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THE CLIMATE ACTIONS AND POLICIES INDEX: A COMPOSITE INDICATOR APPROACH TO MEASURING GOVERNMENTS' CLIMATE ACTION

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Abstract

There are major gaps in the measurement of the ambition and comprehensiveness of countries' climate actions and policies, notably in a manner coherent across countries, time, sectors and instrument types. This paper presents the Climate Actions and Policies (CAP) Index – a composite indicator to measure governments' climate actions.

The CAP includes a broad range of government policies or actions on climate change mitigation, comprising more than 50 sub-indicators, such as carbon pricing, support for renewables, emissions standards, research and development expenditures, climate governance, and ratification of international climate agreements. As such, the CAP is the most comprehensive climate-related composite indicator currently available. The CAP covers climate policy data on 51 countries (OECD member and accession countries + G20 economies) from 2000-2020, providing a great resource for empirical research. Data on all sub-indicators will be made publicly available. First results suggest that countries made progress in climate action between 2000 and 2020, but more needs to be done to be in line with countries' short-term and long-term emission reduction targets.

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