

Abena Boafoa Darkwah

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Economics University of Calgary 2500 University Dr. N.W Calgary, AB, T2N 1N4, Canada			<i>Phone:</i> +1 (587) 892-5435 <i>E-mail:</i> abena.darkwah@ucalgary.ca
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Energy Economics, Environmental Economics, Electricity Markets, Public Policy			
EDUCATION	University of Calgary , Calgary, Alberta Canada Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, August 2021 MA. Economics, August 2020 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) , Kumasi, Ghana B.A., Economics, October 2015			
REFERENCES	Dr. Lucija Muehlenbachs Professor (Supervisor) Department of Economics University of Calgary Calgary, AB, Canada lmuehlen@ucalgary.ca	Dr. Blake Shaffer Associate Professor Department of Economics University of Calgary Calgary, AB, Canada blake.shaffer@gmail.com	Dr. Erica Myers Associate Professor Department of Economics University of Calgary Calgary, AB, Canada erica.myers@ucalgary.ca	
HONORS AND AWARDS	Transformative Talent Internship Scholarship, University of Calgary (2026) Faculty of Graduate Studies Doctoral Scholarship, University of Calgary (2024) Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (2023) Microeconomics Prize for the highest average in ECON 707 and ECON 757, awarded by the Department of Economics, University of Calgary (2022) International Graduate Tuition Award (2021-Present) Dean’s Excellence Award, Faculty of Social Sciences, KNUST (2019) Second-best 4th-year student in BA Economics, awarded by the Department of Economics, KNUST (2019) Most Outstanding Executive Officer, Economics Student Association, KNUST (2018)			
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	University of Calgary , Calgary, Alberta Canada <i>Research Assistant for Professor Lucija Muehlenbachs</i> September 2024 - February 2026 <i>Research Assistant for Associate Professor Sara Hastings-Simon</i> October 2023 - April 2025 <i>Research Assistant for Professor Scott. M Taylor</i> January 2023 - June 2023			
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	University of Calgary , Calgary, Alberta Canada <i>Graduate Teaching Assistant</i> August, 2021 - present <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macroeconomics (Econ 203), Microeconomics (Econ 201), Computer Applications in Economics (Econ 311), Environmental Economics (ECON 487), Energy Economics (ECON 427/627), Electricity Market (ECON 329).			

Guest Lecturer

- Environmental Economics (ECON 487)
- Energy Economics (ECON 427/627)

**January 28, February 14, March 14 2025
October 3, 2024**

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

Teaching Assistant

August, 2019 - June 2020

PUBLICATIONS

“Resource Revenue Sharing Agreements” with Lucija Muehlenbachs & Laurel Wheeler, **Forthcoming** in the *Canadian Public Policy/ Analyse de Politiques*

Abstract: A growing number of First Nations across Canada are entering into agreements with provincial governments to share revenues from natural resource extraction within their traditional territories. Yet, little guidance exists on the design of these Resource Revenue-Sharing Agreements (RRSAs). In this paper, we examine publicly available RRSAs to summarize their common components. We outline the decision points involved in structuring an RSA and discuss potential benefits and drawbacks for First Nations considering entry.

Darkwah, A.B., Shaffer, B. and Hastings-Simon, S., 2026. Layering incentives: The impact of local top-ups on solar adoption and welfare. *Energy Policy*, 217, p.115427.

Abstract: This paper investigates the effect of a local “top-up” to an existing solar rebate program in Alberta. Specifically, we examine whether providing additional financial incentives at the local level increases adoption rates and generates meaningful public welfare benefits. Using a difference-in-difference framework, we find that the incidence of the top-up is fully passed through to consumers, resulting in a 72% increase in solar installation rates. Our welfare analysis, using the Marginal Value of Public Funds (MVPF), also reveals that the societal benefits of the top-up exceed its costs, yielding a favorable return on public investment. These findings suggest that local top-ups can be an effective tool for increasing renewable energy adoption and enhancing public welfare, offering important insights for policymakers.

PAPERS IN
PREPARATION

“Market Power and the Effectiveness of Carbon Policy: A case study using Alberta’s Electricity Market.” [**Job Market Paper**]

Abstract: I analyze the effectiveness of Canada’s first greenhouse gas pricing policy in reducing emissions in the electricity market and assess the role of market power in influencing these outcomes. I find that although changing the design and increasing the stringency of the policy significantly reduced emissions, the presence of market power among large firms mitigated some of these benefits. Specifically, strategic behavior by firms induced gas-to-coal switching, thereby limiting the intended emissions reductions. These findings highlight market power as a factor that could impede or slow the decarbonization of the electricity sector.

“Technology and Energy Use in the Formal Sector in Developing Countries: Implications from informal competition” with John Bosco Dramani and Kwame Ansere Ofori-Mensah.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

Climate Economics Pipeline Workshop, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 2024.

Electricity Camp in the Rockies, Banff Centre, Alberta, May 2026.

PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

Kaskada Carbon, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Associate

June, 2026 - Present

Legacy Capital Savings and Loans, Accra, Ghana

Financial Intern

June, 2018 – August, 2018

- COMPUTER SKILLS
- Statistical Packages: Python, Stata, R
 - Applications: L^AT_EX, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel