

## Faculty Profile: Kevin Novan



Kevin Novan -  
Assistant Professor -  
Department of Agricultural  
and Resource Economics -  
UC Davis -

Kevin Novan has recently joined the faculty at the University of California, Davis as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. His fields of interest are environmental and natural resource economics, energy economics, applied microeconomics, and industrial organization. Kevin's current research focuses primarily on exploring how policies can mitigate the environmental impacts stemming from generating electricity.

Kevin is a native of Southern California but grew up in Spokane, Washington. As an undergraduate, he attended Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington where he received his bachelor's degree in Economics and Mathematics. While at Western Washington University, he served as a Teaching Fellow in the

Mathematics Department and was chosen as the Outstanding Graduate from the Economics Department.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Kevin began pursuing his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of California, San Diego. While in San Diego, his research and coursework focused on environmental economics and applied microeconomics.

In addition to his participation with the Center for Environmental Economics at UC San Diego, Kevin was selected to study as a Pre-Doctoral Fellow with the Center for Environmental Economics and Sustainability Policy at Arizona State University in Spring 2011.

Kevin received his Ph.D. in March 2012. His dissertation examined the environmental benefits provided by intermittent renewable electricity generation. At the state and federal levels, a variety of policies are driving rapid growth in renewable electricity generation. While these policies are motivated by the belief that renewable electricity will reduce pollution, the actual effect on emissions is unknown.

Combining data on electricity generation and emissions, Kevin's research identified the emissions reductions caused by output from wind turbines in the Texas electricity market. His findings revealed that significant reductions in pollution are provided by the renewable output.

Furthermore, his research shed light on key inefficiencies inherent in current renewable energy policies. In addition to his work exploring the environmental benefits of renewable electricity, Kevin's previous research also examined the impact of electricity storage technologies on pollution as well as the effect of gasoline taxes on government revenue and price volatility.

Extending the work from his dissertation, Kevin is currently analyzing the impact of renewable electricity on ambient air quality and the resulting health effects. Additionally, his new projects are studying the positive and negative interactions between policies intended to reduce pollution from the electricity sector as well as the potential energy savings that can be realized by subsidizing energy efficiency.

In addition to his research and teaching interests, Kevin is a life-long tennis player and golfer. During his time in San Diego, he also took up both surfing and bicycle touring; most recently spending a month biking down the Pacific Coast from Seattle, WA to Southern California.

After finishing his Ph.D., Kevin and his wife Samantha spent their summer as newlyweds on a cross country road trip, visiting as many national parks and micro-breweries as they could find. During their spare time, Kevin and Samantha enjoy working on fine-tuning their culinary skills and spending long weekends with their families in Hayden Lake, Idaho and Northwest Arkansas.

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