

Grant Webster

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Research Interests

- Primary Fields: Environmental Economics
- Secondary Fields: Transportation, Climate Change, and Development

Education

- Ph.D. Economics, University of Colorado Boulder (expected 2025)
- M.A. Economics, University of Colorado Boulder (2022)
- B.S. Economics, Syracuse University (2018)
- B.S. Applied Mathematics, Syracuse University (2018)

Publications

“Free fare for better air? Evaluating the impacts of free fare public transit on air pollution”, **Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice**, 2024

Working Papers

- Job Market Paper: Linking Cap-and-Trade Systems with Heterogeneous Co-Benefits from Abatement

Abstract: Expanding the coverage of cap-and-trade systems is essential for improving global environmental outcomes and can lower the economic costs of achieving climate goals. However, linking cap-and-trade systems to new sectors presents various challenges for policymakers. This paper develops a theoretical model to study the linkage of existing markets to new sectors using two policy instruments: new emissions permit allocations and trading ratios. I show that first-best outcomes can be achieved by (i) setting trading ratios equal to the ratio of co-benefits from abatement between sectors and (ii) setting new permit allocations based on the efficiency of the initial cap. Importantly, regulators cannot achieve first-best solutions if there are constraints on one of these policy instruments. Leveraging my theoretical model, I simulate the European Union Emissions Trading System's decision to link its cap-and-trade system to the aviation sector. Using estimates from the EU, this paper quantifies welfare from the initial linkage and demonstrates that alternative choices of trading ratios and permit allocations could have improved welfare by over €640 million annually.

- “Are Wildfire Risk Mitigators More Prepared to Evacuate? Insights from Communities in the Western United States”, (with Patricia Champ, Hannah Brenkert-Smith, and James Meldrum), (R & R at Ecological Economics)

Work in Progress

- “Home Court Advantage or Referee Bias? Evaluating the Impacts of Home Fans in College Basketball”
- “Sweating through the Night: How Nighttime Heat Affects Students Outcomes” (with Elizabeth Sorensen Montoya)
- “Wildfire information sources and the acceptability of fuels treatments near select WUI communities in the Western United States” (with Kelly Wallace; Hannah Brenkert-Smith; Patricia A Champ; James R Meldrum; Christine Taniguchi; Julia B Goolsby; Colleen Donovan; Carolyn Wagner; Christopher M Barth; Josh Kuehn; Suzanne Wittenbrink)

Teaching Experience

Instructor:

- Environmental Economics – Spring 2023, Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant:

- Microeconomics – Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2020
- Macroeconomics – Spring 2021
- Intermediate Microeconomics – Fall 2024

RA Experience

Research Assistant, Institute of Behavioral Science - Wildfire Research Center (WiRe), 2024

- Developed independent research studying households and their response to the growing threat of wildfire using unique data from over 20,000 households in the Western US.
- Worked with interdisciplinary researchers to study the behavior of households living in diverse WUI communities.
- Presented research to a diverse group of community stakeholders and local policymakers.

Research Assistant for Dr. Daniel Kaffine –Environmental Economics - 2022

Research Assistant for Dr. Mahdieh Yazdani – Urban Economics - 2021

Honors and Awards

- Award for Excellence in Microeconomics , University of Colorado Boulder 2021
- Graduate Award for Public Policy Research, University of Colorado Boulder 2023
- Rueben A. Zubrow Fellowship in Economics, University of Colorado Boulder 2024

Presentations

- Front Range Energy and Environment Economics Conference, 2024
- Wildfire Research Center Community of Practice Meeting, 2024
- Western Agricultural Economics Association, 2024
- CU Environmental and Resource Economic Workshop, 2024

Other Experience

Organizer, University of Colorado Boulder Graduate Student Research Brown Bag, 2023-2024

Research Assistant, American Institutes for Research, Washington D.C, August 2018 - June 2020

- **Developed the National Assessment of Educational Progress:** Assisted in the creation, review, and analysis of the NAEP assessment, enhancing the quality and ensuring the reliability of the nation's report card.
- **Data Analysis and Survey Research:** Used Statistical and economic methods to analysis survey response data on educational outcomes and trends.
- **Process Data:** Analysis of comprehensive data on student test actions and developed groundbreaking research on granular student test performance and test taking style.

Primary Education Mathematics Instructor, Nakuru, Kenya, August-December 2016

- Instructed a mathematics course for 50 fifth grade students in rural Kenya.

In the News

RTD's free fare program failed to make a meaningful climate impact, new research finds | Rocky Mountain PBS. (2024, August 21). RTD's Free Fare Program Failed to Make a Meaningful Climate Impact, New Research Finds. <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/science-environment/rtd-zero-fare-better-air-policy-research>

Free bus fare didn't yield better air. (2024, July 30). Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine. <https://www.colorado.edu/asmagazine/2024/07/29/free-bus-fare-didnt-yield-better-air>

Affiliations

- Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado

Skills

- R, Stata, Matlab, GIS, Excel