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The Convergence of U.S. State-level Energy Intensity

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Abstract

This study extends a neoclassical growth model, based on previous growth theory, that includes the accumulation of physical capital and energy consumption within a panel of fifty states (plus the District of Columbia) in the U.S. The theoretical model allows us to examine the implications for convergence in economic growth and energy intensity. From the theoretical model, we develop an empirical model to test the conditional rates of convergence. The empirical model is formulated as a dynamic panel data model that is estimated using a general method of moments framework. The empirical results indicate convergence in energy intensity, and our estimates accurately predict both the growth in and convergence of energy intensity across our entire sample. Consistent with other findings in the literature, our results imply that energy use, over the past four decades, plays a small and positive role in state-level, per capita economic growth and convergence. Based on these results, we discuss policy implications for state-level income growth and energy consumption.

Keywords: Economic growth; Energy growth; Energy Intensity; Convergence **JEL Codes:** C23, Q47, Q48, Q54

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