

Seminar 'Environmental Economics'

Dr. Melanie Dunger
Winter term 2025/2026

In this seminar, we explore the fundamental concepts of environmental economics: why markets fail to protect the environment, how externalities like pollution or overfishing are addressed, and explore possible solutions ranging from voluntary agreements, regulation, to market-based instruments, and discuss these tools in terms of effectiveness and fairness.

Rather than focusing on purely technical details, the course is research-oriented. Students will learn to critically examine environmental economic research. By doing so, students will not only understand the theories and policies but also having hands-on experience in understanding, questioning, and discussing academic work.

A distinctive feature of this seminar is its collaborative research character: By default, all students will participate in a joint research project developed during the seminar. This will give you hands-on experience in designing, conducting, and presenting research in a real team setting.

For those who prefer to work individually, there is an opt-out option: you may instead prepare an interactive presentation on a chosen topic (using creative formats such as moderated discussions, podcasts, or gamified exercises) plus a written paper.

Details on the examination format and the organization of the seminar will be provided at the beginning of the seminar. Importantly, before the final in-person session in January, you will be expected either to work independently on your individual project or to collaborate online with your peers on the joint research project.

In this seminar, you will:

- Gain a solid understanding of the basic tools and ideas of environmental economics.
- Develop practical research skills by analyzing and evaluating real studies.
- Learn to connect theory and policy to urgent global challenges such as climate change and sustainable resource use.
- Strengthen your abilities in teamwork, presentation, academic writing, and critical reflection.

Through its research-oriented design, you will not only deepen your subject knowledge but also train the communication, cooperation, and analytical skills that are key for shaping a more sustainable future.

Max. Students: 20 students

Deadline for seminar paper or contribution to research project: March 01, 2025 (via E-Mail)

If you have any questions about this seminar, please send an email to:
mdunger@uni-bremen.de

Preliminary Schedule

Date	Time	Topic
07.10.2025	10:00 – 10:30	Welcome and Introduction
	10:30 - 11:45	Market Failure I
	1 – 2:30	Market Failure II
	2:45 – 3:45	Instruments for Sustainability
	4 – 5	Behavioral Environmental Economics
08.10.2025	09:30 – 10:45	Resumé and Questions
	10:45 - 12	Finding Topics and Groups
	1 – 5	Group Work
03.02.2026	10 - 12	Presentations and Discussion of Results
	1 – 5	Presentations and Discussion of Results