

ZHIJIE ZHANG

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Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison

August 2023 – Present

Madison, WI, USA

Master of Agricultural And Applied Economics

Peking University, National School of Development

September 2022 – July 2023

Beijing, China

Minor in Economics

Beijing Language and Culture University, School of Business

September 2017 – July 2021

Beijing, China

Bachelor of Finance

Research Interest

Justice in Energy Transition, Environmental Economics, Sustainability

Research

☐ Scale Dynamics of Renewable Energy Projects: Implications for Local Electricity Price

Independent Research, Advisor: [Jing Yi](#)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Master Thesis

June. 2024 – Present

This thesis examines the correlation between the scale of renewable energy installations and the associated energy costs for local consumers, utilizing Causal Machine Learning to conduct a detailed empirical analysis. It explores how the size of these energy utilities impacts local energy pricing dynamics and influences economic resilience within communities. The objective of this research is to provide pivotal insights to assist local policymakers and businesses in developing renewable energy strategies that determine the most cost-effective scale of utilities for residents. Additionally, it attempts to assess how current policies in different states in the U.S. affect the cost of renewable energy usage differently across various consumer groups, including residents, companies, industries, and firms.

☐ Threat of Litigation and Investment in Renewable Infrastructure

Research Assistant, Advisor: [Sarah Johnston](#), Corporation with Ph.D. Candidate [Yifei Liu](#)

The University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dec. 2023 – Present

Investigate the externalities of legal challenges within the permitting process and analyze how these externalities affect investment in renewable infrastructure. This includes examining the threat of litigation as a factor and assessing how legal uncertainties might influence the pace and scale of renewable infrastructure development.

- Web Crawling: Collected approximately 700 legislative documents from 2006 to 2024 detailing legal challenges by local communities against renewable energy facilities, as well as around 60,000 land application documents for these facilities from the Bureau of Land Management.
- Text Mining via OpenAI API: Leveraging the OpenAI API, developing custom scripts to handle inconsistent formatting, identify and extract key variables on legal challenges, and systematically structure qualitative information into quantitative data points

Research Experience

❑ Application Analysis of Public Infrastructure REITs in Clean Energy

Leader of Student Research Project

National Development School, Peking University

Dec. 2022 – June. 2023

Led the “Infrastructure Public REITs Application Analysis in the Clean Energy Field” project, which assessed the role of public infrastructure REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) in funding clean energy initiatives. The study identified key financial benefits and market potentials, demonstrating how REITs can effectively channel investments into renewable energy projects, reduce financing costs, and promote sustainable infrastructure growth. Results informed strategic recommendations for optimizing REIT frameworks to support energy transition goals.

❑ The Role and Significance of Zero-Carbon Properties in Sustainable Urban Development

Part-time Research Assistant

[Sustainability Standards Research Center \(SSRC\)](#), Central University of Finance and Economics

June 2023 – Dec. 2023

Professional Experience

New Horizon Leadership International Consulting Co., Ltd.

Affiliated with the Legal and Business Research Center, China University of Political Science and Law

Full-time Consultant

Beijing, China

April 2022 – March 2023

- Conducted comprehensive data analysis and operational diagnostics for state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and large energy companies. Developed data-driven insights from executive interviews, employee surveys, and financial performance reviews and delivered 20 data-backed reports that resulted in an 8% increase in operational efficiency for a major energy SOE.
- Utilized advanced data platforms like Wind and Bloomberg to conduct in-depth analysis of energy and ESG sectors. *Identified key trends, business models, and market opportunities, contributing to 25 high-impact reports that influenced strategic decision-making.*
- *Developed customized corporate strategies using data-driven frameworks such as the BCG Matrix, SWOT, PESTEL, and Balanced Scorecard. Led data collection and analysis efforts for strategic initiatives, including the Economic Development Plan for a City's SOE Investment Strategy and the Strategic Development Plan for a Major Energy Group.*
- Led cross-functional teams in developing *the 2023 Legal-Business Value Index Report*, a core product for the company's think tank. Used *Environment, Social, and Government(ESG) metrics* and machine learning models on a dataset of over 5,000 Chinese listed companies, applying regression analysis and weighting methods to create a more scientifically rigorous scoring system. The report's success led to a 10% increase in clients the following month and enhanced the company's industry reputation.

BMW China Group

Market Strategy Intern

Beijing, China

August 2019 – November 2019

Honors, Scholarships, And Fellowships

- ❑ **Peking University, National School of Development**
Member, CCER Club Department of Knowledge 2022 – Present
- ❑ **Beijing Language and Culture University, School of Business**
Vice President, Student Government Association 2020
- ❑ **Award of Outstanding Student Leader (Top 0.05%)** 2019, 2020
- ❑ **Dean's Scholarship (Top 5%)** 2020

Skills

- ❑ **Computing**
 - R, Python, MATLAB, Stata, ArcGIS, QGIS, LATEX, Microsoft Office
 - GitHub Link: <https://github.com/JesmynZhang>
- ❑ **Languages**
 - English (fluent), Mandarin (native)