



EPP and Center for Climate and Energy Decision Making

Sponsored Seminar

Gregory Nemet

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PhD, Energy and Resources, U. California-Berkeley, 2007

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Presenting on:

“Pricing of installed solar PV systems in the U.S. 2000-2013”

March 16, 2015

12 noon

(Lunch served at 11:50am)

129 Baker Conference Room

Department of Engineering and Public Policy

Seminar Abstract: Solar PV is potentially an important technology for future energy supply. The underlying resource is large and widely available. Prices have dropped dramatically, by a factor of 100 since the technology was first commercialized in the 1970s and by half in just the past 2 years. The net social benefits of solar are difficult to estimate because of the intrinsically local aspects of the power generation it offsets and the stresses on the electric grid it introduces. But even looking simply at prices paid today, there is remarkable heterogeneity. For systems installed in 2013, the 10-90 percentile range for the observed \$/MWh of electricity spans more than a factor of 2. This apparent price dispersion raises policy questions, such as: would more informed consumers increase the social benefits of solar PV? This talk presents results to date of a multi-year project aimed at addressing 3 general research questions:

1. What are the biggest influences on PV prices?
2. What are the characteristics of low-cost systems?
3. Why is there so much variation in prices?

Speaker Bio: Gregory Nemet is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the La Follette School of Public Affairs and the Nelson Institute Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE). He is also chair of the Energy Analysis and Policy (EAP) certificate program. His research and teaching focus on improving analysis of the environmental, social, economic, and technical dynamics of the global energy system. This work is motivated by a general interest in understanding how to expand access to energy services while reducing environmental impacts. He teaches courses in policy analysis, energy systems analysis, and international environmental policy. His research analyzes the process of technological change in energy and its interactions with public policy. Nemet's projects fall in two main areas: (1) empirical analysis identifying the influences on past technological change and (2) modeling of the effects of policy instruments on future technological outcomes. He has been an author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Global Energy Assessment (GEA). He received his doctorate in energy and resources from the University of California, Berkeley. His A.B. is in geography and economics from Dartmouth College.

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