

❖ Demand for Cars and Their Attributes

Our recent study for the Department for Transport considers how changes in the cost of motoring affect demand in the market for new cars. The report is available here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/rdg/cardemand/>

The analysis, which was led by eftec associate Dr. Brett Day (University of East Anglia), estimates own and cross price elasticities for new cars models, informing on how different attributes of a vehicle (e.g. body style, engine and performance specifications, number of doors and seats, equipment, etc.), price and running cost influence households' new car purchasing decisions.

The report sets out the data collection, model specification, estimation and analysis stages of the research. For illustrative purposes, the model is used to forecast how demand for new cars changes in response to changes in the fixed and variable costs of driving and to predict how those changes might impact on the CO₂ emissions profile of the new car market.

❖ Valuing Transport's Impact on the Natural Landscape

The Department for Transport has recently published the Phase 1 report of this three phase research project. The report is available here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/rdg/landscape/>

The study aims to estimate transferable monetary values for the impacts individual transport schemes have on the natural landscape in England. The monetary values will be used to augment the New Approach to Transport Appraisal (NATA) methodology developed by the DfT.

The Phase 1 report details the initial stages of research including exploring the context for economic valuation and method selection and defining the basis of the good to be valued in terms of a typology of transport schemes and landscape types. The presently ongoing second phase of the project is testing the stated preference survey instrument. Phase 3, planned for later this year, will implement the stated preference questionnaire, analyse the data and set out the transfer model.

❖ A consultant (re-)joins eftec

Dr. Rob Tinch joined eftec in April 2008 as its representative in Brussels. He has 14 years' experience in environmental and ecological economics, including as an economic assistant in government, a previous core-team position at eftec, and a lectureship in the School of Environmental Sciences at UEA. He is also a director of Environmental Futures Ltd and is actively involved in the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy.

Rob has worked on a large number of consultancy and research projects, focusing on environmental valuation and biodiversity issues, and also on energy, waste and transport. His main research and consultancy interests are based around methods of supporting decision-making and environmental policy formation under conditions of uncertainty, using a range of techniques. Recently he has been working on stakeholder integration in the RUBICODE project (with Median SCP, www.rubicode.net), on rural innovation (with Environmental Futures, www.rapido-fp6.eu) and with eftec on valuation and project appraisal issues for managed realignment schemes and on environmental comparison of land and marine aggregates.

Rob holds a BA in Economics from the University of York, an MSc in Environmental Economics from University College London and a PhD "Resilience and Management of Stochastic Renewable Resource Systems" from the University of York. He is based in Brussels and works in English and French.