

The Effect of Future Financial Benefits on PV Adoption - Evidence from Belgium

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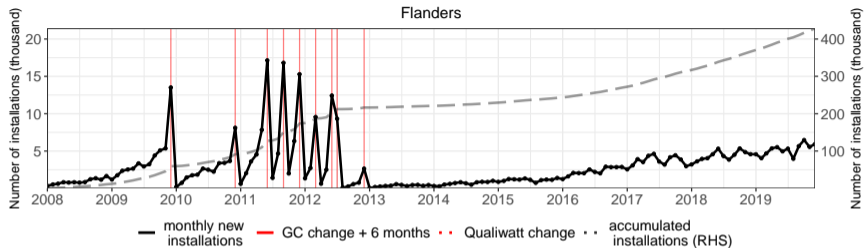
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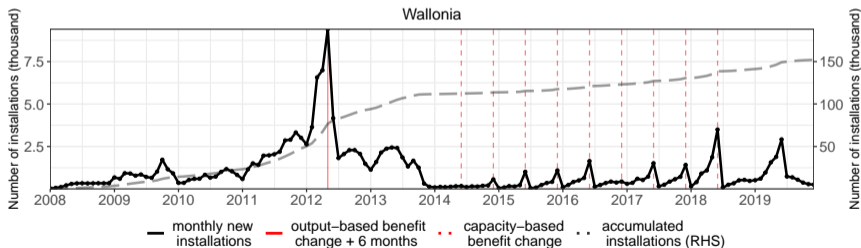
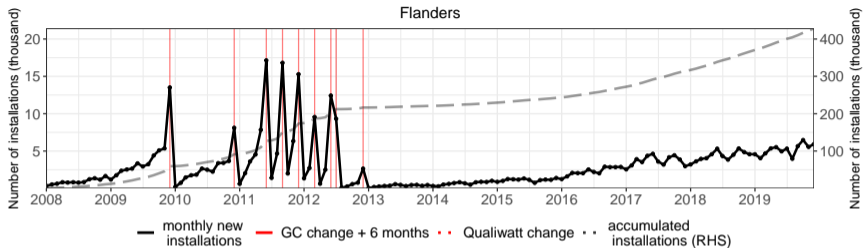
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- Policy makers choose the **design of these incentive schemes** → schemes **can be quite different** in their setup.
- In this paper, we take a closer look at **different incentive schemes** with future financial benefits in the context of **PV adoption in the residential sector** in Belgium.

Monthly PV installations across the Belgian regions

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Literature and Research Question

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- How **effective** are **different incentive schemes** with future financial benefits?

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- (3) **Net-metering/cost-saving:** Grid off-take (excess consumption) and injection (excess production) are netted on an annual basis, varies by regional electricity price (active for the whole sample period).

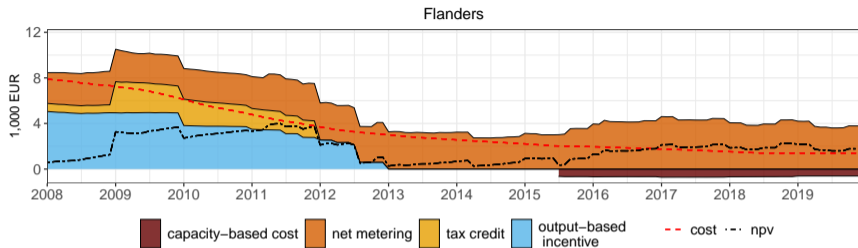
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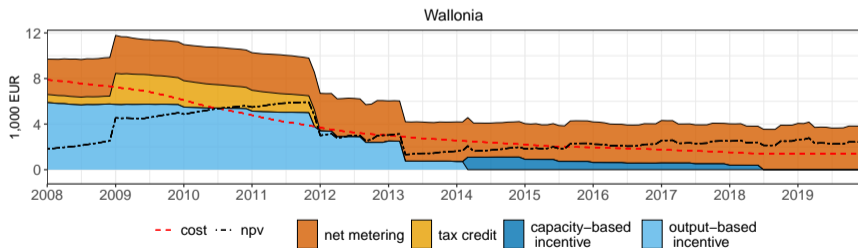
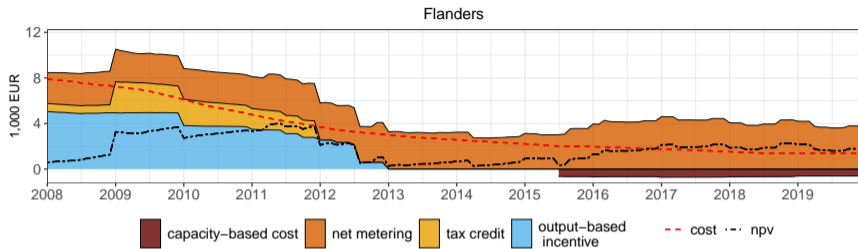
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- We **calculate the present value** for the separate incentive schemes in each month of investment and **assess their effectiveness** in a statistical model.

Present value of available incentive schemes per kW

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$$PV_{it} = \exp\left[\sum_{j \in J} \beta^j \times b_{it}^j + \gamma \times \mathbf{X}_{it} + \mu_i + \psi_t\right] \cdot u_{it} \quad j \in \{yel, nm, cap, capcost\} \quad (1)$$

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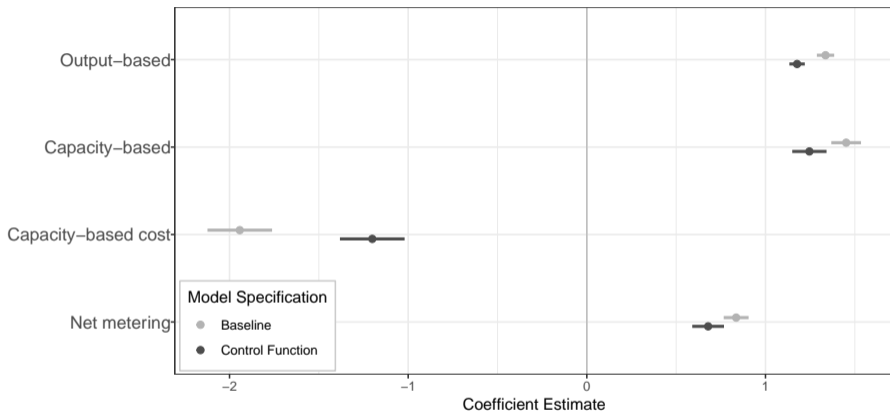
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- **Identification** of benefit coefficients:
 - ▶ **monthly changes in prices and payback period**
 - ▶ Net metering possibly endogenous due to network tariff adjustments (component of electricity prices) → for robustness, we use a **control function instrumental variable** approach (Gillingham and Tsvetanov, 2019). Instrument: network tariff-free electricity prices.

Results Number of Installations

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Grey dots/lines show results for PPMLE, CF estimates in black. Dots display point estimates, whiskers 95% confidence interval. SEs clustered at the municipality-level for baseline, for CF bootstrapped. CF estimates contains sub-regional variation in capacity-based incentive/cost. Observations at the municipality-month-level. Sample size 78,084.

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- **Output- and capacity-based** incentive schemes are at least **60% more effective** compared to cost saving-based (indirect) net-metering. [regression table](#)

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- Different effectiveness could be due to **differences in the benefit designs**, i.e. more **uncertain**, less **direct** and less **salient** incentive schemes are less effective.
- The **benefit design** is an **important determinant** concerning the overall uptake of energy-related technology adoption.
- Possible room for **improvement for policy makers**: more certain, more direct and salient incentive schemes increase energy-related technology uptake.

Thank you for listening!

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- **Control variables** *variation by year and zip*: median income deflated (source: statbel), sociodemographics and building characteristics (source: Walstat/provincies.incijfers)

[exp vars summary](#)

[back](#)

Results Number of Installations

Model:	Aggregate benefits		Sep. benefits	Sep. ben. (IV)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Net benefits (log)	6.83***	(0.085)		
Net benefits (thous)		1.05***	(0.019)	
Output-based incentive			1.34***	1.18***
Net metering			0.84***	0.68***
Capacity-based cost			-1.94***	-1.20***
Capacity-based incentive			1.45***	1.25***
<i>Zip-, Month-, Year-fixed eff.:</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Additional Control Variables:</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Observations</i>	78,048	78,048	78,048	78,048

Standard-errors in parentheses, Signif. Codes: ***: 0.01, **: 0.05, *: 0.1, obs. at monthly municipality level. Time span 2008-2019. Standard-errors for PPMLE (1)-(3) clustered at the municipality-level, for IV estimates (4) bootstrapped. IV estimates contains sub-regional variation in capacity-based incentive/cost. [back](#)

Results on Average Capacity Size Installations

	Aggregate benefits		Separate benefits	Separate benefits (IV)
Model:	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Net benefits (log)	1.40*** (0.048)			
Net benefits		0.344*** (0.010)		
Output-based incentive			0.390*** (0.012)	0.365*** (0.012)
Net metering			-0.113*** (0.022)	-0.112*** (0.030)
Capacity-based cost			-0.310*** (0.044)	-0.253*** (0.047)
Capacity-based incentive			-0.144*** (0.027)	-0.201*** (0.036)
<i>Zip-, Month-, Year-fixed effects:</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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Present Value Equations

$$b_{i,s,r,t}^{tc}(cap) = \sum_{t=1}^4 \beta^{12t} taxcut_t(cap) \quad (2)$$

$$b_{i,r,t}^{gc}(cap) = \beta \cdot (1 - (\beta^{gc})^{T_{r,t}^{gc}}) (1 - \beta^{gc})^{-1} \cdot n_{r,t}^{gc} \cdot p_{r,t}^{gc} \cdot \bar{y}(cap)/12 \quad (3)$$

$$b_{i,r,t}^{nm}(cap) = \beta \cdot (1 - (\beta^{nm})^{T^{lt}}) (1 - \beta^{nm})^{-1} \cdot p_{s,r,m}^{el} \cdot \bar{y}(cap)/12 \quad (4)$$

$$b_{i,r,t}^{qw}(cap) = \beta \cdot (1 - (\beta^{qw})^{T^{qw}}) (1 - \beta^{qw})^{-1} \cdot p_{r,m}^{qw} \cdot \min(cap, 3kW) \quad (5)$$

$$b_{i,r,t}^{pr}(cap) = \beta \cdot (1 - (\beta^{pr})^{T^{lt}}) (1 - \beta^{pr})^{-1} \cdot p_{s,r,m}^{pr} \cdot AC^{sh} \cdot cap^p \quad (6)$$

back

Explanatory Variables - Summary Statistics 2

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Median	Max	Observations
<i>Benefit Variables</i>						
net benefits (log)	8.48	0.42	7.72	8.32	9.12	70,308
net benefits (thousand)	5.25	2.23	2.25	4.09	9.15	70,308
GC (thousand)	1.95	2.37	0.00	0.00	5.89	70,308
net metering (thousand)	3.38	0.48	2.55	3.31	4.60	70,308
prosumer tariff (thousand)	0.18	0.33	-0.00	0.00	0.86	70,308
Qualiwatt (thousand)	0.11	0.28	0.00	0.00	1.11	70,308
<i>Sociodemographics</i>						
households (log)	8.49	0.86	3.50	8.50	12.37	6,696
net med income per decl. defl. (log)	10.09	0.11	9.72	10.11	10.44	6,516
population density (log)	5.63	1.00	3.18	5.69	8.17	6,696
age:below 18 (sh.)	0.21	0.02	0.10	0.20	0.29	6,696
age:18-49 (sh.)	0.41	0.02	0.24	0.41	0.51	6,694
age:above 64 (sh.)	0.18	0.03	0.10	0.18	0.40	6,694
age:50-64 (sh.)	0.20	0.02	0.13	0.20	0.32	6,696
non-nationals (sh.)	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.04	0.52	6,696
nationals (sh.)	0.94	0.06	0.48	0.96	1.00	6,696
female (sh.)	0.51	0.01	0.40	0.51	0.54	6,696
male (sh.)	0.49	0.01	0.46	0.49	0.60	6,696

Explanatory Variables - Summary Statistics 2

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Median	Max	Observations
<i>Household Characteristics</i>						
hh single (sh.)	0.24	0.08	0.10	0.22	0.55	6,684
hh single parent (sh.)	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.18	6,684
hh couple /w children (sh.)	0.36	0.06	0.16	0.37	0.52	6,684
hh couple w/o children (sh.)	0.32	0.08	0.16	0.34	0.51	6,684
<i>Building Characteristics</i>						
house age:until 1981 (sh.)	0.73	0.08	0.46	0.72	0.95	6,696
house age:after 1981 (sh.)	0.27	0.08	0.05	0.28	0.54	6,696
house type:apartments (sh.)	0.12	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.79	6,696
house type:single fam closed (sh.)	0.19	0.13	0.01	0.15	0.71	6,696
house type:single fam semi-detached (sh.)	0.25	0.07	0.03	0.25	0.42	6,696
house type:single fam open (sh.)	0.45	0.19	0.01	0.47	0.85	6,696

[back](#)

Dependent Variable: PV installations

Region	zip	Total PV (thous.)	Obs. (thous.)	zerosh. /obs.	PV installations/obs.					mean cap. (KWp)/obs.			
					mean	med- ian	sd	min	max	mean	sd	min	max
Flanders	300	428,175	43,200	0.13	9.91	5.00	16	0	336	4.49	1.25	0.54	10.00
Wallonia	258	152,078	37,152	0.30	4.09	2.00	8	0	278	4.96	1.36	0.75	10.00
Total	558	580,253	80,352	0.21	7.22	3.00	13	0	336	4.68	1.32	0.54	10.00

[back](#)

Robustness: Accounting for short-term dynamics

Model:	Number of PV installations			Average new installed capacity		
	Agg. ben.	Sep. ben.	Sep. ben. (IV)	Agg. ben.	Sep. ben.	Sep. ben. (IV)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Net benefits	1.30*** (0.018)			0.368*** (0.012)		
Capacity-based cost		-0.407*** (0.089)	-0.665*** (0.077)		-0.312*** (0.049)	-0.251*** (0.052)
Output-based incentive		1.30*** (0.027)	1.26*** (0.024)		0.429*** (0.015)	0.406*** (0.015)
Net metering		0.066 (0.044)	0.796*** (0.056)		-0.164*** (0.027)	-0.157*** (0.042)
Capacity-based incentive		0.724*** (0.047)	0.910*** (0.046)		-0.151*** (0.030)	-0.186*** (0.042)
<i>Controls, time- & zip-fixed effects:</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	67,775	67,775	67,775	67,775	67,775	67,775

Robustness: Different discount rates

Model:	Standard PPMLE				IV Controlfunction			
	0% DR	3% DR (base- line)	7% DR	15% DR	0% DR	3% DR (base- line)	7% DR	15% DR
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Capacity-based cost	-0.943*** (0.056)	-1.64*** (0.077)	-2.85*** (0.114)	-5.93*** (0.211)	-0.551*** (0.055)	-1.01*** (0.079)	-1.77*** (0.119)	-3.58*** (0.218)
Output-based incentive	1.04*** (0.020)	1.34*** (0.025)	1.78*** (0.032)	2.73*** (0.051)	0.935*** (0.018)	1.18*** (0.023)	1.52*** (0.029)	2.23*** (0.044)
Net metering	0.583*** (0.027)	0.836*** (0.035)	1.26*** (0.049)	2.37*** (0.082)	0.441*** (0.030)	0.679*** (0.041)	1.07*** (0.059)	2.01*** (0.103)
Capacity-based incentive	1.17*** (0.038)	1.45*** (0.042)	1.81*** (0.048)	2.47*** (0.060)	0.961*** (0.040)	1.25*** (0.045)	1.59*** (0.052)	2.15*** (0.066)
<i>Controls, time-&zip-fixed effects:</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Observations:</i>	78,048	78,048	78,048	78,048	78,048	78,048	78,048	78,048