

Investigating ARPA-E as a Model for Energy Innovation Funding

Dr. Anna Goldstein

Monday, September 25, 2017

12:30 - 1:45 pm

The Crowe Room

Light lunch will be served



Dr. Goldstein

Research to advance clean energy technology relies heavily on public and charitable funding programs. Program administrators must make design choices to maximize the impact of their funds, yet there is a limited evidence base to guide these choices. In an attempt to fill this gap, this talk will describe recent findings on the outputs of research funding from the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) within the US Department of Energy. ARPA-E has implemented an active program management strategy, in which program directors are empowered to use their individual discretion to select and manage projects. Early evidence on project outcomes shows that this practice introduces technical uncertainty into the agency's research portfolio, without a negative impact on performance.

Anna Goldstein is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Carnegie Institution for Science and Stanford University. She is also a Research Associate and a former Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Science, Technology, and Public Policy (STPP) Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs in Harvard Kennedy School. Her research explores the effectiveness of funding initiatives for energy technology innovation, in order to improve the design and outcomes of future investments. Anna received her Ph.D. in 2014 in Chemistry with an emphasis in Nanoscale Science and Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Her graduate work was in characterizing nanomaterials with potential energy applications, such as artificial photosynthesis and electrochemical energy storage.



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