

The Economics of Energy Efficiency

Winter 2012

Why does Comcast give you set-top boxes that use as much electricity as your refrigerator? Why do many trucks lack aerodynamic spoilers even though they pay back in a few months? Market failures like these cause unnecessarily high energy use and slow the adoption of more energy-efficient technologies. This course will mostly not cover the “big picture” of energy economics; instead, it will explore a few, narrow—but crucial—topics, such as:

- Why won't my landlord insulate the attic?
- What makes an investment in energy efficiency *attractive*?
- How does a company profit by *sharing* energy savings?
- Saving energy in one place just causes increased energy use someplace else, right?
- What is the connection between energy-efficiency and climate change?

You will better appreciate the larger economic and environmental issues by following the responsibility, the decisions, and the money.

You do not need a strong background in economics (although a few undergraduate courses will certainly help).

Option 1 (TTP 289B-003/CRN #42004): Pass/No Pass for 1 unit

Option 2 allows for additional units

Tu, Th 2:10 – 3:00 PM 211 Wellman

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