

Special Issue

Environmental Protection and Economic Development: Research Progress of Eco-Efficiency

Message from the Guest Editors

We perceive that eco-efficiency is a broad concept and can encompass combining environmental protection and economic development at various levels and/or stages of decision making. Environmental protection is the practice of maintaining, conserving or preserving the state of the environment by keeping it as safe and healthy as possible. Its main purpose is to decrease the amounts of unintended outputs or anything that yields the environmental degradation. Eco-efficiency analysis based upon data envelopment analysis (DEA) can be a key approach to design a sustainable development approach, taking into account the environmental impacts as well as the added value aspects of economic and non-economic activities. Eco-efficiency DEA models are based upon mathematical optimization techniques with the incorporation of unintended outputs in a production economics framework. Regarding how to treat unintended outputs in DEA, however, there are still controversies, and researchers in this field do not have the unified views. The papers dealing with this issue or some related issues are invited. Papers can be conceptual, theoretical or empirical.

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