

# Seminar ‘Environmental Economics’

Dr. Melanie Dunger  
Winter term 2026/2027

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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 have 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.

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: 30 students

Deadline for seminar paper or contribution to research project: March 14, 2027 (via E-Mail)

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