Connor Andrew Neff

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Updated: October 2025

Doctoral Studies

University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Ph.D., Economics — May 2026 (expected)
Dissertation: "Essays in Energy and Natural Resource Economics"

Dissertation Committee and References:

J Scott Holladay(Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
E-mail: jhollad3@utk.edu

Charles Sims
Department of Economics
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
E-mail: cbsims@utk.edu

Ben Leard
Department of Economics
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
E-mail: bleard@utk.edu

Casey Wichman
School of Economics
Georgia Institute of Technology
E-mail: wichman@gatech.edu

Prior Education

University of Florida
B.A., Economics & Statistics — May 2020

Fields of Interest

Primary: Energy, Environmental, & Natural Resource Economics
Secondary: Industrial Organization, Urban Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Working Papers

"Lone Star Grid: The Impact of Texas Electricity Interconnection"(*JMP*)
with J Scott Holladay

Abstract: Using a novel least average cost dispatch (LACD) algorithm, this paper evaluates the economic and environmental costs of Texas maintaining an isolated electricity grid. We build a structural model to characterize the supply of electricity and simulate counterfactual integration scenarios. We find that Texas's largest population zones connected with neighboring states to the East results in reductions of generation costs of $100M annually. We also show that accounting for fixed costs in the dispatch model allocates generation to units with lower average fixed costs than under least marginal cost dispatch. This change in allocation along the margin results in large differences in emissions impacts. We find that some interconnection scenarios decrease the social cost of emissions by up to $360M annually, while others result in higher emissions. In a case study for one proposed interconnection, we show that generation and revenues shift to the Texas zone. We also show that reductions in costs of maintaining reliability are about as much as generation cost reductions.

Works in Progress

"Rate Structures and Resource Rents in Municipal Water Pricing"

"Electric Shocks: The Short-run and Long-run Impacts of Power Outages on

the Housing Market"

"Policy Uncertainty and Coordination Failure in Renewable Investment Networks" *with Nicolas Pinsonneault*

"Costs of Low Quality Power" *with Finbar Curtin*

Presentations

UTK Brown Bag Seminar, Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental & Energy Economics, Southeastern Workshop on Energy & Environmental Economics & Policy, SEA 95th Annual Meeting — 2025

CU Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop, UTK Applied Microeconomics Workshop — 2024

Teaching

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Instructor

ECON 201: Introductory Economics — Fall 2025
ECON 201: Introductory Economics — Fall 2024
Avg Evaluation: **4.67/5**

Teaching Assistant

ECON 514: Graduate (PhD) Macroeconomic Theory II — Spring 2024
ECON 201: Introductory Economics — 2022-23

Fellowships and Awards

Graduate Fellowship in Ecosystem Valuation, *U.S. Forest Service* & *ORISE* — 2024
Graduate Assistantship, *UT Knoxville* — 2022 - Current

Computer Skills

Stata, R, Matlab, LaTeX, Python

Professional Experience

Red Bull North America - *Data Analyst* — 2020-21

Affiliations

Southern Economic Association