

RICHARD BOAMPONG

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EMPLOYMENT Postdoctoral Scholar, The L. Charles Hilton Center for the Study of Economic Prosperity and Individual Opportunity , Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, August 2016 - present

EDUCATION Ph.D., Economics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, August 2016
M.A., Economics, University of Florida, Gainesville FL, December 2013
M.A., Business Economics, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, December 2010
B.A., Mathematics and Economics, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, May 2006

RESEARCH INTEREST *Primary:* Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics, Energy Economics
Secondary: Regulation, Environmental Economics

WORKING PAPERS **Evaluating the Energy Savings Effects of a Utility Demand-Side Management Program Using a Difference-in-Difference Coarsened Exact Matching Approach**

Abstract: This paper estimates the energy savings effect of a Demand-Side Management program, specifically Gainesville Regional Utility's (GRU) high-efficiency central Air Conditioner(AC) rebate program in which GRU offers incentives to its customers to replace their old, low-efficiency AC unit with a high-efficiency model. We used a difference-in-difference coarsened exact matching approach to reduce the imbalance of pre-treatment characteristics between treated and control households and also to control for the effects of weather on electricity consumption. We found substantial annual energy savings of the high-efficiency AC rebate program. We disaggregated the effects into summer peak effects, winter peak effects, and non-peak effects. The results indicate that the summer peak effects were substantial and statistically significant while there were no statistically significant effects of the program on winter peak demand. Also, by following program participants over a three-year period, we find that there is no statistically significant rebound effect of the high-efficiency AC rebate program.

The Effects of Renewable Portfolio Standards on State-Level Employment: An Ex-Post Analysis" (with Colin Knapp and Michelle Phillips)

Abstract: Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPSs), programs which propose target levels of energy production or consumption that must come from renewable sources, have become a popular policy in state capitals across the United States. As of 2010, 29 states and the District of Columbia had adopted programs which fall under the RPS umbrella. RPS are often times seen as a tool to foster economic development through

job growth. This paper analyzes the effects of RPSs on state level employment in the whole economy. While various studies have estimated the employment effects of RPS policies, the analyses in these papers are done ex-ante and rely on forecasting models with different choices of assumptions to predict the expected number of jobs. We use an ex-post approach which compares the actual employment of RPS states to Non-RPS states. We first test for factors that affect state adoption of RPS policies and find that a states RPS adoption is not random and depends on characteristics such as the educational attainment of its residents, state gross product and state political party dominance. We then examine the employment effects and find that RPS adoption does not lead to a statistically significant effect on overall employment.

The Effect of Automatic Bill Payment Programs on Price Sensitivity

Abstract: This project analyzes whether automatic bill payment (or autopay) renders consumers electricity demand less price sensitive. We propose a conceptual model in which consumers make behavioral rules to their electricity consumption only after observing their bill from the previous month. The model suggests that a consumer's current demand for electricity responds to the average price he paid for electricity in the preceding month. An implication of the model is that automatic bill payment which reduces the likelihood that a consumer will examine the charges on their bill makes him less price salient. We demonstrate, empirically, that consumers respond to their one-month lagged average price, consistent with the conceptual model. We also show that automatic bill payment users are less price elastic than non-autopay users. We show further that enrolling in automatic bill payments makes a consumer's electricity demand elasticity 5% less than it was before he enrolled in autopay.

Renewable Energy Incentives in Kenya: Feed-in-tariffs and Rural Expansion” (with Michelle Phillips)

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

“Household Energy Efficiency Measures: Substitutes or Complements”
“Price Salience and Inattention in Household Demand for Utility Services”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Industrial Organization Conference (Rising Stars Session), Philadelphia, PA, April 2016
Southern Economics Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2015
Southern Economics Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2014
International Association for Energy Economics European Conference, Rome, Italy, October 2014
Southern Economics Association Conference, Tampa, FL, November 2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Public Utility Research Center, University of Florida, Fall 2015
Research Project: “*The Effects of Renewable Portfolio Standards on State-Level Employment*”

Research Assistant, Public Utility Research Center, University of Florida, 2013-2014
Research Project: *“Barrier and Policies to facilitate renewable energy deployment in developing countries”*

Research Assistant, Professor David Sappington, Summer 2012

Research Assistant, Public Utility Research Center, University of Florida, Summer 2012, Fall 2012

Research Project: *“Evaluation of Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act”*

Research Assistant, Professor Sanford Berg, Fall 2011

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

Instructor, Environmental Economics, University of Florida, Summer 2016

Instructor, Econometrics, University of Florida, Spring 2015

Teaching Assistant, Managerial Economics, University of Florida, Summer 2013

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics, University of Florida, Fall 2012

Teaching Assistant, International Macroeconomics, University of Florida, Spring 2012

Instructor, Calculus I, Vectors and Geometry, Algebra, University of Ghana, 2007-2009

Teaching Assistant, Linear Algebra, Real Analysis, Advanced Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, University of Ghana, 2006-2009

**AWARDS AND
HONORS**

TPUG Dissertation Award for Best Dissertation in Transportation and Public Utilities, 2017

CLAS Graduate Student Travel Award, University of Florida, 2015

R. F. Lanzillotti Fellowship in Public Policy Research, University of Florida, 2014

Institute of Humane Studies Conference and Research Grant, 2014

Office of Research Travel Grant, University of Florida, 2014

Office of Graduate Minority Programs' Professional Travel Scholarship, University of Florida, 2014

Madelyn M. Lockhart Award, University of Florida, 2014

Graduate Student Success Fellowship, University of South Florida, 2010

Howard S. Dye Endowed Scholarship in Economics, Fall 2010

**COMPUTER
SKILLS**

STATA, SAS, MATLAB, PYTHON

**PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS**

American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, United States Association of Energy Economists, International Association for Energy Economics, Industrial Organization Society

REFERENCES

Jon Hamilton (chair)
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