



Agri-environmental Policy and Urban Development Patterns: A General Equilibrium Analysis

Submitted by Emmanuel Lemoine on Thu, 04/30/2015 - 16:47

Titre	Agri-environmental Policy and Urban Development Patterns: A General Equilibrium Analysis
Type de publication	Article de revue
Auteur	Coisnon, Thomas [1], Oueslati, Walid [2], Salanie, Julien [3]
Editeur	Oxford University Press (OUP)
Type	Article scientifique dans une revue à comité de lecture
Année	2014
Langue	Anglais
Date	2014
Numéro	3
Pagination	673 - 689
Volume	96
Titre de la revue	American Journal of Agricultural Economics
ISSN	0002-9092

Résumé en anglais

This paper investigates the spatial effects that the provision of environmental public goods have on residential location choices in a suburban context. Specifically, a spatial general equilibrium framework is developed to analyze the consequences of adopting an agri-environmental policy promoting the provision of positive farming externalities. We use a static monocentric model of an open city where agricultural bid-rents and agricultural amenities vary endogenously in space, and where the positive externalities associated with agricultural production are valued by households. Consistent with empirical evidence of the potential side effects that conservation policies may have in terms of urbanization patterns and land price changes, we show that under certain conditions implementing an agri-environmental policy may promote additional suburban development. Moreover, we demonstrate that the emergence of disconnected suburban areas may be significantly influenced by the location of land regulated by an agri-environmental policy. Finally, we discuss distributional aspects and show that while introducing an agri-environmental policy has a negative impact on most residential land value, it can have positive effects on farmland and residential land located within the regulated areas, suggesting the non-neutrality of such policies regarding the agents' assets.

URL de la notice	http://okina.univ-angers.fr/publications/ua10706 [4]
DOI	10.1093/ajae/aat114 [5]
Lien vers le document	http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aat114 [5]

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Publié sur *Okina* (<http://okina.univ-angers.fr>)