

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 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.

Low-Impact Development Economic Literature Review

For Waterkeeper Alliance, ECO summarized the available information on the economic factors of low-impact development, such as the costs of managing stormwater and combined sewer overflows, the value of flood mitigation and improved water quality, the economic benefits of aquifer recharge, the values of properties adjacent to greenstreets, and development costs and other economic factors relevant to builders and developers.

Economic Analysis of Green Roofs

For the City of Portland, ECO compared the economic costs and benefits of an ecoroof (or greenroof) to those of a conventional roof. ECO identified, described, and where possible, quantified the net present value of the costs and benefits of each type of roof, including carbon sequestration and energy savings benefits associated with the ecoroof.

Economic Consequences of Natural Resource Allocation Scenarios

For the State of Nebraska, ECO examined the potential of natural-resource related, amenity-driven growth in the state. ECO described the mechanisms through which the conservation of resource-related amenities may be able to stimulate the state's economic growth which impacts the quality of life of the people living in Nebraska. ECO also showed that by redefining the existing natural resources-agriculture paradigm and stimulating the growth of other industries such as recreation, Nebraskans stand to benefit economically.

Moving Toward Sustainability: A Strategy for Louisiana

For the Ford Foundation, ECO developed and helped implement a strategy for moving Louisiana toward conservation-based development. ECO identified the potential costs and benefits associated with adopting practices and policies that can resolve pressing environmental problems and lead to a more sustainable economy in the state. ECO demonstrated that environmentally sustainable business and development practices can be good for businesses, as well as the environment.

Regional Economy of the Pacific Northwest

For the Northwest Water Law and Policy Project, Oregon, ECO analyzed the role of the Columbia River in the economy of the Pacific Northwest. ECO described an economic framework for analyzing the economic consequences of alternatives for managing the Columbia River. The analysis included a discussion of the extent to which water and habitat are used to support salmon and water-intensive industries. ECO demonstrated that a sustainable use of the water will benefit both the economy of the region and the environment.

Economic Analysis of Agenda to Restore Puget Sound

For the Puget Sound Partnership, ECO conducted an economic analysis that focused on the costs and benefits of actions that the Partnership may undertake to restore the health of Puget Sound. The Partnership used the study as a tool to guide its funding strategies and identify priorities to frame and target the financing analysis.

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

For a private client, ECO analyzed the potential economic effects of a large-scale water-bottling facility proposed to be built in small rural community on the west coast. ECO examined long-run trends affecting economic conditions and natural resources 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.

Environmental Protection and Jobs

For the W. Alton Jones Foundation, ECO analyzed the relationship between economic development and resource-management policy in the U.S. ECO assessed job losses and gains attributable to environmental protection. ECO also examined ways in which environmental-protection initiatives can lead to increases in jobs and incomes: enhancing a region's quality of life and reducing the economic burdens other industries bear when they endure the spillover-costs of resource-intensive industries.

Sustainability and Jobs

For the Center for Watershed and Community Health, Oregon, ECO worked with representatives from organized labor and distressed rural communities and urban neighborhoods to identify potential new sustainable industries and jobs. ECO also developed strategies leading to the growth of sustainable industries in distressed communities.

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.

Impacts of Forest Management in the Appalachian Highlands

For the U.S. Forest Service, ECO developed and applied a model for describing the relationship between a forest ecosystem and the adjacent regional economies. ECO assessed the economic consequences of alternative resource-management policies, and supported efforts to design and implement policies, plans, and activities that enhance the likelihood of long-term ecological sustainability and economic vitality.

Economic Benefits of Wyoming's Roadless Areas

For a private client, ECO analyzed the economic benefits of roadless areas to Wyoming's economy. ECO described the mechanisms through which the ecosystem goods and services provided by roadless areas can drive local economic growth, and contribute to a high quality of life in Wyoming.

Economic Analysis of Aggregate Mining on Farmland

For the Oregon Farm Bureau, ECO analyzed the social costs and benefits underlying aggregate mining on farmland. The analysis included the potential mining-related transportation costs and the farming-related benefits of proposals to allow or disallow aggregate mining on prime farmland.

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.

Methods for Full-Cost Accounting in Washington

For the Washington Environmental Council, ECO outlined the central concepts of full-cost accounting. The study included a discussion of past decisions that may have been modified, had their costs been fully taken into account. ECO also described how forest-management approaches that emphasize sustainability and stewardship can have positive economic consequences.

Social Impacts of Forest Management

For the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, ECO analyzed the social implications of managing the federal Douglas-fir forests on longer rotations. These social effects include aesthetics, value added, tourism, jobs (quantity and type), changes in recreational opportunities, and economic and community sustainability. ECO presented the analysis at a regional workshop on High Quality Forestry Management.

Economics of Resource Conservation in the Sonoran Desert

For the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, ECO examined economic benefits of resource-conservation measures of the proposed critical-habitat plan for the Sonoran Desert, Arizona. ECO documented four categories of benefits of the resource-conservation initiatives in the Sonoran Desert: (1) the increased supply of valuable natural resources; (2) savings for taxpayers, utility ratepayers, and property owners; (3) a stronger local economy; (4) reinforcement of efforts to accomplish other important goals.

Effects of Changes in Timber Industry in the Pacific Northwest

For the Wilderness Society, ECO evaluated the economic effects of changes in the timber industry following the listing of the Northern spotted owl as an endangered species. ECO examined the detrimental effects of the timber industry on the sustainable economies of rural communities.

Socioeconomic Impacts of Riparian Restoration

For the Environmental Protection Agency, ECO co-authored a conceptual manual for assessing the socioeconomic consequences of ecological restoration projects for rivers and wetlands. The team applied the manual in a case study of the Vermillion River in South Dakota.

Economic Consequences of Watershed and Riparian Restoration

For the Environmental Protection Agency, ECO was part of a multi-disciplinary team that developed a basin-wide framework for identifying and ranking the ecological, demographic, and economic opportunities for watershed and riparian restoration. The team applied the framework to the Willamette River Basin in Oregon, and it was incorporated into the *Willamette River Basin Planning Atlas*.

Economic Assessment of the Proposed Animas-La Plata Project

For a private client, ECO assessed the potential economic benefits and costs of the reservoir, related infrastructure, and activities included in the proposed Animas-La Plata project in southwestern Colorado. ECO compared the project with an alternative that involved increased water conservation and the voluntary transfer of water rights to affected tribes.

Techniques to Manage Growth and its Environmental Impacts

For Clatsop County and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, ECO assisted in the identification of efficient development scenarios and implementation techniques to manage increased growth while mitigating environmental impacts to aquifers, lakes, streams and wetlands. As part of the project, ECO described how transferable development rights could be used to address land-use and water issues.

Economic Benefits of Restoring Streamflows in the Eel River

For the Center for Environmental Economic Development, ECO assisted with an analysis comparing the positive and negative economic consequences of restoring natural streamflows in the Eel River, California, rather than diverting the water to the Russian River. ECO analyzed these economic values in the context of salmon-population restoration and its impact on the well-being of humans.

Economic Impacts of Critical Habitat Designation

For a private client, ECO wrote an affidavit on the economic impacts of critical habitat designation, specifically addressing salmon habitat in the Pacific Northwest. ECO concluded that, contrary to a commonly held belief, the designation would not have negative economic impacts and may spur economic growth.