

Potential Economic Costs of Climate Change in Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico

For the University of Oregon's Climate Leadership Initiative Program on Climate Economics, ECO described and quantified some of the potential economic costs of climate change in Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico. ECO quantified the statewide and per-household potential costs in each state in 2020, 2040, and 2080 associated with impacts on energy use, agricultural production, forest and range, fish and wildlife, storm damage, and human health.

Effects of Climate Change in Sonoma County

For the Sonoma County Water Agency, ECO advised on the economic issues associated with the county's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for climate change, maintain a healthy ecosystem, and sustain a robust economy.

Impacts of Housing Development on Greenhouse Gases

For a private client, ECO examined the literature on the effect of housing construction and occupation on greenhouse gas emissions, water quality, and travel patterns. The project involved reviewing over 500 refereed journal publications, preparation of an electronic library, and the writing of four synthesis reports.

Economic Implications of Climate Change on Public-Land Grazing

For a private client, ECO examined the economic implications of potential interactions between climate change and the management of public lands in the western United States used for livestock grazing.

Economic Impacts of New Coal-Fired Electricity Generators

For Western Clean Energy Campaign, ECO compared the potential economic impacts of proposals by White Pine Energy Associates, Nevada Power, and Sierra Pacific, to build coal-fired electricity generators in Nevada, with the potential economic impacts of alternatives that would not entail burning coal.

Economic Analysis of Electricity-Generating Alternatives in Arkansas

For the Sierra Club, ECO described the potential economic impacts of alternatives for generating electricity in Arkansas, including renewable options, such as wind and biomass, and a 600-megawatt coal-fired electricity generator that Southwestern Electric Power Company proposed to build in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Economic Consequences of Alternatives to Managing Waste Coal

For the Sierra Club, ECO described the economic consequences of alternative ways to manage waste coal (gob or culm) piles in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia. ECO examined the net benefits, impacts on jobs and incomes, financial issues, risk and uncertainty, and distributional effects of waste coal management decisions.

Economic Analysis of Green Roofs

For the City of Portland, ECO compared the economic benefits and costs of a greenroof to those of a conventional roof. ECO evaluated the net present value of the current and future benefits and costs of each type of roof, including carbon sequestration, energy savings, and avoided stormwater management costs.

Cost-Effectiveness of Conservation Options

For the Oregon Department of Energy, ECO analyzed the cost-effectiveness of a variety of energy-conservation packages that had been proposed as revisions to Oregon's residential building codes and assisted the State Energy Conservation Board with its interpretation of the results.

Briefing on Economic Consequences of Climate Change in Oregon

For the University of Oregon School of Law, ECO briefed the Oregon State Senate Judiciary Committee on the consequences of climate change on Oregon's economy. ECO reviewed the scientific literature describing the potential local effects of climate change in Oregon, including changes in snow pack, coastal flooding, and wildfire and described how these changes would create both benefits and costs, increase uncertainty and risk, and produce new opportunities in renewable-energy and energy-efficiency industries.

Sustainable Energy Practices in Oregon

For the Center of Watershed and Community Health, Oregon, ECO identified potential opportunities for promoting sustainable energy practices in commercial and industrial industries.

Assessment of Energy-Conservation Industries

For the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, ECO prepared a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the state's energy-efficiency and renewable-energy industries. ECO analyzed gross income and total employment for these industries, as well as specific sectors within the industries. ECO also reviewed the literature and conducted interviews with company leaders to characterize the current state of Washington's energy-efficiency and renewable-energy industries and identify future trends.

Economic Benefits and Costs of Watershed Restoration

For West Coast Watershed, on behalf of counties and communities in the North Coast region of California, ECO evaluated the costs and benefits of proposed water-development and watershed-restoration projects in northern California. ECO worked with project sponsors to identify the effects of each project's activities on the ecological and socioeconomic conditions of each watershed, and how the projects' impacts might mitigate the effects of or be affected by climate change. ECO quantified the economic benefits and costs of each project, looking specifically at benefits that enhance water quality and water quantity, as well as at other expected benefits, such as carbon sequestration, avoided maintenance costs, improvements in habitat, recreational opportunities, erosion control, and public education.

Analysis of Potential Economic Effects of a Proposed Water-Bottling Plant

For the McCloud Watershed Council, ECO analyzed the potential economic effects of a large-scale water-bottling facility that Nestlé proposed to build in McCloud, a small community in northern California. ECO described the region's socioeconomic conditions, identified long-run trends, such as climate change, that may potentially affect water resources and economic conditions in the region, reviewed case studies of water-bottling facilities in other communities, and analyzed the potential economic effects of the facility on local employment, population, public services, and natural-resource amenities.

Ashland Ski Area Business Plan Evaluation

For the City of Ashland, ECO conducted a preliminary review of issues related to Mt. Ashland Ski Association's business plan and fundraising plan for the proposed expansion and operation of the ski area, including how the ski area would respond to changes in annual snowpack related to climate change.