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Update of the Energy Account: One third of the Costa Rica's energy is consumed by households

On September 23, 2019, the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR) published the results of the Energy Account 2011-2016. This publication covers both sources and uses of energy in physical terms, expanding the scope of the previous exercise of period 2011-2015 that covered only the final use of energy.

The Energy Account consists of a dataset that describes the energy interactions with the economy and the environment, as well as between sectors dedicated to production and consumption. Its structure allows direct comparisons between the physical information of the tables and the indicators of the system of national accounting such as production and employment.

In 2016, an increase of 4% in the use of energy products was identified. As in previous years, household energy consumption represented 34.5% of the total.

Household energy use is largely associated to the consumption of fossil fuel derivatives (68%) –mainly associated with transport–, followed by the use of electricity (24%) and firewood (8%). During 2016, the average household electricity consumption was of 2 kWh per person per day, which is equivalent to an average daily expenditure of ₡ 181 per person. This amount is higher than the average daily expenditure per person for water consumption, which was ₡ 106 for the same year.

One of the applications of the Energy Account is the estimation of the carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) resulting from the use of energy products that companies and households register for a particular year. During the period 2011-2016, these emissions grew at an average annual rate of 0.4%, representing a level of emissions relatively constant during the period.

Of all CO₂ emissions registered during 2016, 69% were emitted by companies as part of their production processes. The remaining 31% were emitted by households, largely as a result of the use of fossil fuels (26.3%). The economic activities that generated more emissions from the use of energy are manufacturing and mining (35%), followed by the transport activities and storage (12%).

A Methodological Appendix with the details of the compilation of the Account is available on the website of the Central Bank.