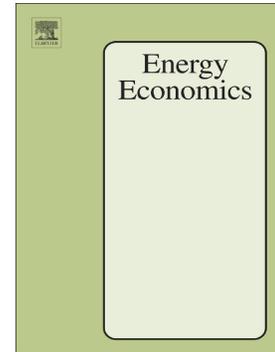


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Sebastian Rausch, Da Zhang



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# Capturing Natural Resource Heterogeneity in Top-Down Energy-Economic Equilibrium Models

Sebastian Rausch<sup>a</sup>, Da Zhang<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Center for Economic Research at ETH (CER-ETH), Department of Management, Technology and Economics, ETH Zurich, Switzerland*

<sup>b</sup>*Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, U.S.*

<sup>c</sup>*Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China*

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## Abstract

Top-down energy-economic modeling approaches often use simplified techniques to represent heterogeneous resource inputs to production. We show that for some policies, such as feed-in tariffs for renewable electricity, detailed representation of renewable resource grades is required to describe the technology more precisely and identify cost-effective policy designs. We demonstrate the hybrid approach for modeling heterogeneity in the quality of natural resource inputs required for renewable energy production in a stylized computable general equilibrium framework. Importantly, compared to the traditional approach, the hybrid approach resolves near-flat or near-vertical sections of the supply curve and improves the precision of policy simulation. We then represent the shape of a resource supply curve based on more detailed data. We show that for the case of onshore wind development in China, a differentiated feed-in tariff design that can only be modeled with the hybrid approach requires less than half of the subsidy budget needed for a uniform feed-in tariff design to achieve the same installation targets.

*Keywords:* heterogeneous resource, cost curve, hybrid modeling, step curve fitting, computable general equilibrium model, China

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\*Corresponding author: Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, U.S. Email: zhangda@mit.edu.

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