



COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES



POLICY CENTER INITIATIVE

Earth Resources Institute (ERI)
Division of Economics & Business
March 12, 2015



Policy Initiative – Motivation

- ▶ Colorado School of Mines’ mission in Earth resources, energy and the environment.
 - Mission is especially pertinent in this era when emerging economies are accelerating the demand for energy and material products.
 - Quest by growing and more prosperous populations for improved quality of life drives resource industries to expand and exploit new technologies.
 - In many cases, current policy is either imperfect, inadequate, unbalanced, uninformed, out-of-date, or simply non-existent.
- ▶ Policy issues and Mines’ expertise
 - Critical skills/expertise at Mines is well-aligned with these national and international issues around earth resources, energy, and environment.
 - Climate issues, energy policy, trade, water/environmental, hydraulic fracturing, alternative energy sources, clean power, shale gas, etc.
- ▶ Market timing is ideal for a comprehensive Policy Initiative.

Policy Expertise and Efforts

- ▶ Core competencies are currently robust and well-suited for a Policy Initiative at CSM.

Harrison Fell examines the joint impact of natural gas prices and wind technologies on coal-fired electricity generation.



Ian Lange shows that subsidies meant to help households stay warm in the winter has distortionary effects on the market for renewable technologies.

- ▶ *Peter Maniloff* quantifies the local economic impacts of the development of unconventional shale oil and gas reserves through the controversial extraction procedure (fracking).



Ed Balistreri considers alternative trade structures and their impact on carbon leakage and resulting policy burdens.

The Policy Initiative



EARTH RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Policy Analysis for Earth, Energy, & Environment

▶ Mission

- To inform and shape sound public policy on earth resources, energy, and the environment. Specifically, ERI:
 - Conducts cutting edge social science research for policy analysis
 - Educates current and future leaders on the market, policy, and technological challenges presented by resource management issues.
 - Promotes a policymaking process informed by sound economic and scientific principles.
- ▶ Establish CSM as forum for national and global policy debate.



Earth Resources Institute Activities

- ▶ A portfolio of activities designed to reinforce our guiding principles for a successful Policy Institute.
 - Distinguished Lecture Series
 - Topic-based annual conference
 - Visiting Scholar Program
 - Mini-Grant Endowment to Support Inter-disciplinary Research
 - Formal collaboration with external policy research centers
 - Chair in Earth Resource, Energy & Environmental Policy and Director of Earth Policy Institute



ERI – Looking Ahead

- ▶ High level of enthusiasm within and outside the university.
- ▶ Activities directed towards long-term objectives of ERI and CSM.
- ▶ Develop CSM as the “go-to” institution for policy analysis associated with earth, energy, & environment.
- ▶ <http://eri.mines.edu>
- ▶ QUESTIONS?

