



Economic Policy Innovations to Combat Climate Change

The existing patchwork of climate policies is insufficient and often inefficient in its effort to achieve emissions reductions and broader climate objectives. While there is some reason for optimism in the technological developments that make decarbonization possible, current public policies do far too little to support these developments and offer appropriate incentives for reducing emissions.

PAPER

Clean Performance Standards as Building Blocks for Carbon Pricing

Carolyn Fischer (Resources for the Future)

Several countries and the U.S. are experimenting with different types of clean performance standards that aim to curb carbon emissions. In a new policy proposal, Carolyn Fischer of Resources for the Future examines these experiences and the evidence on their effects. Fischer focuses on how to make sector performance standards as efficient as possible, considering the ways in which well-designed standards would interact with carbon pricing.

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Promoting Innovation for Low-Carbon Technologies

David Popp (Syracuse University)

The cost of producing clean energy has fallen dramatically in recent years. However, clean energy technologies remain underutilized due to multiple market failures—including carbon externalities and knowledge spillovers—and better energy and technology policies will be required to achieve long-term environmental and economic goals. In a new proposal, David Popp of Syracuse University evaluates public policy options for supporting clean energy technologies and develops guidelines for policymakers.



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How to Change U.S. Climate Policy After There Is a Price on Carbon

Roberton C. Williams III (University of Maryland; Climate Leadership Council)

The price of carbon in the U.S. and many other countries is well below the level researchers believe to be optimal. But if and when the optimal price is achieved, what changes to related policies would be appropriate? Roberton Williams (University of Maryland and Climate Leadership Council) explores implications for a variety of policies including tax expenditures, non-CO2 regulations, state renewable portfolio standards, fuel economy standards, and additional energy efficiency standards, among others.



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