

Seminar Series



Join us the second Thursday of every month for a series of "brown bag" seminars, sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Each seminar is held at NREL's Washington, D.C., office or in Golden, Colorado. Topics focus on new and innovative renewable energy and energy analysis strategies, models, and technologies.



Web Access and Call-In Information

Log-In Info

URL for log-in:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>

Conference Number: SW192882

(no passcode is needed)

You also can join the event directly at

<http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=SW192882&p=&t=c>

Call-In Info

To call in: 1-877-989-1543

Passcode: 8864359



Demand Subsidies vs. Funding R&D: Characterizing the Uncertain Impacts of Policy for Pre-commercial, Low-Carbon Technologies

A seminar presented by DOE/EERE's Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis and NREL's Strategic Energy Analysis Center

Gregory Nemet, Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin

BONUS: Thursday, October 30, 2008 (note the different times)

1-2 p.m. (Golden, Colo.)

3-4 p.m. (Washington, D.C.)

(The seminar is also offered via conference call or Internet conferencing.

See the log-in and call-in information below. **An RSVP is required to ensure that we have enough phone lines and/or seats.**)

Demand subsidies or funding R&D – which works best? During this "bonus" seminar, Gregory Nemet of the University of Wisconsin will talk about his analysis combining an expert elicitation and a bottom-up manufacturing cost model to compare the effects of R&D and demand subsidies. In his work, he modeled the effects on the future costs of a low-carbon energy technology that is not currently commercially available, purely organic photovoltaics (PV). His research found that (1) successful R&D programs reduced costs more than did subsidies, (2) successful R&D enabled PV to achieve a cost target of 4c/kWh, and (3) the cost of PV did not reach the target when only subsidies, and not R&D, were implemented. He'll also discuss how these results are insensitive to two levels of policy intensity, the level of a carbon price, the availability of storage technology, and uncertainty in the main parameters used in the model. However, a case can still be made for subsidies: comparisons of stochastic dominance show that subsidies provide a hedge against failure in the R&D program.

Gregory Nemet is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and in the La Follette School of Public Affairs. He is also a member of the university's Energy Sources and Policy Cluster and a senior fellow at the Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy. His research and teaching focus on improving understanding of the environmental, social, economic, and technical dynamics of the global energy system. He also teaches courses in international environmental policy and energy systems analysis. He holds a master's degree and doctorate in energy and resources, both from the University of California, Berkeley. His undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College is in geography and economics.



Gregory Nemet

Golden, Colo., information

1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colorado
Building 3, Conference Room 170.

Please contact Kalia Kehoe at
kalia_kehoe@nrel.gov or 303-384-7439

Washington, D.C., information

901 D Street SW (adjacent to the Forrestal Building)
or 370 L'Enfant Promenade. Ninth Floor.

Please contact Wanda Addison, of Midwest
Research Institute (MRI), at
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For more information on NREL analysis, please visit
www.nrel.gov/analysis