

Xiaochen Sun

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Academic Appointment

Assistant Professor of Economics, New Mexico State University, 2024-present

Education

Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University, 2024

Dissertation Committee: Karen Clay (co-chair), Edson Severnini (co-chair), Akshaya Jha

M.S. in Environmental Economics and Policy, Duke University, 2015

B.A. in Environmental Economics, Renmin University of China, 2013

Research Interests

Energy and Environmental Economics, Public Economics, Empirical Industrial Organization

Research

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Does LEED Certification Save Energy? Evidence from Retrofitted Federal Buildings", joint with Karen Clay and Edson Severnini, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 121: 102866, 2023. (NBER Working Paper No. 28612 and IZA Discussion Paper No. 14211)

* Also featured in NBER Research Spotlight, 7/15/2021

Working Papers

"Impacts of Uncertainty in Transmission Interconnection on Energy Transition"

* Winner of the 2024 USAEE Young Professional Best Paper Award Competition

Work in Progress

"Can Placed-Based Incentives Accelerate the Energy Transition? Evidence from the IRA's Energy Community Tax Credits", joint with Gaurav Doshi and Jancy Ling Liu

"Impact of a Cap-and-Trade Program on Local Air Pollution: Evidence from the Acid Rain Program", joint with Karen Clay and Edson Severnini

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2025: ASSA Meetings in San Francisco, Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AERE) Annual Summer Conference (scheduled)

2024: 41st United States Association for Energy Economics (USAEE) Annual Conference, AERE Annual Summer Conference, New Mexico State University, Pomona College, Miami University – Oxford

2023: Carnegie Mellon University (Heinz Informal Lunch Series), Carnegie Mellon Electricity Industry Center (CEIC), Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), Empirical Methods in Energy Economics (EMEE)

2022: Northeast Workshop on Energy Policy and Environmental Economics, AERE Annual Summer Conference

2021: Northeast Workshop on Energy Policy and Environmental Economics (Attendee), AERE Annual Summer Conference, Student Research Seminar of Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), Midwest Energy Fest, 1st Workshop in Applied Microeconomics of Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

2025: The Financial Research Institute (FRI) Utility Policy Fellow

2024: Winner of 41st USAEE Young Professional Research Competition

2023: PERC Graduate Fellowship

2022: Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly / Provost Conference Funds

2021: AMIE Mentee

2019: Attendee, Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics

Teaching Experience

New Mexico State University

ECON 312 Intermediate Microeconomics Theory: Fall 2024, Spring 2025

ECON337V Natural Resource Economics: Spring 2025

ECON 2110G Principles of Macroeconomics: Fall 2024

Service and Activities

Referee

AERE Summer Conference, Nature Communications

EASIB, New Mexico State University

2025: Undergraduate (UG) Economics (ECON) Program Assessment

2024 - 2025: UG ECON Faculty Advisor

2024: Doctor of Economic Development (DED) Qualifying Exam #1 Microeconomic Theories Grading Member

Other

Previous Employment

Research Analyst, Duke University Energy Initiative, 2015 - 2018

Research Intern, Smart Electric Power Alliance, 2015

Energy Research Fellow, Greenpeace, 2014

Other Information

Software: Stata, Python, R, Matlab

Affiliations: American Economic Association (AEA), Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE), United States Association for Energy Economics (USAEE)

Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Japanese (beginner)