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Economic and Job Impacts of State Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies

- This project will provide empirical estimates of state renewable energy and energy efficiency policies on economic development and jobs.
- There are two forms of potential job impacts from renewable energy and energy efficiency policies (hereafter, renewable and efficiency policies).
  - One form is job creation, that is to say the number of people that it would take to produce certain amounts of renewable energy or to improve buildings and the like to improve consumption efficiency.
  - The other type of job impact relates to creating businesses and skilled workers who will serve the demand for renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services.
- We know of no studies that take a systems approach to considering the job impacts of renewable energy policies. This project will address this gap in the literature by examining the impacts of state renewable and efficiency policies on electricity generation portfolios, the composition of employment and energy businesses, and economic development.

Electric Grid Impacts of State Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies

- This project will provide an estimate of the impacts of renewable energy policies on the electric grid. It will fill a gap in the literature for Florida, which as to date focused on the impacts on electricity generation.

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- Renewable energy generation is more likely to be located near the energy consumer.
- Renewable energy generation, by virtue of its smaller scale, can be geographically more diverse than large, centralized, generating stations.
- However, the current construction and operating costs for renewable energy generation tends to be higher than for conventional coal, nuclear, and natural gas-fired generation.
- We know of no studies that take a systems approach to considering the impacts of renewable energy policies on the electric grid. This project will address this gap in the literature by examining the impacts of state renewable and efficiency policies on electricity generation portfolios, electric system reliability, and resiliency to natural disasters.

Effects of Energy Commodity Profit Margins on Effectiveness of Energy Efficiency Programs

- This project will test an assumption that is built into many state energy policies and that is held by many policy makers at the national level, namely that utilities would improve consumer energy efficiency practices if utility prices were decoupled from utility profits.
- In electricity regulation decoupling refers to the delinking of a utility's profits from its sales of the electricity commodity, namely kilowatt hours.
- Decoupling is gaining favor as a policy to promote energy efficiency and environmental protection.