attached houses. Yohanis et al. [23] reported a similar relationship between building type and CO₂ emissions with changing weather patterns in the United Kingdom, where detached houses were consuming 1.27 KWh/m²/month in excess to attached houses. Detached buildings for being exposed to weather extremes on all sides require more temperature regulation than an attached building, resulting in high energy utilization and GHG emissions.

It has been established through this and previous studies that an attached building or a building employed with wall and roof insulation can help in conserving energy and reducing GHG emissions. But current housing practices in Lahore, especially in most popular

Table 4. Univariate ANOVA of energy consumption with building type and season.

Variables	Df	F	Sig.
Electricity Consumption			
Building type	1	18.58	0.000
Season	1	178.164	0.000
Building type × Season	1	6.037	0.014
Gas Consumption			
Building type	1	13.410	0.000
Season	1	38.097	0.000
Building type × Season	1	0.189	0.664

Table 5. Relationships of energy consumption with building type and seasons.

Variables		Electricity consumption (KWh) Mean±S.E.	Gas Consumption (Hm ³) Mean±S.E.
Building type	Attached	1416±48.11	5.826±0.15
	Detached	1980±205.73	7.601±0.50
Season	Summer	2200±70.16	7.389±0.23
	Winter	730.4±24.93	4.571±0.15

housing schemes such as the Defence Housing Authority (DHA), requires the buildings to be constructed as detached from all sides (area > 505.9 m² or higher) or with one common wall (area 252.9-505.9 m²), neglecting the effect of ambient temperature on the building's indoor temperature.

There was very little utilization of roof insulation in the study area. In Pakistan, most houses are built as simple concrete structures with little room for insulation, neglecting the need for energy conservation in hot weather and thus putting pressure on energy resources. Insulating materials such as polystyrene/thermopore, polyurethane and limestone-cement mix are most widely used globally, but there is little awareness on their use in Pakistan. Also, there is need to change construction practices in Pakistan as the houses constructed of baked clay blocks have little room to accommodate 16-20" of insulation in the ceiling and of 12" in the wall [12, 24].

The Building Energy Code of Pakistan (Energy Provisions 2011) [24] has made necessary amendments in building bylaws for high-end domestic and commercial users to save 25-30% of energy in new and existing construction, with the total connected load of 100 KW or air-conditioned area of 900 m², but these measures are not in practice at present. Efficient energy reduction can be achieved by improving the building envelope (wall and roof material), HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning and cooling) and lighting. But unfortunately there are no energy standards for residential buildings that do not fall in the above-mentioned category.

Painting the building exterior with lighter color tones or employing some shading mechanism (either trees or window glazing) can further help in reducing operational energy utilization. Bakhlah and Hassan [9] reported a reduction of 0.1-2.3°C in indoor air temperature with the application of white paint to the building envelopes. In this study both electricity and gas consumption were significantly higher in house areas greater than 404.7 m², and is consistent with the findings of Kus et al. [21] as larger houses require more energy to set the kitchen or other rooms. There was a high use of ACs, electrical or gas space and water heaters and UPS in the study area putting increasing demand for electricity and gas in both seasons. However, in the majority of houses energy-efficient lights (CFLs and LEDs) were in use, showing the concern of respondents to lower electricity consumption and associated cost/bills as a result of media campaigns [25]. According to estimates, a CFL (9-13W) or LED (4-5W) consumes much less electricity to provide 450 lumens, as compared to an incandescent bulb (40W) to provide equivalent lumens. Keeping in consideration the benefits of LEDs and CFLs, if all of the surveyed houses are shifted to energy-efficient lights and other appliances, significant reduction in operational electricity consumption and CO₂e emissions can be achieved. These measures along with environmental benefits can help in achieving monetary incentives in the form of reduced utility bills.

Residential GHG emissions can also be lowered by promoting solar energy at the domestic level. Pakistan lies in a solar belt receiving 4.45-5.83 kWh/m²/day of insolation, thus having generation capacity of 2.9 million MW of solar energy [26]. Considering this aspect, it was proposed in Pakistan Budget 2016-2017 to give relief on customs duty for the import of solar panels and local manufacturing of LED lights in order to promote renewable energy technologies.

Ramachandra et al. [27] reported 38,633.2 Gg and 22,783.08 Gg (a share of 30.26% and 37.2% residential CO₂e emissions, respectively) of emissions from all energy-consuming sectors of Delhi and Mumbai respectively, which are much lower than the extrapolated estimations (18.64GtCO₂e) of the current study. In another study, Bangalore, India is reported to release 1940.62 GgCO₂/year from electricity consumption in the domestic sector [28], which is higher than the consumption found in the current study (1313 GgCO₂e). The difference in CO₂e emissions among countries and at global scale arise due to the difference in use of EF and methodological approach (using country specific or default EF). Various datasets such as IPCC (1996 and 2006 guidelines), International Energy Agency (IEA) energy balances, Energy Information Administration (EIA) and UNFCCC are available reporting methodologies and data sources for calculating emissions for Annex-I and non Annex-I countries [3, 27, 29]. Owing to the vast datasets (EFs and methodologies) available, there exist uncertainties in emission estimates reported by individual countries and so cannot be compared. Even the emissions reported in the National GHG inventory, provided in Pak-INDC for Paris Agreement, are not to be considered precise and highly accurate.

On the basis of CO₂e emission extrapolation, the current study estimated a rise of 0.07°C temperature, which seems negligible but this is only from electricity and gas consumption of the residential sector of Lahore and did not include other CO₂ emission sources by residents like diesel/petrol used in the generators and the use of private transport. If the emissions are calculated for other energy-consuming sectors of the city or country, then the impact will be significantly higher. The estimated CO₂e emissions cannot always lead to an estimated increase in temperature because a part of this is sequestered in the natural carbon cycle, but still the issue cannot be ignored considering the present national and global emission trends. So there is a need to calculate the carbon footprint of all energy-consuming sectors of the country to meet Pakistan's INDC commitments made during the Paris Agreement. Further reduction in energy utilization can be achieved by initiating a system of conducting energy audits of the buildings on a regular basis and by initiating residential energy efficiency programs, as are in practice in many countries [30]. This will lead to a win-win situation by saving money on utility bills, energy conservation and reduced carbon emissions.

Conclusion and Policy Implications

This study concludes that monthly income, house floor area, roof insulation, building type and season had a significant effect on energy consumption and CO₂e emissions. There was rare use of roof insulating materials in surveyed houses, which led to an increase in energy consumption and related emissions in both seasons. Findings of this study suggest that a periodic system of energy audits/monitoring energy consumption needs to be formulated to check gaps in achieving energy efficiency and to raise awareness among dwellers about the causes and consequences of global warming in order to lower their energy consumption to reduce carbon emissions. Also, policymakers should make an active policy to implement Pakistan Building Energy Code Energy Provisions 2011 (not in practice at present) in order to improve thermal performance of new and existing residential buildings (irrespective of the floor area and air conditioned space) – focusing on all aspects of building design (such as material composition and building orientation). This will help lower energy consumption in all best and possible ways. Keeping in consideration the international pressure on reducing GHG emissions, the Pakistani Government should invest in renewable energy projects, such as hydroelectricity, biogas and solar power. The government should promote solar power by giving relief on custom duty to import solar panels and related components (batteries, charge controller and inverters). This needs to be done in order to make it affordable for residential stock and other sectors in all cities of the country as has been done in Bahawalpur (Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park) in order to harvest solar energy, which will not only reduce GHG emissions but will also help lower pressure on the finite energy resources of the country.

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Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest in this research.

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