

Announcement of a Master thesis (with remuneration / 6 months student research grant) **Call for applications**

The role of a plastic tax for achieving environmental protection

Description

One of the major ecological problems of our time are plastics in the environment. Another challenge is that secondary raw material is often more expensive than virgin material and thus not attractive for extensive use. In order to reduce the amount of plastics and increase the recycling rate of plastics, the EU implemented a tax on non-recyclable plastic packaging, coming into force from January 2021 on. Therefore, EU member states will have to pay 800 euros for every ton of virgin plastic material used in production of goods. The nation states are free to decide how to raise these funds and there is no earmarking for the EU. Although, positive effects on the reduction of plastic packaging is expected, we lack a detailed analysis of the direct and indirect consequences of such a plastic tax for the waste industry and civil society – especially when comparing the intention of paying such a tax as a gross total from the federal budget (without any effect on waste producers) or indirectly throughout the waste industry.

Objective

The objectives of this Master thesis are to analyze the effects of a plastic tax if charged for virgin plastic raw material and the respective potential positive and negative macroeconomic effects connected to such a policy instrument and its revenue use.

Method

Microeconomic environmental tax analysis, macroeconomic model simulations (intended: Computable General Equilibrium).

Qualification

- Enrolled in master program in Economics, Environmental Systems Science, Sustainable Development, Global Studies, or a comparable study programme
- Knowledge in economic modelling (computable general equilibrium) of advantage
- Solution-oriented, creative, independent and reliable way of working
- Interest in environmental policy instruments and their (macro)economic effects

We offer

- Master thesis with remuneration (student research grant for 6 months)
- Collaborative research with waste industry
- Thesis in English or German
- Start at your earliest convenience, duration 6 months

If you are interested, and have further questions, contact us at: karl.steininger@uni-graz.at or raphaela.maier@uni-graz.at

Application: Submit your interest (with motivation letter, CV, grade reports) by **Dec, 8th 2020** to karl.steininger@uni-graz.at, indicating "Application Master Thesis" as subject of the mail.