



Gesellschaft für experimentelle Wirtschaftsforschung e.V.
German Association for Experimental Economic Research e.V.

Institutional Review Board Certificate

No. IQI3NiYm

<https://gfew.de/ethik/IQI3NiYm>

Date: 07/11/2026

Certificate Expires: 07/10/2028

Status: Approved

Review Level: Expedite

Details of Experiment:

Titel

Renewable Energy and Territory: Perceptions of Wind and Solar Deployment in Spain

Authors

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Short description of the experimental study

This study investigates whether information about the territorial distribution of renewable energy infrastructure shapes public support for the energy transition in Spain. We conduct an incentivised online information-provision experiment with approximately 2,000 Spanish adults recruited through Netquest. The sample is designed to be representative of the adult population after applying sampling weights, with quotas by gender, age, and region, and an oversample of respondents living in municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants to ensure sufficient power for rural-urban comparisons. Respondents are randomly assigned in equal proportions to a control group or one of two treatment groups. Treatment A provides information showing that wind and solar facilities are disproportionately located in rural and sparsely populated municipalities, while the benefits of renewable energy, such as electricity and lower emissions, are shared more broadly. Treatment B provides the same information and additionally explains that host municipalities may receive local resources through tax revenues, compensation, or benefit-sharing mechanisms. The primary outcome is willingness to accept a new wind or solar facility in the respondent's municipality or nearby area. Secondary outcomes include posterior beliefs about the territorial distribution of renewable infrastructure, perceived fairness, support for renewable deployment, support for compensation and procedural safeguards, and voting intentions under hypothetical policy platforms. The design allows us to separately estimate the effect of territorial-inequality information, the additional effect of compensation information, and heterogeneous responses by rural residence, prior exposure to renewable projects, ideology, institutional trust, and prior beliefs. The experiment contributes to understanding whether local opposition to renewable deployment is driven by informational gaps, distributive concerns, or doubts about whether host communities receive adequate returns.

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The German Association for Experimental Economic Research (Gesellschaft für experimentelle Wirtschaftsforschung - GfeW) provides this certificate of approval in an expedited review process according to the rules and procedures approved by the members of the association on September 25, 2024. The criteria for approving an ethics certificate can be retrieved here: <https://gfew.de/criteria>

The approval is based on the agreement of the proposers to abide by the legal requirements of the European Union and by the policies and procedures of the GfeW. Furthermore, the approval is only valid, if (i) the proposers have provided all necessary information completely and truthfully, (ii) no part of the planned experimental project has been conducted before the approval was granted, and (iii) the experimental project is conducted as described.

This approval does not supercede or replace decisions by other statutory bodies. Furthermore, it is not a substitute for certifications or approvals that are required by law, by the statutes of the involved research institutes, or by the codes of conduct that are applicable to the participating researchers, including those from other fields of research.

The expiration date of the approval is noted above. To continue the proposed experimental study beyond that date, a new approval must be requested, even if the experimental protocol remains unchanged.

Please also note that prior to implementing any changes or amendments in the protocol of the proposed experimental study, a new approval must be requested, even if the new experimental study including the changes or amendments to the protocol is expected to be governed by the GfeW's rules for the expedited review process.

A copy of this letter should be kept in the records together with all documents associated with this experimental study.

Prof. Dr. Johann Graf Lambsdorff
President of the GfeW

Prof. Dr. Björn Frank
Vice-President of the GfeW