

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Role of Fossil Fuels in the U.S. Food System and the American Diet

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB,
TB, SOR,)

ERR

Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

Agency Contact: Ephraim Leibtag, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: The food system accounts for a large share of fossil fuel consumption in the United States, and energy accounts for a substantial and highly variable share of food costs. This broad intersection of food and energy commodity markets portends the possibility of beneficial spillover effects across policy outcomes. For example, would increasing the share of population with diets that align with federal dietary guidance reduce fossil fuel usage in the US food system? Would imposing a CO₂ tax improve diet quality? To address these issues, ERS integrated the material flows accounting framework adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission into the existing food system accounting structure of the ERS Food Dollar accounts. To model diet outcomes, ERS will then use a mathematical optimization model that is similar to the one developed as part of the USDA's Thrifty Food Plan.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: Panel Review Individual Reviewers

Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 04/06/16 End: 07/28/16 Completed: 07/28/16

Number of Reviewers: 3 or fewer 4 to 10 More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: Agency Designated Outside Organization

Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? Yes No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? Yes No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? Yes No

