

Water Tariffs and Consumers' Inaction

Mirco Tonin (University of Bozen) with Carmine Ornaghi (University of Southampton)

Martedì 15 Marzo 2016, ore 12.30, Aula della Scuola di Dottorato, Palazzo Cà Borin, Via del Santo 22, Padova

In this paper we study the effects of the installation of 500,000 water meters in the South-East of England. Moving from bills based on the characteristics of the house to bills based on actual consumption reduces water usage by more than 15%, with the drop mostly due to people who experience an increase in their water bill due to metering. We also explore customers' choices in terms of water tariffs, uncovering evidence of a strong status quo bias.