

Matthew Ridge Butner

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Department of Economics
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Research Interests

Environmental Economics, Energy Economics, Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, 2019 (Expected)
Dissertation Title: “Environmental Policy, Energy, and Public Goods”
Committee: Jonathan Hughes (chair), Dan Kaffine, Scott Savage, Yongmin Chen
M.A. Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, 2015
B.A. Economics, University of South Florida, 2013
B.S. Environmental Science and Policy, University of South Florida, 2013
Summa Cum Laude, Minor in Mathematics
NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates at Tulane University, 2012

Research

Working Papers

1. Butner, M. R., 2018. Gone With The Wind: Consumer Surplus From Renewable Generation.
I consider how electricity generators strategically respond to increased renewable generation. With hourly data on the supply of every market participant, I can directly test for curtailment in response to increased renewable generation. I find that large and diverse market participants curtail in response to increased renewable generation, decreasing consumer surplus by 2 to 3 billion US Dollars from 2014 to 2016.
2. Butner, M. R., 2018. Concentration Effects of Heterogeneous Standards: Refinery Response to the Clean Air Act.
Sometimes environmental regulations will alter the geographic and product markets in which firms compete. This can impact the firms ability to exercise market power, and profits subsequently. I simulate a model of Cournot competition in which spatially differentiated multi-products firms profit more under increased environmental standards. In the context of the 1990 Clear Air Act Amendments, I then use a latent profit approach to show how boutique fuel standards insulated certain refineries from competition just as the simulation predicts.

Works in Progress

3. Butner, M. R. Effectiveness of Demand-Side Emission Policies
4. Butner, M. R. Incentives for Private-Public Bundling and the Provision of Public Goods.

Conference Presentations

- 2018 Front Range Energy Economics Camp, Western Economic Association International Annual Conference Graduate Student Workshop
- 2017 Front Range Energy Economics Camp, Western Economic Association International Annual Conference (AERE session, discussant), CU Workshop on Environmental and Resource Economics, Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop (poster), Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (AERE session).
- 2016 Front Range Energy Economics Camp, Economic History Association Annual Conference (poster), Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (AERE session).

Honors & Awards

Student Paper Award, US Association for Energy Economics, 2018
Graduate Award For Public Policy Research, University of Colorado Boulder, 2017
Domestic Travel Grant, University of Colorado Boulder, 2016, 2017
Partial Fellowship, University of Colorado Boulder, 2013, 2016, 2018
Alumni Scholarship, University of South Florida, 2012
Sustainability Scholar, University of South Florida, 2012
Burton Memorial Scholarship in Economics, University of South Florida, 2011

Teaching

University of Colorado Boulder, Instructor of Record

Econ 3070 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory: Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Maymester 2018
Econ 3818 Intro to Statistics with Computer Applications: Spring 2017

University of Colorado Boulder, Teaching Assistant

Econ 2010 Principals of Microeconomics: Fall 2013
Econ 2020 Principals of Macroeconomics: Spring 2014, Summer 2016
Econ 3818 Intro to Statistics with Computer Applications: Summer 2015
Econ 3070 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory: Fall 2015
Econ 3545 Environmental Economics: Fall 2016
Econ 3535 Natural Resource Economics: Spring 2018

Miscellaneous

Participant in Sloan Technology Primer in Electricity for Social Scientists, 2017
Participant in Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics, 2016
Research Assistant, Wolfgang Keller and Carol Shiue, AY 2015
Departmental Tutor, University of Colorado Boulder, AY 2014
Environmental Education Intern At Learning Gate Community School, 2013
Legislative Intern for County Commissioner Al Higginbotham, 2012
Member, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, 2011–Present
University Tutor, University of South Florida, 2009-2013
Environmental Conservation Campaign Leader, Gulf Restoration Network, 2009