

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

Members of Congress often seek to influence the enforcement of environmental regulations to satisfy voters and improve their chances of reelection. When these members resign or pass away, their positions remain vacant until the next election. These vacancies, which are assumed to be exogenous to environmental enforcement activities, provide regulators with a temporary period of independence from congressional influence. We investigate the impact of congressional vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives on Clean Air Act inspections. We find that vacancies of Democratic congressional members lead to a 26.1% reduction in the probability of an inspection and a 28.6% decrease in the number of inspections compared to when Democratic members are in office. This finding suggests that regulators may increase inspections to align with the preferences of Democratic incumbents, then revert to usual inspection levels once these members leave Congress. However, the effects of Democratic vacancies become insignificant when regulatory discretion is limited by additional guidelines and enforcement measures, such as Clean Air Act High Priority Violation and Non-attainment designations. We do not find significant evidence that Republican vacancies influence overall inspections. Our study sheds light on how regulatory actions are shaped by congressional influence and provides insights into improving the effectiveness of environmental regulation.

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 27.3%. 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, energy generation from captured landfill gas offsets fossil fuel-based energy. By promoting landfill gas recovery, LMOP helps avoid social costs of carbon, estimated between \$81 million (5% discount rate) and \$274 million (3% discount rate) during our study period. The results 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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