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Life Satisfaction and Air Quality in Europe

by Susana Ferreira, Alpaslan Akay, Finbarr Brereton, Juncal Cuñado, Peter Martinsson, Mirko Moro (July 2012)

forthcoming in: Ecological Economics

Abstract:

Concerns for environmental quality and its impact on people's welfare are fundamental arguments for the adoption of environmental legislation in most countries. In this paper, we analyse the relationship between air quality and subjective well-being in Europe. We use a unique dataset that merges three waves of the European Social Survey with a new dataset on environmental quality including SO₂ concentrations and climate in Europe at the regional level. We find a robust negative impact of SO₂ concentrations on self-reported life satisfaction.

Text: See [Discussion Paper No. 6732](#)



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