




2016

Welcome by the Editor

Nathan W. Chan
Colby College, nwchan@colby.edu

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Recommended Citation

Chan, Nathan W. (2016) "Welcome by the Editor," *Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics at Colby*. Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/jerec/vol3/iss1/1>

This Introduction is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics at Colby by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby.

Welcome to this issue of the Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics at Colby (JEREC), an open-access, peer-reviewed journal. This journal publishes articles that are authored and refereed by undergraduate students. This issue of JEREC showcases research projects conducted by students in the inaugural edition (Fall 2015) of the *Third Wave of Environmental Management* senior seminar class at Colby College.

The articles in this issue are the culmination of a lengthy research process. Students conducted literature reviews, crafted original research questions, devised empirical strategies to shed light on these questions, collected and analyzed data, and presented their results in oral and written form.

These projects cover a diversity of topics ranging from the effectiveness of green competitions on college campuses to the impact of public transport on property values to the propensities of voters to support labeling for genetically modified foods. They contribute to a growing and increasingly important literature on voluntary and information-based approaches (VIBAs) to environmental management. I am delighted that Professor Mathew Kotchen from Yale University, one of the world's foremost scholars on VIBAs, has contributed the introduction for this issue.

JEREC was originally created as a pedagogical tool intended to expose students to the scholarly research and publication process. Given overwhelmingly positive student and institutional feedback, it is clear that JEREC has succeeded terrifically in fulfilling this purpose. Perhaps more surprisingly, what began as a classroom experiment has blossomed into an important outlet for the dissemination of student scholarship. To date, readers from nearly 90 countries around the world have viewed articles from JEREC, and the audience for this journal continues to grow.

I would like to make a few acknowledgments. First and foremost, I thank Sahan Dissanayake, Editor-in-Chief of JEREC. He undertook a herculean task in founding this journal two years ago. His efforts have made it possible for three generations of Colby seniors to gain invaluable experience with the scholarly research and publication process. Moreover, his guidance and advice have been instrumental as I take the helm of my first issue in this series. David Stienstra and Benedek Nyikos at BE Press, Martin Kelly, and Colby Libraries have also provided critical ongoing support to JEREC through the years. I would also like to thank Professor Kotchen, whose introduction frames the contributions in this issue; it is a real treat to have a leading expert in this field offer his thoughts and support for our students' scholarship.

Last and certainly not least, I would like to thank the students in the Fall 2015 edition of *Third Wave of Environmental Management*. They worked extremely hard throughout the semester to produce high quality research, and this issue is the culmination of their efforts.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts or questions about the content in this issue, and thank you very much for reading JEREC.

Nathan W. Chan
Editor – JEREC
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Colby College
Email: nwchan@colby.edu