

## Energy and Climate Policy (F001013)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 6.0**

**Study time 180 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Albrecht, Johan

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Ovaere, Marten

EB21

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

[Master of Science in Teaching in Economics \(main subject Economics\)](#)

**crdts**

6

**offering**

A

[Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics](#)

6

A

[Master of Science in Economics](#)

6

A

[Master of Science in Economics \(Double Degree\)](#)

6

A

[Exchange programme in Economics and Business Administration](#)

6

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Energy policy, climate policy, energy transition, electricity markets, technological innovation, renewable energy, electricity markets, sustainability of consumption patterns

**Position of the course**

This course develops an economic analysis of environmental and energy policy goals. We focus on the - often unexpected - complexities as well as opportunities for policymakers. The impact of policy instruments is assessed from a good understanding of the supporting markets. The analysis of climate and renewable energy targets is based on the prevailing dynamics on electricity markets in the EU: the interactions between policy choices and technological dynamics (applied to renewable energy technologies) is emphasized.

**Contents**

- 1 economic efficiency as a policy concept ; policy instruments and markets
- 2 some paradoxes of environmental and energy policy
- 3 institutional analysis of the interactions between policy instruments and technological innovation, applied to recent European climate and energy policies (EU 20/20/20, Emissions Trading Scheme, ...)
- 4 sustainability of consumption patterns (focus on nutrition)

**Initial competences**

Students followed an introductory course in Economics with sufficient attention to micro-economics, market functioning, and public policy (market failure, government failure, ...).

**Final competences**

- 1 Explaining the relevance of economic efficiency in the policy process  
policy instruments with respect to specific goals
- 2 Have insight into the role of governments alongside market forces in complex

societal transformations.

- 3 Disentangling complex cases to a set of basic interactions evaluating
- 4 To evaluate different policy instruments for different policy objectives
- 5 Applying theoretical concepts in actual cases of policy evaluation

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### **Teaching methods**

Lecture, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Ex cathedra teaching for the theoretical introduction.  
Depending on the number of students, group discussions can be organized. These discussions can be quoted.  
Part of the course material can be offered as organized self-study.

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

Thomas Sterner and Jessica Coria (2012). Policy Instruments for Environmental and Natural Resource Management, Second Edition (RFF Press, New York, London)  
Jean Tirole (2017). 'Economics for the Common Good', Princeton University Press  
Dieter Helm (2012). The Carbon Crunch: How We're Getting Climate Change Wrong - and How to Fix it (Yale University Press)

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

There is no assistant for this course.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam (closed book)

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

There is a written exam at the end of the term (closed book).