

Does environmental policy uncertainty deter clean-tech (F)DI inflows to the US?

Laura Nowzohour¹ Joëlle Noailly^{1,2}

¹Geneva Graduate Institute

²Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

IAERE

21 April 2022



Sustainable Economy
National Research Programme

Motivation

Massive investment efforts and technological advances necessary to facilitate transition to a low-carbon economy.

⇒ Consider domestic *and* foreign sources of capital.

Motivation

Massive investment efforts and technological advances necessary to facilitate transition to a low-carbon economy.

⇒ Consider domestic *and* foreign sources of capital.

⇒ **This paper:** How policy-sensitive are these?

Motivation

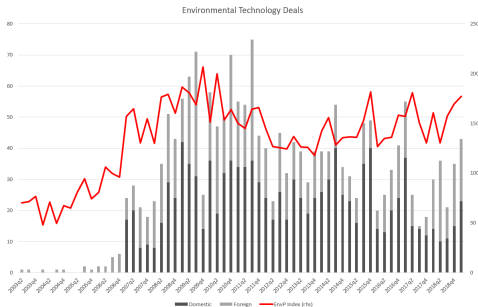
Massive investment efforts and technological advances necessary to facilitate transition to a low-carbon economy.

⇒ Consider domestic *and* foreign sources of capital.

⇒ **This paper:** How policy-sensitive are these?

- ▶ Correlation between # greenfield investment deals in 'environmental technology' (ET) and environmental policy (EnvP) in the US.

- ▶ Domestic: 0.71
- ▶ Foreign: 0.66



▶ Same for intensive margin (capex)

Motivation cont'd

Strong EnvP-(F)DI nexus \implies likely important role of EnvP
uncertainty because

Motivation cont'd

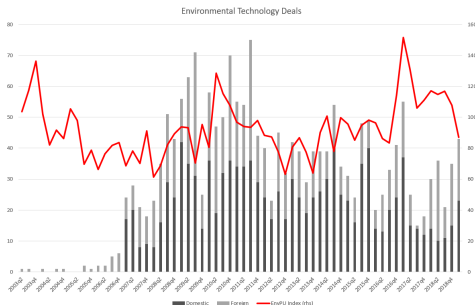
Strong EnvP-(F)DI nexus \implies likely important role of EnvP uncertainty because

- ▶ of strong policy reliance for competitiveness of ETs.
- ▶ EnvP especially riddled with uncertainties due to polarizing nature.
- ▶ (F)DI, especially greenfield, is involving/risky type of investment.

Motivation cont'd

Strong EnvP-(F)DI nexus \implies likely important role of EnvP uncertainty because

- ▶ of strong policy reliance for competitiveness of ETs.
- ▶ EnvP especially riddled with uncertainties due to polarizing nature.
- ▶ (F)DI, especially greenfield, is involving/risky type of investment.



What we do

Testable Hypotheses:

1. **Clean-tech greenfield investment stalls amid elevated levels of environmental policy uncertainty.**

Channel: real options \implies firms prefer to 'wait-and-see' and/or lower capex until uncertainty resolved.

2. **Foreign firms react more (less) strongly to US EnvP uncertainty.**

Channel a: information asymmetry \implies foreign firms less sure how to navigate US policy landscape.

Channel b: productivity \implies foreign firms better able to absorb the cost of US EnvPU as they are multinationals who tend to be larger and more productive.

Outline

Literature

Data

Empirical strategy

Results

Conclusions

Literature

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (theory)

- ▶ **Pollution Haven Hypothesis** (PHH): lax EnvP as comparative advantage (Cole et al., 2017; Levinson and Taylor, 2008)

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (theory)

- ▶ **Pollution Haven Hypothesis** (PHH): lax EnvP as comparative advantage (Cole et al., 2017; Levinson and Taylor, 2008)
 - ▶ **Type of FDI matters**
 - ▶ Horizontal FDI less 'footlose': Relocation cost + Market size overweight regulatory compliance cost (Sanna-Randaccio and Sestini, 2012).
 - ▶ Platform FDI is more 'footlose': Guided by cost-saving objective (Tang, 2015).

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (theory)

- ▶ **Pollution Haven Hypothesis** (PHH): lax EnvP as comparative advantage (Cole et al., 2017; Levinson and Taylor, 2008)
 - ▶ **Type of FDI matters**
 - ▶ Horizontal FDI less 'footlose': Relocation cost + Market size overweight regulatory compliance cost (Sanna-Randaccio and Sestini, 2012).
 - ▶ Platform FDI is more 'footlose': Guided by cost-saving objective (Tang, 2015).
 - ▶ **Benefit of agglomeration economies outweighs regulatory cost** (Zeng and Zhao, 2009).
 - ▶ **Pollution Outsourcing Hypothesis** (Kawata and Ouchida, 2013; Cole et al., 2014).

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (theory)

- ▶ **Pollution Haven Hypothesis (PHH):** lax EnvP as comparative advantage (Cole et al., 2017; Levinson and Taylor, 2008)
 - ▶ **Type of FDI matters**
 - ▶ Horizontal FDI less 'footlose': Relocation cost + Market size overweight regulatory compliance cost (Sanna-Randaccio and Sestini, 2012).
 - ▶ Platform FDI is more 'footlose': Guided by cost-saving objective (Tang, 2015).
 - ▶ **Benefit of agglomeration economies outweighs regulatory cost** (Zeng and Zhao, 2009).
 - ▶ **Pollution Outsourcing Hypothesis** (Kawata and Ouchida, 2013; Cole et al., 2014).
 - ▶ **EnvP stringency can be pull factor:** Endogenous market structure + if foreign firms pollute less than domestic firms
 - ▶ Switch from exports to FDI (Dijkstra et al., 2011).
 - ▶ Pre-emptive entry to secure market share (Elliott and Zhou, 2013).

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (theory)

- ▶ **Pollution Haven Hypothesis (PHH):** lax EnvP as comparative advantage (Cole et al., 2017; Levinson and Taylor, 2008)
 - ▶ **Type of FDI matters**
 - ▶ Horizontal FDI less 'footlose': Relocation cost + Market size overweight regulatory compliance cost (Sanna-Randaccio and Sestini, 2012).
 - ▶ Platform FDI is more 'footlose': Guided by cost-saving objective (Tang, 2015).
 - ▶ **Benefit of agglomeration economies outweighs regulatory cost** (Zeng and Zhao, 2009).
 - ▶ **Pollution Outsourcing Hypothesis** (Kawata and Ouchida, 2013; Cole et al., 2014).
 - ▶ **EnvP stringency can be pull factor:** Endogenous market structure + if foreign firms pollute less than domestic firms
 - ▶ Switch from exports to FDI (Dijkstra et al., 2011).
 - ▶ Pre-emptive entry to secure market share (Elliott and Zhou, 2013).
- ▶ **Porter Hypothesis (PH):** EnvP can stimulate innovation so polluting firms gain competitiveness (Porter and van der Linde, 1995).

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (empirics)

- ▶ No PHH effect (Jaffe and Palmer, 1997)

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (empirics)

- ▶ No PHH effect (Jaffe and Palmer, 1997)
- ▶ Actually, there is (Hanna, 2010; Keller and Levinson, 2002; Kellenberg, 2009)
 - ▶ **Size of effect is small compared to other factors** (Dechezleprêtre and Sato, 2017)
 - ▶ Proximity to demand/transport costs
 - ▶ Quality of local workers/availability of raw materials
 - ▶ Sunk capital costs/agglomeration gains

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (empirics)

- ▶ No PHH effect (Jaffe and Palmer, 1997)
- ▶ Actually, there is (Hanna, 2010; Keller and Levinson, 2002; Kellenberg, 2009)
 - ▶ **Size of effect is small compared to other factors** (Dechezleprêtre and Sato, 2017)
 - ▶ Proximity to demand/transport costs
 - ▶ Quality of local workers/availability of raw materials
 - ▶ Sunk capital costs/agglomeration gains
 - ▶ **Dirtiest firms tend to be large, capital-intensive and rely on factors abundant where EnvPs are more stringent** (Ederington et al., 2005).
 - ▶ **Footlose industries are not necessarily the dirtiest ones** (Kellenberg, 2009).

Literature - EnvP Stringency and FDI (empirics)

- ▶ No PHH effect (Jaffe and Palmer, 1997)
- ▶ Actually, there is (Hanna, 2010; Keller and Levinson, 2002; Kellenberg, 2009)
 - ▶ **Size of effect is small compared to other factors** (Dechezleprêtre and Sato, 2017)
 - ▶ Proximity to demand/transport costs
 - ▶ Quality of local workers/availability of raw materials
 - ▶ Sunk capital costs/agglomeration gains
 - ▶ **Dirtiest firms tend to be large, capital-intensive and rely on factors abundant where EnvPs are more stringent** (Ederington et al., 2005).
 - ▶ **Footlose industries are not necessarily the dirtiest ones** (Kellenberg, 2009).

⇒ **PHH-consistent effects concentrated in polluting + footlose sectors.**

Literature - Policy Uncertainty and FDI

- ▶ US FDI inflows drop one quarter after an increase in Partisan conflict about US trade policy (Azzimonti, 2019).
- ▶ US FDI outflows drop during pre-election times (Julio and Yook, 2016).
- ▶ FDI outflows from source country drop two quarters after a shock in destination country's EPU (Hsieh et al., 2019).

Data

Data

(F)DI: quarter of deals at firm level (source: fDi Markets¹)

- ▶ **Sample period:** 2003Q1 - 2019Q1 (64 quarters).
- ▶ **Number of firms:** 23,374 firms (46% foreign).
- ▶ **Number of projects:** 34,833 projects (40% foreign).
- ▶ **Number of environmental technology (ET) projects:** 1,619 (43% foreign), meaning that 5% of all projects in the dataset are in the ET cluster.

Note: Firms are in the dataset if some greenfield project was recorded within the sample period with most firms only appearing once.

¹Proprietary database by the Financial Times, which tracks global greenfield investments sourced from publicly available sources in 25 languages by cluster, activity and sector.

Data cont'd

1. ET deals are more capital intensive and tend to create fewer jobs, regardless of the source country.

	Overall			Domestic			Foreign		
	Env Tech	Non Env Tech	Difference	Env Tech	Non Env Tech	Difference	Env Tech	Non Env Tech	Difference
Capital investment (mln USD)	99.782 169.095	33.693 199.370		98.365 181.047	32.137 172.065		101.837 150.170	36.538 241.402	
			66.089*** (16.667)			66.228*** (12.154)			65.299*** (11.449)
Jobs created (#)	64.338 111.415	79.859 217.563		62.286 124.316	77.645 230.346		67.314 89.455	83.906 191.954	
			-15.521*** (-5.645)			-15.359*** (-3.904)			-16.593*** (-4.664)
Observations	1938	41010	42948	1147	26507	27654	791	14503	15294

Data cont'd

- ET deals are more capital intensive and tend to create fewer jobs, regardless of the source country.

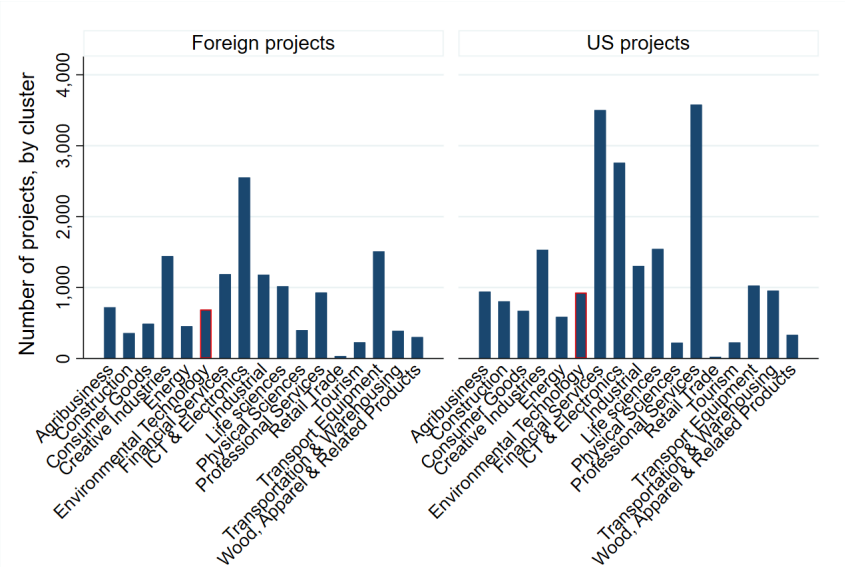
	Overall			Domestic			Foreign		
	Env Tech	Non Env Tech	Difference	Env Tech	Non Env Tech	Difference	Env Tech	Non Env Tech	Difference
Capital investment (mln USD)	99.782 169.095	33.693 199.370		98.365 181.047	32.137 172.065		101.837 150.170	36.538 241.402	
			66.089*** (16.667)			66.228*** (12.154)			65.299*** (11.449)
Jobs created (#)	64.338 111.415	79.859 217.563		62.286 124.316	77.645 230.346		67.314 89.455	83.906 191.954	
			-15.521*** (-5.645)			-15.359*** (-3.904)			-16.593*** (-4.664)
Observations	1938	41010	42948	1147	26507	27654	791	14503	15294

- The ET cluster is not much correlated with other clusters.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1 Agribusiness	1.00	0.35	0.40	0.38	0.04	0.13	0.54	0.40	0.32	0.40	0.17	0.54	0.06	-0.12	0.45	0.34	0.35
2 Construction	0.35	1.00	0.43	0.37	0.03	0.05	0.56	0.34	0.28	0.46	0.23	0.44	0.03	-0.09	0.45	0.23	0.20
3 Consumer Goods	0.40	0.43	1.00	0.31	-0.08	0.31	0.53	0.40	0.16	0.48	0.17	0.56	0.02	0.08	0.29	0.39	0.23
4 Creative Industries	0.38	0.37	0.31	1.00	0.02	0.26	0.65	0.38	0.24	0.44	0.19	0.73	0.03	-0.16	0.41	0.35	0.24
5 Energy	0.04	0.03	-0.08	0.02	1.00	0.53	0.26	0.32	0.12	0.06	-0.09	0.06	0.08	0.44	0.28	0.24	-0.03
6 Environmental Technology	0.13	0.05	0.31	0.26	0.53	1.00	0.46	0.48	0.05	0.15	-0.01	0.45	-0.33	0.39	0.10	0.29	-0.09
7 Financial Services	0.54	0.56	0.53	0.65	0.26	0.46	1.00	0.58	0.34	0.51	0.22	0.81	0.25	-0.01	0.53	0.47	0.35
8 ICT & Electronics	0.40	0.34	0.40	0.38	0.32	0.48	0.58	1.00	0.23	0.35	0.15	0.57	0.29	0.42	0.46	0.58	0.35
9 Industrial	0.32	0.28	0.16	0.24	0.12	0.05	0.34	0.23	1.00	0.53	-0.01	0.36	0.13	-0.02	0.35	0.23	0.18
10 Life sciences	0.40	0.46	0.48	0.44	0.06	0.15	0.51	0.35	0.53	1.00	0.21	0.63	0.16	0.05	0.45	0.48	0.27
11 Physical Sciences	0.17	0.23	0.17	0.19	-0.09	-0.01	0.22	0.15	-0.01	0.21	1.00	0.17	0.19	-0.06	0.22	0.23	0.14
12 Professional Services	0.54	0.44	0.56	0.73	0.06	0.45	0.81	0.57	0.36	0.63	0.17	1.00	0.15	0.03	0.44	0.64	0.36
13 Retail Trade	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.08	-0.33	0.25	0.29	0.13	0.16	0.19	0.15	1.00	0.05	0.07	0.50	0.60
14 Tourism	-0.12	-0.09	0.08	-0.16	0.44	0.39	-0.01	0.42	-0.02	0.05	-0.06	0.03	0.05	1.00	0.01	0.12	0.01
15 Transport Equipment	0.45	0.45	0.29	0.41	0.28	0.10	0.53	0.46	0.35	0.45	0.22	0.44	0.07	0.01	1.00	0.40	0.33
16 Transportation & Warehousing	0.34	0.23	0.39	0.35	0.24	0.29	0.47	0.58	0.23	0.48	0.23	0.64	0.50	0.12	0.40	1.00	0.44
17 Wood, Apparel & Related Products	0.35	0.20	0.23	0.24	-0.03	-0.09	0.35	0.35	0.18	0.27	0.14	0.36	0.60	0.01	0.33	0.44	1.00

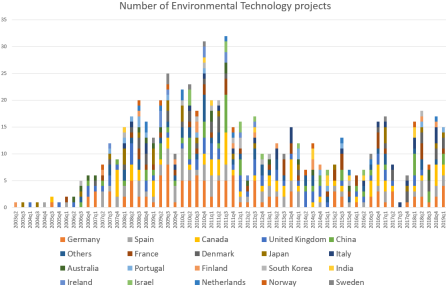
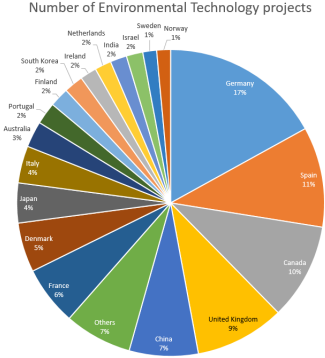
Data cont'd

3. The ET cluster represents small share of all projects in the US.



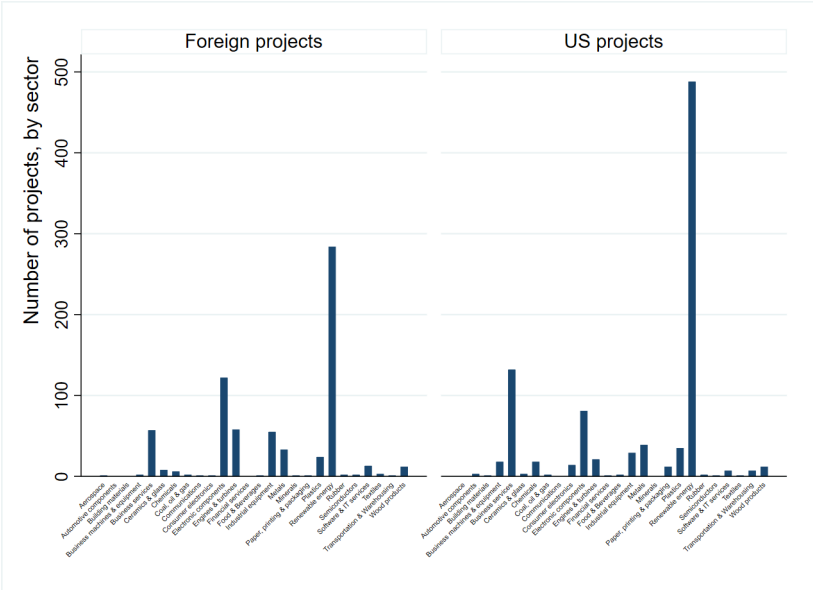
Data cont'd

4. ET deals are quite diversified across source countries with no visible market dominance over time.



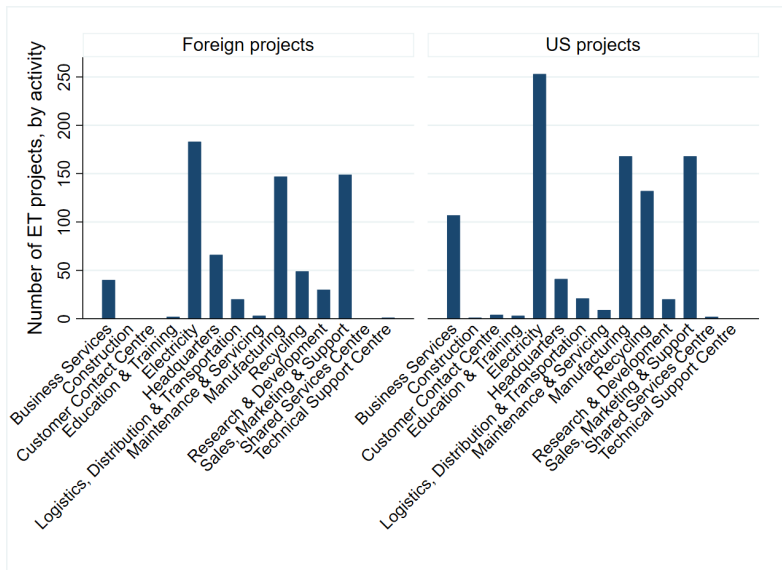
Data cont'd

5. The bulk of ET projects are located in the ren. energy sector.



Data cont'd

6. ET projects are more diverse into activity: 1) electricity, 2) sales, marketing & support, 3) manufacturing.



Data cont'd

EnvP(U): new-based indices
(source: Noailly et al., 2021).

Data cont'd

EnvP(U): new-based indices
(source: Noailly et al., 2021).

Firm controls (source: fDi
Markets):

- ▶ Agglomeration benefits
(lagged cumulative # projects
or capex)
- ▶ Heterogeneity (firm FE)

Data cont'd

EnvP(U): new-based indices
(source: Noailly et al., 2021).

Firm controls (source: fDi Markets):

- ▶ Agglomeration benefits (lagged cumulative # projects or capex)
- ▶ Heterogeneity (firm FE)

Env controls (source: fDi Markets, IEA, OECD):

- ▶ Market size (installed capacity in renewables)
- ▶ Energy prices (total real energy end-use price index)
- ▶ Green technology (# green patents)

Macro controls (sources: FRED, US census, IMF IFS):

- ▶ (F)DI Seasonality (dummies for quarters 1-3 or quarter FE)
- ▶ Trade openness
$$\left(\frac{\text{Imports} + \text{Exports from/to RoW}}{\text{Real GDP}} \right)$$
- ▶ Monetary policy (Fed funds rate)
- ▶ Inflation (annual CPI growth)
- ▶ State of economy (annual real GDP growth)
- ▶ Geographic and language proximity (source-country FE)
- ▶ Economic ties with the US (Δ bilateral trade volume)
- ▶ Relative wealth of source-country vis-a-vis US investors (Δ bilateral ER)
- ▶ Oil spot price

Empirical strategy

Empirical strategy

Objective:

- ▶ H1: estimate association between EnvP uncertainty and # of ET greenfield investment & capex of ET greenfield investments in the US (–).
- ▶ H2: check whether previous result differs by whether source country is US versus foreign (+/–).

Steps:

1. Firm-level regressions
 - ▶ Poisson regression for # deals (ext. margin)
 - ▶ OLS for capex (int. margin)
2. GMM

Empirical strategy cont'd

1. Poisson/OLS regression

$$y_{ijt} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 ET_i \times EnvPU_{t-1} + \beta_2 ET_i \times EnvP_{t-1} + X_t' \theta_1 + X_{t-1}' \theta_2 + \chi_t^a \theta_3 + \gamma_i + \gamma_j + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{ijt}$$

where

- ▶ y is either $\ln(\#deals)$ or $\ln(capex)$.
- ▶ i : firm; j : source country, t : quarter (unless otw noted)
- ▶ $ET = 1$ if a firm had an ET deal at some point in the sample.
- ▶ X_t and X_{t-1} are vectors of quarterly controls.
- ▶ χ_t^a is a vector of annual controls.
- ▶ γ 's represent fixed effects.
- ▶ ϵ_{ijt} is double clustered at the firm and quarter level.

Empirical strategy cont'd

Endogeneity concerns:

1. **Simultaneity:** feedback from ET investment to EnvPU via anticipation of policy-uncertainty induced ET investment fluctuations (lobbies).
 - ▶ (i) US EnvP uncertainty is to large extent driven by exogenous presidential elections and Partisan conflict.
 - ▶ (ii) The pool of source countries is quite well diversified (even if US firms might organize via lobbies to petition against EnvPs, thereby generating policy uncertainty, less likely the case for foreign firms) \implies Verify that effect remains when considering foreign-sourced projects only.

Empirical strategy cont'd

Endogeneity concerns cont'd:

2. **Omitted variable bias:** unobserved factors driving both ET investment flows and US EnvPU.
 - ▶ Other forms of policy uncertainty \implies Control for EPU.
 - ▶ Expectations over business cycle conditions \implies Control for consumer confidence and leading index.
3. **Measurement error:** EnvPU index and/or ET investments might be noisy.

Results

Results: # deals (ext margin)

1. Full sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals
EnvPU	0.0019 (0.0565)	-0.0079 (0.0531)	0.0509 (0.0354)		0.0554* (0.0336)	0.0397 (0.0369)
EnvP	0.3752*** (0.0683)	0.3749*** (0.0693)	-0.0268 (0.0570)		-0.0265 (0.0559)	-0.0094 (0.0580)
ET=1	0.0645 (0.0585)					
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.0961** (0.0436)	-0.0957** (0.0439)	-0.1321* (0.0696)	-0.1410* (0.0745)	-0.1334* (0.0699)	-0.1329* (0.0700)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.2268*** (0.0433)	0.2266*** (0.0433)	0.3491*** (0.1287)	0.3545*** (0.1285)	0.3490*** (0.1285)	0.3509*** (0.1292)
EPU US					0.0588* (0.0357)	
Sentiment US						-0.0169 (0.0768)
Leading Index US						0.0706 (0.0582)
Constant	-4.1114*** (0.0636)	-3.8398*** (0.1241)	-5.7119*** (0.6681)	-2.3364*** (0.5895)	-5.9613*** (0.6744)	-5.1409*** (0.7999)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Seasonal adjustment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1,500,096	1,496,576	308,089	308,089	308,089	308,089
Firms	23,000	23,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000

Results: # deals (ext margin)

1. Full sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals
EnvPU	0.0019 (0.0565)	-0.0079 (0.0531)	0.0509 (0.0354)		0.0554* (0.0336)	0.0397 (0.0369)
EnvP	0.3752*** (0.0683)	0.3749*** (0.0693)	-0.0268 (0.0570)		-0.0265 (0.0559)	-0.0094 (0.0580)
ET=1	0.0645 (0.0585)					
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.0961** (0.0436)	-0.0957** (0.0439)	-0.1321* (0.0696)	-0.1410* (0.0745)	-0.1334* (0.0699)	-0.1329* (0.0700)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.2268*** (0.0433)	0.2266*** (0.0433)	0.3491*** (0.1287)	0.3545*** (0.1285)	0.3490*** (0.1285)	0.3509*** (0.1292)
EPU US					0.0588* (0.0357)	
Sentiment US						-0.0169 (0.0768)
Leading Index US						0.0706 (0.0582)
Constant	-4.1114*** (0.0636)	-3.8398*** (0.1241)	-5.7119*** (0.6681)	-2.3364*** (0.5895)	-5.9613*** (0.6744)	-5.1409*** (0.7999)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Seasonal adjustment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1,500,096	1,496,576	308,089	308,089	308,089	308,089
Firms	23,000	23,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000

Results: # deals (ext margin)

2. Foreign-only sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals
EnvPU	0.0346 (0.0395)	0.0500 (0.0462)	0.0509 (0.0354)		0.0554* (0.0336)	0.0397 (0.0369)
EnvP	0.1913*** (0.0415)	0.2296*** (0.0530)	-0.0268 (0.0570)		-0.0265 (0.0559)	-0.0094 (0.0580)
ET=1	0.1526** (0.0733)					
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.1116* (0.0597)	-0.0775 (0.0587)	-0.1321* (0.0696)	-0.1410* (0.0745)	-0.1334* (0.0699)	-0.1329* (0.0700)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.3399*** (0.0628)	0.3302*** (0.0553)	0.3491*** (0.1287)	0.3545*** (0.1285)	0.3490*** (0.1285)	0.3509*** (0.1292)
EPU US					0.0588* (0.0357)	
Sentiment US						-0.0169 (0.0768)
Leading Index US						0.0706 (0.0582)
Constant	-4.2703*** (0.0405)	-3.9834*** (0.1224)	-5.7119*** (0.6681)	-2.3364*** (0.5895)	-5.9613*** (0.6744)	-5.1409*** (0.7999)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	No	No	No
Seasonal adjustment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	689,233	685,380	308,089	308,089	308,089	308,089
Firms	11,000	11,000	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,200

Results: # deals (ext margin)

2. Foreign-only sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log deals	Log # deals	Log # deals	Log # deals
EnvPU	0.0346 (0.0395)	0.0500 (0.0462)	0.0509 (0.0354)		0.0554* (0.0336)	0.0397 (0.0369)
EnvP	0.1913*** (0.0415)	0.2296*** (0.0530)	-0.0268 (0.0570)		-0.0265 (0.0559)	-0.0094 (0.0580)
ET=1	0.1526** (0.0733)					
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.1116* (0.0597)	-0.0775 (0.0587)	-0.1321* (0.0696)	-0.1410* (0.0745)	-0.1334* (0.0699)	-0.1329* (0.0700)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.3399*** (0.0628)	0.3302*** (0.0553)	0.3491*** (0.1287)	0.3545*** (0.1285)	0.3490*** (0.1285)	0.3509*** (0.1292)
EPU US					0.0588* (0.0357)	
Sentiment US						-0.0169 (0.0768)
Leading Index US						0.0706 (0.0582)
Constant	-4.2703*** (0.0405)	-3.9834*** (0.1224)	-5.7119*** (0.6681)	-2.3364*** (0.5895)	-5.9613*** (0.6744)	-5.1409*** (0.7999)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	No	No	No
Seasonal adjustment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	689,233	685,380	308,089	308,089	308,089	308,089
Firms	11,000	11,000	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,200

Results: capex (int margin)

1. Full sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex
EnvPU	0.0009 (0.0028)	0.0007 (0.0027)	0.0027 (0.0018)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0017 (0.0017)	0.0029 (0.0018)
EnvP	0.0185*** (0.0025)	0.0187*** (0.0025)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	-0.0035 (0.0023)
ET=1	0.0389*** (0.0058)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.0064 (0.0044)	-0.0061 (0.0044)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.0283*** (0.0042)	0.0291*** (0.0045)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0293*** (0.0070)
EPU					0.0011 (0.0018)	
Sentiment US						0.0025 (0.0033)
Leading Index US						-0.0021 (0.0024)
Constant	0.0578*** (0.0029)	0.0562*** (0.0060)	-0.0442 (0.0303)	0.1006*** (0.0260)	-0.0482 (0.0308)	-0.0616* (0.0359)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm controls	No	No	No	No	No	No
Observations	1,500,096	1,500,096	320,557	320,557	320,557	320557
Firms	23,000	23,000	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
R ²	0.003	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

Results: capex (int margin)

1. Full sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex
EnvPU	0.0009 (0.0028)	0.0007 (0.0027)	0.0027 (0.0018)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0029 (0.0017)	0.0029 (0.0018)
EnvP	0.0185*** (0.0025)	0.0187*** (0.0025)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	-0.0035 (0.0023)
ET=1	0.0389*** (0.0058)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.0064 (0.0044)	-0.0061 (0.0044)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.0283*** (0.0042)	0.0291*** (0.0045)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0293*** (0.0070)
EPU					0.0011 (0.0018)	
Sentiment US						0.0025 (0.0033)
Leading Index US						-0.0021 (0.0024)
Constant	0.0578*** (0.0029)	0.0562*** (0.0060)	-0.0442 (0.0303)	0.1006*** (0.0260)	-0.0482 (0.0308)	-0.0616* (0.0359)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm controls	No	No	No	No	No	No
Observations	1,500,096	1,500,096	320,557	320,557	320,557	320557
Firms	23,000	23,000	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
R ²	0.003	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

Results: capex (int margin)

1. Foreign-only sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex
EnvPU	0.0023 (0.0019)	0.0023 (0.0019)	0.0027 (0.0018)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0027 (0.0017)	0.0029 (0.0018)
EnvP	0.0075*** (0.0017)	0.0083*** (0.0019)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	-0.0035 (0.0023)
ET=1	0.0383*** (0.0068)		0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.0063 (0.0054)	-0.0050 (0.0053)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.0289*** (0.0050)	0.0322*** (0.0051)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0293*** (0.0070)
EPU US					0.0011 (0.0018)	
Sentiment US						0.0025 (0.0033)
Leading Index US						-0.0021 (0.0024)
Constant	0.0488*** (0.0018)	0.0505*** (0.0041)	-0.0442 (0.0303)	0.1006*** (0.0260)	-0.0482 (0.0308)	-0.0616* (0.0359)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm controls	No	No	No	No	No	No
Observations	689,233	689,231	320,557	320,557	320,557	320,557
Firms	11,000	11,000	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
R ²	0.001	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

Results: capex (int margin)

1. Foreign-only sample

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex	Log capex
EnvPU	0.0023 (0.0019)	0.0023 (0.0019)	0.0027 (0.0018)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0027 (0.0017)	0.0029 (0.0018)
EnvP	0.0075*** (0.0017)	0.0083*** (0.0019)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0032 (0.0021)	-0.0035 (0.0023)
ET=1	0.0383*** (0.0068)		0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)
ET=1 × EnvPU	-0.0063 (0.0054)	-0.0050 (0.0053)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)	-0.0019 (0.0068)
ET=1 × EnvP	0.0289*** (0.0050)	0.0322*** (0.0051)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0292*** (0.0070)	0.0293*** (0.0070)
EPU US					0.0011 (0.0018)	
Sentiment US						0.0025 (0.0033)
Leading Index US						-0.0021 (0.0024)
Constant	0.0488*** (0.0018)	0.0505*** (0.0041)	-0.0442 (0.0303)	0.1006*** (0.0260)	-0.0482 (0.0308)	-0.0616* (0.0359)
Source-country FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarter FE	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Macro/Env controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm controls	No	No	No	No	No	No
Observations	689,233	689,231	320,557	320,557	320,557	320,557
Firms	11,000	11,000	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
R ²	0.001	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

Conclusions

Conclusions

- ▶ Results for EnvP - investments relatively robust for both intensive and extensive margin.
- ▶ Results for EnvPU - investments robust for extensive but not intensive margin.
- ▶ Possible interpretation: firms withhold new ET deals altogether when faced with EnvPU rather than engaging in less capital-intensive ones.
- ▶ Future work: address endogeneity via GMM.

Thanks for your attention.

Laura Minu Nowzohour

Website — Twitter — LinkedIn

Email: laura.nowzohour@graduateinstitute.ch

**GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE**

INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



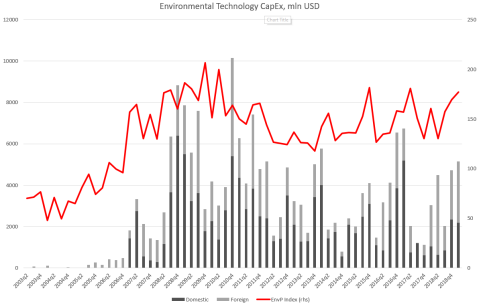
References

- Azzimonti, M. (2019). Does partisan conflict deter FDI inflows to the US? *Journal of International Economics*, 120:162–178.
- Cole, M. A., Elliott, R. J. R., and Zhang, L. (2017). Foreign Direct Investment and the Environment. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 42:465–87.
- Dechezleprêtre, A. and Sato, M. (2017). The Impacts of Environmental Regulations on Competitiveness. *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, 11(2):183–206.
- Dijkstra, B. R., Mathew, A. J., and Mukherjee, A. (2011). Environmental regulation: An incentive for foreign direct investment. *Review of International Economics*, 19(3):568–578.
- Ederington, J., Levinson, A., and Minier, J. (2005). Footloose and pollution-free. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 87(1):92–99.
- Hanna, R. (2010). US Environmental Regulation and FDI : Evidence from a Panel of US-Based Multinational. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2(3):158–189.
- Hsieh, H. C., Boarelli, S., and Vu, T. H. C. (2019). The effects of economic policy uncertainty on outward foreign direct investment. *International Review of Economics and Finance*, 64(August):377–392.
- Jaffe, A. B. and Palmer, K. (1997). Environmental Regulation and Innovation: A Panel Study. *Review of Economic Studies*, 79(4):610–619.
- Julio, B. and Yook, Y. (2016). Policy uncertainty, irreversibility, and cross-border flows of capital. *Journal of International Economics*, 103:13–26.
- Kellenberg, D. K. (2009). An empirical investigation of the pollution haven effect with strategic environment and trade policy. *Journal of International Economics*, 78(2):242–255.
- Keller, W. and Levinson, A. (2002). Pollution Abatement Costs and Foreign Direct Investment Inflows to U.S. States. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 84(4):691–703.
- Levinson, A. and Taylor, M. S. (2008). Unmasking the pollution haven effect. *International Economic Review*, 49(1):223–254.
- Porter, M. E. and van der Linde, C. (1995). Toward a New Conception of the Environment-Competitiveness Relationship. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 9(4):97–118.

Motivation

- ▶ Correlation between capex of greenfield investment deals in 'environmental technology' (ET) in mIn USD and environmental policy (EnvP) in the US.
 - ▶ Domestic: 0.63
 - ▶ Foreign: 0.61

▶ Back



Cluster definitions

Cluster ('who is the company providing it for?')	Definition
Construction	Real estate and building, construction materials, construction machinery & equipment, building products and parts (e.g. windows, doors, insulation etc)
Consumer Goods	Consumer electronics, Accessories, cutlery, DIY, jewellery, toys etc (not retail projects)
Creative Industries	Digital media, media, multi-media, video games, education, training, publishing, news, printing, music, design services, film, broadcasting, TV, architecture, advertising, market research, PR, theatre, cinema
Energy	Coal, Oil & Gas sector (no retail)
Environmental Technology	Includes alternative/renewable energy sector, recycling, environmental control systems, services for environment etc (no retail)
Financial Services	Accountants, legal advisors, financial analysts, banks, trading
Food, Beverages & Tobacco	Includes all food, beverage and tobacco related projects other than retail projects
ICT & Electronics	Electronics, software & IT services, communications (including broadcasting), business machines & office equipment. Communications related space & defence sector (no retail)
Life sciences	Healthcare, Medical Devices
Industrial	Projects supplying products/services to more than one manufacturing cluster (e.g. transport equip and ICT and food)
Physical Sciences	Chemicals, plastics & rubber, metals, minerals (for each of these, processed industrial products - should not be included and should go into the correct end-user cluster the project is serving)
Professional Services	Legal, accountancy, real estate advisors, consultancy, HR, market research etc
Retail Trade	All consumer products retail, all retail from other sectors, all restaurants
Tourism	Hotels, tourism, leisure & entertainment (no retail)
Transport Equipment	Auto components, Automotive OEM, Misc. transport equipment, space & defence projects, except communications related (no retail)
Transportation, Warehousing & Storage	Includes production of bulk container, bulk storage, transportation pipe production e.g. for gas, water etc
Wood, Apparel & Related Products	Paper, packaging, (not packaging machines, metals or plastics), textiles, wood, (No retail)

Source: fDi Markets.

[▶ Back](#)