

# Jongeun Park

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## Research Interests

Environmental Economics, Public Economics, and Applied Econometrics

## Education

The Ohio State University

Ph.D., Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, Expected 2025

M.S., Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, 2022

KDI School of Public Policy and Management

Master of Development Policy, 2019

Konkuk University

B.A., Economics, 2017

## Job Market Paper

**“Environmental Enforcement during Legislative Vacancies: Insights from Clean Air Act Inspections”**, with Abdoul G. Sam

Congressional members may seek to influence the enforcement of environmental regulations to improve their chances of reelection. However, when they resign or die, their seats remain vacant until the next election. These vacancies, which occur independently of environmental enforcement activities, can lead to a reduced congressional influence on regulators during these periods. We investigate the impact of congressional vacancies in the House of Representatives on Clean Air Act inspections in the United States. We find that vacancies of Democratic congressional members reduce the probability of inspection by 24.6% and the inspection count by 28.6% compared to Democratic incumbency. This suggests that regulators might increase inspections to align with incumbent Democratic members’ preferences and revert to their preferred levels once these members leave Congress. Republican vacancies generally do not affect overall inspections, probably due to regulatory resource constraints that limit an increase in inspections during these periods. However, During Republican vacancies, we observe an increase in the probability of inspections for significant violators of the Clean Air Act, denoted as High Priority Violations, compared to periods of Republican incumbency. Our findings shed light on how regulators respond to congressional influence and provide insight to improve environmental regulatory effectiveness.

## Working Papers

**“From Waste to Energy: Assessing the Efficacy of the Landfill Methane Outreach Program”**, with Abdoul G. Sam

We examine the efficacy of the Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) in mitigating methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills in the United States. LMOP is a voluntary program initiated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to incentivize landfill owners to undertake landfill gas-to-energy projects for the generation of new energy sources. Using a staggered difference-in-differences approach to account for the heterogeneity in the timing of LMOP participation, our empirical

results show that the program increases the likelihood of landfill gas-to-energy project development by 25.2%. Despite this positive impact on landfill gas-to-energy project development, no significant reduction in fugitive methane emissions is observed, possibly due to the independent installation of landfill gas collection systems. However, landfill gas-to-energy project development is found to decrease net greenhouse gas emissions—which account for avoided carbon emissions due to energy generation from captured methane gas—by 26.1%. The findings underscore the important contribution of LMOP in promoting landfill gas-to-energy project development and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the absence of legal mandates.

## Work in Progress

- Local Newspaper Closures and Firm Environmental Behavior
- Political Power and Public Health: Examining the Effects of Caste Representation on Child Health in India (*with* Karan S. Shakya and Ashish Adhikari)

## Teaching

### Lead Instructor

- Food, Population, and the Environment Summer/Fall 2022, Summer 2023

### Lab Instructor

- Applied Econometrics I, II (PhD) Spring 2024
- Introduction to Sustainability Fall 2023
- Applied Quantitative Methods II (Master) Spring 2023

### Teaching Assistant

- Economics of Public Policy Analysis Spring 2022
- International Commerce and the World Economy Spring 2022
- Principles of Agribusiness Finance Fall 2021

## Presentations

\* scheduled

2025

- Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA), San Francisco, CA \*

2024

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, National Harbor, MD \*
- Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association, Kelowna, Canada \*
- Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, New Orleans, LA
- Harvard Climate Economics Pipeline Workshop, Harvard University
- Canadian PhD and Early Career Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics, Toronto, Canada
- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL
- Midwest Economics Association, Chicago, IL

2023

- Western Economic Association International, San Diego, CA)
- Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Workshop in Sustainable Development, Columbia University

## **Awards and Fellowships**

- Best Second Year Manuscript Award, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University, 2022
- University Fellowship, The Ohio State University, 2020-2021
- KDI School Scholarship of Academic Excellence, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, 2017-2018

## **Service**

- Treasurer, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics Graduate Student Association, 2022-2023

## **Work Experience**

- Research Associate, Korea Development Institute, 2019-2020
- Research Assistant, Korea Labor Institute, 2017

## **Skills**

- Programming: Python, Stata, R, SQL
- Language: English, Korean

## **References**

- Abdoul G. Sam  
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