Chart of the Week:
Access to Electricity in Africa

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Access to Electricity in Africa

- Africa's population is estimated to be approximately 1.2 billion.
- Of that, about 580 million, or 48.3%, have no access to electricity. This is comprised almost exclusively of the population of sub-Saharan Africa.
- Electricity access of resource-rich sub-Saharan countries such as the DRC (providing 60% of the world's cobalt), Angola and Nigeria (OPEC crude oil producers) stands only at 9%, 42%, and 62%, respectively.
- Population growth projections through 2050 by the World Bank for Africa are 2.5%/yr, while the global population is expected to grow at a rate of 0.9%. At these rates, African population expansion is set to outpace electricity expansion.
- Policymakers need to be mindful of this persistent shortfall of access to electricity, coupled with its lack of reliability and resilience as they consider the global push for renewable sources for generation.
- The expanded version of this slide deck is available at: https://eprinc.org/chart-of-the-week/
- For more information on this chart, please contact Max Pyziur (maxp@eprinc.org)