

Steve Cicala

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Academic Appointments

Tufts University

Department of Economics

Associate Professor, 2021 - 2026

Assistant Professor and Neubauer Faculty Fellow, 2020 - 2021

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Department of Economics

Visiting Associate Professor, Spring 2025 and 2026.

Harvard University

Salata Institute

Visiting Scholar, 2025-2026.

The University of Chicago

Harris School of Public Policy Studies and The College

Assistant Professor, 2013 - 2020

Harvard University

Department of Economics and Harvard Kennedy School

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2017-2018

Education

Harvard University

Ph.D. in Economics, 2013

A.M. in Economics, 2013

The University of Chicago

A.B. in Economics with Honors, 2004

Affiliations

CESifo

Research Network Fellow, 2026 -

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Research Fellow, Climate Change and the Environment, 2025 -

National Bureau of Economic Research

Research Associate, Environmental and Energy Economics, 2021 -

Faculty Research Fellow, Environmental and Energy Economics, 2014 - 2021

Harvard Environmental Economics Program

Associate Scholar, 2020 -

Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago

Non-Resident Scholar, 2020 -

International Growth Centre

Research Affiliate, 2016 -

Urban Energy and Environment Lab at The University of Chicago

Research Affiliate, 2015 - 2020.

Professional Activities & Service

Editorial Council, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 2024-

Board of Editors, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2023-

Co-Director, NBER Project on the Economic Analysis of Regulation, 2021-

Journal Publications

“Regulating the Energy Transition: Lessons from Electricity Sector Restructuring.”

The Energy Journal, forthcoming.

“Restructuring the Rate Base.”

AEA Papers and Proceedings, Vol. 115: 363-368, May 2025.

“Powering Work from Home.”

Journal of Urban Economics: Insights, 133: 103747, January 2023.

“Imperfect Markets versus Imperfect Regulation in U.S. Electricity Generation.”

American Economic Review, 112(2): 409–441, February 2022.

“The Incidence of Extreme Economic Stress: Evidence from Utility Disconnections.”

Journal of Public Economics, 200: 104461, August 2021.

“Expected Health Effects of Reduced Air Pollution from COVID-19 Social Distancing.” (with Stephen P. Holland, Erin T. Mansur, Nicholas Z. Muller, and Andrew J. Yates)

Atmosphere, 12(8): 951, July 2021.

“When Does Regulation Distort Costs? Lessons from Fuel Procurement in U.S. Electricity Generation: Reply.”

American Economic Review, 111(4): 1373–1381, April 2021.

“Regulating Markups in U.S. Health Insurance.” (with Ethan M.J. Lieber and Victoria Marone).

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 11(4): 71–104, October 2019.

“Self-Selection and Comparative Advantage in Social Interactions.” (with Roland Fryer and Jörg Spenkuch).

Journal of the European Economic Association, 16(4): 983–1020, August 2018.

“When Does Regulation Distort Costs? Lessons from Fuel Procurement in U.S. Electricity Generation.”

American Economic Review, 105(1): 411–444, January 2015.

Other Publications

“Decarbonizing the U.S. Economy with a National Grid,” *U.S. Energy & Climate Roadmap*. Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago. 2021.

“La recessione in corso vista attraverso i consumi di elettricità,” (translated by Francesca Mazzarella). Mini Book - Focus Economia. April 2020.

Working Papers

“Adverse Selection as a Policy Instrument: Unraveling Climate Change,” January 2026. (with David Hémous and Morten Olsen)

Revised and resubmitted to the *American Economic Review*.

Selected Work in Progress

“The Energy Transition, Local Air Pollution, and Mortality,” with Joshua D. Gottlieb.

“Electricity Markets and Environmental Inequality,” with Sara Johns and Joseph S. Shapiro.

“Electricity Consumption as a Real Time Indicator of Economic Activity.”

“Making a Run on the Rate Base,” with Lucas Davis.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

Excellence in Reviewing Award, *American Economic Review*, 2025.

Excellence in Reviewing Award, *AEJ: Policy*, 2021.

Eric Zitzewitz Award, Utah Winter Business Economics Association, 2016.

Enel Endowment Prize, *Harvard Environmental Economics Program*, 2013.

Graduate Fellow, *Harvard University Center for the Environment, Consortium on Energy and Environment*, 2012-2013.

Student Marshal, *The College, University of Chicago*, 2004.

Grants

IGC Small Research Grant, “The Environmental Costs of Small-Scale Farming”, 2024.

National Science Foundation, “RAPID: Electricity Consumption as a Real Time Indicator of Economic Activity,” 2020.

Sloan Foundation, “Electricity Consumption as a Real Time Indicator of Economic Activity,” 2020.

UChicago - Argonne Strategic Collaborative Initiative Seed Grant (with Todd Levin), 2016.

1896 Energy and Climate Fund, 2015.

Conferences Organized

National Bureau of Economic Research: Energy & Environmental Economics Spring Meeting, 2025.

American Economic Association Annual Meeting, 2025: Program Committee Member.

Econometric Society World Congress, 2020: Environment Program Committee Member.

Understanding the Technical and Economic Challenges for the Future of Electricity Distribution, *Sloan Foundation* (with James Bushnell, Severin Borenstein, and Duncan Calloway), 2016.

Teaching

Tufts University:

Advanced Energy Economics (Ph.D.), 2022-.

Advanced Statistics (MA/Ph.D.), 2020-2021.

Harvard University:

Econometrics I (Ph.D.), 2017.

Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods I (MPP), 2017.

University of Chicago:

Applied Econometrics I (Ph.D.), 2016-2017.

Statistical Theory and Applications for Public Policy I (MPP), 2014-2015.

Environmental Economics: Theory and Applications (MPP and Undergraduate), 2014-2017, 2019-2020.