

The role of criminal sanctions in enforcing environmental regulations – A theoretical and empirical analysis

Christian Almer, Jan Dehne-Niemann, Timo Goeschl, Ole Jürgens

The analysis of environmental policy has historically stressed the importance of instrument choice in accomplishing environmental objectives. The institutions and mechanisms employed to monitor and enforce regulations have only recently attracted a greater attention from researchers. This paper introduces a novel research project that examines the role of criminal sanctions in enforcing environmental regulation, both from a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Using both recent advances in the economic theory of regulation and a unique dataset on environmental crime in Germany, the paper discusses preliminary analytical and empirical results.