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Economic Implications of Climate Impacts on Energy: Adding Economics to Energy

> Solomon Hsiang UC Berkeley

Uses for applied economics

- Statistical approaches simplify complex processes
- Causal inference
- Reality check for model assumptions
- Calibration based on real world behavior
- Behavior may not optimize
- Interlinked markets

Weaknesses

- Statistical approaches simplify complex processes
- Gaps in knowledge
- Future environment is unprecedented
- Future behavior may differ from past
- Innovations are unknowable
- Insufficient market linkages

Calibrate against empirically measured energy demand, actual behavior



Auffhammer (2015)

Not all CDDs are equal, AC adoption matters



Temperature

Auffhammer & Aroonruengsawat (2009)

Warming will cause greater AC adoption

RCP 8.5



Auffhammer (2015)

Warming will cause greater AC adoption

Figure 7: Extensive Margin Adjustment: Projected Percent Increases in Average Household Electricity Consumption 2080-2099 over 2000-2015



Auffhammer (2015)

Probabilistic risk assessment for demand changes due to warming



Figure 10.2: National Change in Electricity Demand

Risky Business & American Climate Prospectus (2014)

Probabilistic risk assessment for demand changes due to warming



Risky Business & American Climate Prospectus (2014)

Climate drives income drives energy use



Deryugina & Hsiang (NBER, 2014)

Climate drives agricultural income



Deryugina & Hsiang (NBER, 2014)

Where will 40M more live? Housing, Jobs, and Population growth

American Climate Prospectus (2014)

Evaluation of actual efficiency gains

Fowlie, Greenstone, Wolfram (2015)

Accounting for transition costs

Walker (QJE, 2013)

Pursue innovation for export to emerging economies

Income

Davis & Gertler (PNAS, 2015)

What can empirical economics do for energy modeling in California?

- energy demand given capital (intensive margin)
- capital demand given climate (extensive margin)
- climate affects income affects energy demand
- population growth, migration & land markets
- measure actual efficiency gains
- identify transition costs of regulation
- identify opportunities for innovation (and its export)

Thank you

shsiang@berkeley.edu