UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Economic Impacts of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies

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Description: PURC is engaging in three new research projects that will provide important information for policy makers in Florida. The projects are:
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. Proponents of state and federal policies promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency policies often assert that the policies will have positive impacts on jobs, specifically the so called green jobs.
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.
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.

Budget: $150,000.00
Universities: UF
External Collaborators: NA

Progress Summary

We have completed the data gathering on employment data and the evolution of state renewable energy policies across the United States. This includes granular data for myriad employment and demographic characteristics from a variety of sources including the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Model specification is important in the project, as the time series characteristics of data can produce spurious correlation, confusing the results. Therefore, we have tested many model specifications in order to ensure that we are deriving information from the data, rather than simply getting lost in the noise. This requires considerable data analysis and statistical testing. We have currently finished the model specification and are conducting the preliminary analyses. We anticipate preliminary results within 2 months.

Proposals					
Title	**Agency**	**PI, Co-investigators and collaborators**	**Funding requested**	**Project time frame**	**Date submitted**
Cost Benefit Analysis of Wind Gebneration Projects	Department of Energy	CEFA, FSU	$300,000	2 Years	3/11/11