

## Revisiting the environmental rewards of economic freedom

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### Abstract

Previous research has detailed the positive link between economic freedom and environmental and public health outcomes. However, advances in the interim in our knowledge of how economic freedom affects various economic outcomes, as well as in the quantification of various economic institutions, calls for a re-examination of the results. Compiling a new panel data set that picks up where the prior analysis left off, we utilize FE-GLS methods to find that economic freedom writ large lead to a cleaner and healthier environment. Additionally, economic freedom as manifested in contracting institutions also correlates with positive health and environmental outcomes, even in the presence of differing control sets.

*Keywords:* contracting institutions, economic freedom, environmental improvement, public health outcomes

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### 1. Introduction

How does economic freedom impact environmental and public health outcomes? Fifteen years ago, we (Coursey and Hartwell, 2000) examined this relationship for 130 countries from 1960-92 and found that, by nearly every environmental and public health indicator, greater economic freedom led to better outcomes. For most metrics, we could discern an environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC), with the strongest correlations between freedom and environmental improvement found for access to sanitation, metal intensity, electrical cleanliness, and life expectancy. Indeed,

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the only real aberration was in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (following Yandle *et al.*, 2000, theory of differential impact of local versus dispersed pollutants), which seemed to grow linearly with economic freedom.

In the intervening years since this analysis, the economics discipline has refined its understanding of the interactions between economic freedom and economic outcomes (including *inter alia* de Haan and Sturm, 2000, McMullen *et al.*, 2008, and Williamson and Mathers, 2011). In particular, the examination of institutions has made important strides, including in the quantification of various economic institutions (Bashir and Xu, 2014), enabling us to understand better the channels in which economic freedom can impact environmental, as well as economic, outcomes.

However, economic freedom itself has also taken a large step back from the heady days of 2000. The changes have been especially pronounced in the environmental realm. Calls for massively increased regulations to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have gone hand-in-hand with a general expansion of developed-country environmental regulations; for example, the US Environmental Protection Agency now employs over 17,000 people and administers regulations spread over 32 printed volumes. Moreover, the shift towards “sustainable development” in policymaking has also created an inherent tension with the idea of economic freedom (Falkner, 2007), prioritizing environmental outcomes at the expense of growth. Empirical analyses from Cole *et al.* (2005) and Halkos and Paizanos (2013) have lent credibility to the idea that greater regulation and greater government spending is necessary for controlling pollutants.

The purpose of this note is thus to update the work done in the earlier research to see if the earlier relationships regarding freedom and environmental and health improvements still hold through the 1990s and 2000s. Drawing on the advances in the literature on freedom and especially on institutions, including more robust controls and an attempt to control for endogeneity, we find that the correlation between economic freedom and better environmental and public health outcomes remains strong. We conclude that the way forward for environmental policymaking should concentrate on improving property rights and limiting the power of the state, rather than expanding it.

## 2. Methods

The underlying hypothesis for this work is that economic freedom would lead to better environmental outcomes through two separate channels. First, more economically open societies should be able to harness the superior abilities of the market in disseminating and coordinating information relating to the relative scarcity of resources, thus alleviating the issues of imperfect information that are associated with environmental usage. Secondly, we believe that freer countries will be characterized by more competition, which in turn will lead to greater innovation among industries in order to conserve scarce resources. Open economies can realistically be assumed to see perhaps higher levels of materials usage in opening stages of development, tapering off as technological innovation takes over from materials accumulation (following the EKC hypothesis, see Grossman and Kruger, 1993, and more recent work from Dasgupta *et al.*, 2002, and Carson, 2010).

In order to extend our earlier analysis, for this paper we model environmental outcomes as a function of economic freedom, macroeconomic variables, and time (to capture microeconomic and technological advances not captured in the freedom or macroeconomic variables). The original model as it appeared in Coursey and Hartwell (2000) was shown as:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha MACRO_{it} + \beta FREEDOM_{it} + TIME_i + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

where Y was the specific environmental and public health outcome in question, MACRO referred to the matrix of macroeconomic controls, FREEDOM was captured using Freedom House's civil liberty index, and TIME was a simple time dummy to capture trend and technological effects.

For this exercise, the basic structure shown in Equation 1 has been expanded to encompass several other variables, as well as different dimensions of economic freedom:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha MACRO_{it-1} + \gamma STRUCTURE_{it-1} + \beta FREEDOM_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (2)$$

$$Y_{it} = \alpha MACRO_{it-1} + \gamma STRUCTURE_{it-1} + \beta INSTITUTIONS_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (3)$$

The panoply of environmental and public health outcomes that were used in the earlier paper as the Y variable remain, with minor exceptions, the same for the analysis here (Table 1). In many instances, we choose to use "materials use intensity" (Bernardini and Galli, 1993; Jalas, 2002) rather than levels of emissions, to capture environmental efficiency rather than gross output; intensity is defined here (as originally in Malenbaum, 1978, and more recently in West *et. al.*, 2014) as the "apparent consumption" of a particular good (production plus imports less exports) per unit of GDP.

MACRO, as used in our original paper, focused on only a few macroeconomic and demographic determinants of pollution in the style of growth regressions in vogue at the time (building on Barro, 1991, and continuing through Levine and Renelt, 1992, and Fischer, 1993, among many others). The three most prominent controls were: log of per capita GDP, with higher levels of income tending to be associated with lower levels of pollution (Selden and Song, 1994); secondary school enrollment, as a more-educated populace would more likely demand higher environmental outcomes (Martins *et. al.*, 2004); and population density, which we used as a proxy for urbanization and geographical dispersion that could either increase the impact of human activities in a smaller area and increase pollution, or perhaps create economies of scale in pollution abatement (making pollution easier to clean).

Borrowing from recent advances in the determinants of environmental quality (see especially Fuchs, 2003, and Gassebner, Lamlay and Sturm, 2010), we are extending these variables in this brief re-examination to include various attributes of the structure of the economy. Specifically, we include value-added to GDP from agriculture (on the basis that water pollution might be increased in the presence of higher-intensity agriculture); value-added to GDP from manufacturing (similarly, air emissions should increase with higher levels of heavy industry); and trade intensity (or openness, defined as total exports + imports over GDP).

The biggest change here, however, regards the core of our thesis, and that is the manner in which we measure economic freedom. In particular, our original work utilized Freedom House's civil liberty index, which ranks rule of law, human rights, and personal autonomy and economic rights on a scale of 1 to 7 (with higher values corresponding to more freedom). While this index was useful in 2000 to show the effects of various extreme measures of freedom or repression over the time period in question, the scale also brought together countries that had very different levels of environmental regulation under the same heading. In this note, we will try to take a more nuanced view of freedom than was available at the time of our first publication. In addition

to the Freedom House Index, we utilize the Fraser Economic Freedom of the World Index (Gwartney *et al.*, 2014) and the Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom, both of which have much better coverage over the period 1990-2011.

But perhaps it is not the larger idea of economic freedom that matters for these outcomes, but a separate facet of the institutional framework of a country that contributes to overall economic freedom; after all, the measures shown above are a combination of political and institutional outcomes that may have differing impacts on different environment or health variables. Taking this into account, and building off of the substantial advances in the quantitative institutional economics literature over the past decade (Voigt, 2013; Shirley, 2013), we include specific facets of economic freedom.

The first of these is freedom to contract, or property rights taken more broadly. In terms of its expected relationship with environmental outcomes, a healthy respect for property rights should alleviate the "tragedy of the commons" (Hardin, 1968; Ostrom, 1990) and lead to better environmental results. To capture property rights, we utilize an objective indicator known as "contract-intensive money." Taken from Clague *et al.* (1997) and as used in Hartwell (2013), contract-intensive money is defined as:

$$\frac{(M2-C)}{M2} \quad (4)$$

where M2 is a broad definition of money supply and C is the amount of currency held outside of formal financial institutions. The ratio described by equation 2 should translate into a definition of property rights, as countries with higher levels of property rights would see higher proportions of currency held in formal institutions instead of in cash, under mattresses, or elsewhere.

A second measure of the institutional framework that will be included is political freedom, captured here by the Polity IV executive constraints indicator (with higher values meaning more constraints on a country's executive). Theoretically, political freedom should translate into the development of better quality institutions (Weingast, 1995; Levinson, 2010), and these institutions can translate "constantly evolving environmental preferences" into action "more quickly in an open regime" (Coursey and Hartwell, 2000:4). Previous empirical work from Congleton (1992), Barrett and Graddy (2000) and Lamla (2009) have confirmed that political indicators all have a direct influence on pollution levels, and we believe that their indirect influence on the development of other institutions in an economy will also impact environmental efficiency.

The exigencies of our dataset and the interactions expected between freedom, macroeconomic variables, and environmental/health outcomes also call for a sophisticated econometric approach. Our earlier work utilized both a pooled OLS and a fixed-effects specification, but advances in econometrics and the difficulties in panel data argue for a reappraisal of this approach. For this examination, we utilize a panel GLS estimator using country-level dummy variables to control for all unobserved time-invariant differences among the countries in our data (an approach commonly known as FGLSDV, or feasible GLS with dummy variables, as in Auberger, 2005; Yakovlev (2007); Acs *et al.* (2012) and Peša and Festic, 2014). This approach will correct for heteroskedasticity with robust standard errors and common AR(1) effects (determined via data

diagnostics to be problematic),<sup>1</sup> as well as attempt to eliminate causality issues through lagged explanatory variables (as shown in equations 2 and 3);

As a check on these results, and given the possibility of endogeneity bias in the results that cannot be corrected via use of lags, we utilize an alternate set of factor endowments (as in Cole and Elliott 2003) in place of macroeconomic variables. Such an approach eliminates the need for dynamic panel estimation, given the exogeneity of such endowments in our models.

### 3. Data

The dataset in this paper covers 194 countries from 1990-2011, although not every dependent variable is available for every year/country pair. Table 1 shows the full list of dependent variables and their sources; in regards to the dependent variables, the economic freedom indicators are taken from their namesake institutions, while contract-intensive money was calculated from data provided by the IMF's International Financial Statistics. All macroeconomic variables and the factor endowment of land/population come from the World Bank's World Development Indicators, while the capital/labor endowment is derived from the Penn World Tables.

Table 1. Environmental and public health outcomes: the Y variables

Indicator	Definition	Source
Access to Safe Water	% of the population with reasonable access to an adequate amount of water from an improved source (household connection or protected well or spring)	WDI
Access to Sanitation	% of the population with at least adequate access to disposal facilities that can effectively prevent contact with human waste	WDI
"Cleanliness"	Total CO2 emissions in kilo tons divided by total electric output, in kilowatts	Author's calculations from Datamonitor and WDI data
Coal Intensity	Coal Consumption + Imports - Exports /GDP (Constant 2000 US\$)	Author's calculations from Datamonitor and WDI data
Electrical Intensity	Electrical Power Consumption + Imports - Exports /GDP (Constant 2000 US\$)	Author's calculations from Datamonitor and WDI data
Gas Intensity	Natural gas consumption + Imports - Exports/ GDP (Constant 2000 US\$)	Author's calculations from Datamonitor and WDI data

### 4. Results

Tables 2 and 3a and b show the results of the GLS econometric estimation of the relationship between economic freedom and economic institutions on the one hand and public health (Table 2) and environmental outcomes (Tables 3a and b) on the other. The first issue we can see is the wide variation in coverage of the different institutional/freedom indicators: in particular, the Fraser series has about half the coverage of the Heritage Foundation, and a third of the contract-

<sup>1</sup> Other routine diagnostics regarding stationarity were also carried out via a Phillips-Peron test, robust to serial correlation and including a trend. All variables were found to be stationary.

intensive money and Freedom House indices. This reality causes some issues with the estimations as we will see below.

Leaving this statistical issue aside, the picture that is painted by the results is a strong one, with vivid green colors. Table 2 shows that by nearly every metric of freedom or institutional quality (with the puzzling exception of the Fraser Institute), more freedom leads to better access to clean water. On the other hand, access to sanitation is largely driven by other metrics, although, somewhat oddly, increases in property rights and in the Fraser measure of freedom are negatively and significantly correlated with access to sanitation. We surmise that either the effects captured by the various indicators are very different (in that the Fraser and property rights indicators reflect facets of freedom not amenable to increased sanitation access), or, simply, that greater property rights means better but more exclusive latrines.

The results are less ambiguous when it comes to our environmental intensity indicators (Tables 3a and b), where cleanliness and intensity of consumption in coal and gas improves as freedom and contracting and rule of law institutions improve.<sup>2</sup> Electricity intensity seems to show deterioration no matter which metric is utilized, apart from civil liberties, which could be capturing a more holistic view of a country's institutional system than the other variables of freedom.<sup>3</sup> A possible reason for this result is that countries can have extensive economic freedom in other spheres, but still have highly regulated state monopolies in electric generation and supply.

The behavior of freedom and electrical intensity raises a further interesting question: given that these freedom indices are aggregations of many different dimensions of economic freedom (Rode and Coll, 2012), could there be a specific component that is primarily driving environmental improvement? To test this, we have re-run the environmental regressions with the five components of the Fraser Economic Freedom of the World Index (Tables 4a and 4b). As theory would predict, property rights appear to contribute to the biggest improvement in environmental cleanliness, while smaller governments result in more efficient electricity, gas, and coal usage. Perhaps surprisingly, freedom to trade results in higher materials use per unit of output across most metrics, although it is possible that this result is attributable to the higher technology embodied in exports. Finally, more labor market and business freedom (embodied in the "regulation" indicator) has a highly significant efficiency effect on gas and coal intensity. As a final check against these results, and to guard against endogeneity of the macroeconomic variables, I select the significant environmental regressions from each Y variable and substitute endowment data instead of macroeconomic variables (Table 5).<sup>4</sup> Table 5 confirms that the electricity specification may not be perfect (although capital to labor ratios do have a significant influence on electrical intensity), but for the other models, the significance of economic freedom for environmental outcomes continues to hold.

## 5. Concluding Remarks

These results show that higher levels of economic freedom continue to be associated with better environmental and public health outcomes. Using more nuanced indicators for freedom and

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<sup>2</sup> Given that these intensity indicators measure the amount of X consumed versus output of GDP, negative signs imply less use of a resource per \$ of output and are thus more desirable.

<sup>3</sup> An alternate measure of political freedom, the Polity IV democracy/autocracy indicator, was used (not reported) and showed similar results as civil liberties.

<sup>4</sup> For sake of space, the public health regressions are not included here.

economic institutions, we can ascertain that freedom does indeed have environmental rewards, although (as in Doucouliago and Ulubasoglu, 2006) the results are sensitive to which measure of “freedom” and which institutional indicator is utilized. The implications of this research continue to point the way towards alternative solutions to increased government involvement in environmental protection, along the lines of Khanna (2001) and in a market-based manner. In fact, smaller governments and increased property rights (coupled with economic growth) appear to be the key factors for environmental improvement.

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Table 2. Public health outcomes as a function of freedom and institutions

	Access to Safe Water				Access to Sanitation					
<i>FREEDOM VARIABLES</i>										
CIVIL	0.004					0.001				
	1.78*					0.47				
Heritage IEF		-0.01					0.005			
		1.39					0.58			
Fraser EFW			-0.06					-0.05		
			7.58**					4.58**		
<i>INSTITUTIONAL VARIABLES</i>										
Contract-intensive Money				0.0004					-0.003	
				2.18*					1.87*	
Executive Constraints					0.01					0.002
					5.15**					0.71
<i>MACRO CONTROLS</i>										
GDP	0.01	0.003	-0.05	-0.005	0.01	0.009	-0.00001	0.09	-0.03	0.01
	1.69*	0.52	7.08**	0.87	1.75*	1.03	0.00	16.65**	3.14**	1.09
Schooling	0.001	0.0006	0.0005	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
	8.36**	7.80**	5.07**	5.97**	9.39**	9.23**	11.68**	10.82**	7.73**	8.34**
Manufacturing	0.02	0.01	0.002	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
	6.79**	4.55**	0.49	4.29**	6.28**	6.33**	5.37**	3.41**	4.77**	5.53**
Agriculture	-0.001	-0.002	-0.007	-0.001	-0.001	-0.002	-0.004	-0.004	-0.002	-0.002
	6.04**	7.26**	17.91**	4.69**	5.96**	6.87**	12.92**	8.35**	5.73**	6.45**
Openness	-0.01	-0.003	-0.01	-0.01	-0.009	0.002	0.003	-0.05	0.009	0.002
	2.56**	0.85	3.09**	2.39*	3.28**	0.56	0.67	8.16**	1.74*	0.44
Trend	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.007	0.005	0.005	0.009	0.007
	24.13**	15.36**	14.11**	20.78**	24.11**	21.80**	12.70**	16.70**	20.27	22.74**
C	4.39	4.52	5.13	4.49	4.37	4.21	4.32	3.78	4.49	4.20
	92.00**	86.44**	88.97**	88.11**	86.38**	64.40**	50.71**	78.69**	58.93**	64.50**
N	1691	1095	511	1425	1580	1651	1081	502	1399	1534
Country effects?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: absolute values of t-stats are under the coefficients, with \* signifying significance at the 10% level and \*\* at the 1% level. All independent variables included at their lags. GLS regressions shown here corrected for heteroskedasticity and AR(1) serial correlation

Table 3a. Environmental outcomes as a function of freedom and institutions

	"Cleanliness"				Coal Intensity					
<i>FREEDOM VARIABLES</i>										
CIVIL	-0.02									
	1.95*									
Heritage IEF		-0.02						-0.53		
		0.56						5.18**		
Fraser EFW			-0.14						-1.09	
			2.90**						7.98**	
<i>INSTITUTIONAL VARIABLES</i>										
Contract-intensive Money				-0.001					0.003	
				1.19					1.11	
Executive Constraints					-0.01					-0.04
					0.32					1.11
<i>MACRO CONTROLS</i>										
GDP	-0.48	-0.46	-0.81	-0.51	-0.44	-0.35	0.77	-0.95	-0.60	-0.35
	14.53**	10.94**	26.78**	14.63**	13.74**	5.85**	9.48**	7.50**	8.48**	5.40**
Schooling	-0.0004	-0.002	-0.0001	-0.001	0.0001	0.01	0.007	0.01	0.009	0.01
	1.16	2.25*	0.29	1.49	2.16*	9.47**	5.25**	5.33**	6.12**	8.60**
Manufacturing	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.005	0.04	0.26	0.21	0.25	0.34	0.24
	0.63	2.17*	2.45*	0.24	1.85*	6.44**	3.11**	2.86**	6.11**	5.39**
Agriculture	0.01	0.001	0.01	0.003	0.005	0.009	-0.01	-0.05	0.007	0.01
	4.22**	0.31	5.64**	2.26*	3.78**	3.72**	1.61	6.77**	2.53*	3.71**
Openness	0.05	0.05	-0.01	0.05	0.04	0.06	-0.35	0.23	-0.07	0.02
	2.43*	1.76*	0.32	2.40*	2.17*	1.33	5.59**	3.30**	1.15	0.31
Trend	-0.03	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02	-0.001
	27.53***	22.38**	15.11**	24.26**	27.80**	2.52*	7.39**	3.10**	4.55**	0.37
C	3.04	2.97	5.38	3.29	2.67	-1.73	3.64	6.47	-0.23	-1.64
	9.89**	7.82**	23.60**	10.27**	8.78**	2.96**	4.60**	6.74**	0.37	2.68*
N	1755	1116	522	1486	1595	1192	788	377	999	1151
Country effects?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: absolute values of t-stats are under the coefficients, with \* signifying significance at the 10% level and \*\* at the 1% level. All independent variables included at their lags. GLS with robust SE and AR(1).

Table 3b. Environmental outcomes as a function of freedom and institutions

	Electrical Intensity				Gas Intensity					
<i>FREEDOM VARIABLES</i>										
CIVIL	-0.08									
	3.50**									
Heritage IEF		0.24							-0.48	
		4.42**							5.21**	
Fraser EFW			0.19							-0.16
			1.70*							0.97
<i>INSTITUTIONAL VARIABLES</i>										
Contract-intensive Money				0.002						-0.001
				1.32						0.91
Executive Constraints					0.05					-0.001
					2.53*					0.03
<i>MACRO CONTROLS</i>										
GDP	-0.54	-0.97	-0.57	-0.39	-0.53	-0.40	-0.58	-0.85	-0.63	-0.40
	10.97**	9.98**	4.89**	8.05**	10.84**	5.45**	5.90**	5.35**	7.79**	5.26**
Schooling	0.008	0.002	0.006	0.005	0.01	0.008	0.005	0.003	0.009	0.008
	8.54**	2.27*	3.86**	6.02**	8.51**	7.91**	7.07**	3.31**	7.56**	7.54**
Manufacturing	0.15	0.10	0.35	0.06	0.11	0.36	0.21	0.36	0.33	0.35
	4.70**	2.70**	5.94**	2.33*	5.07**	6.47**	3.49**	3.74**	5.44**	5.90**
Agriculture	-0.005	-0.008	-0.03	0.003	-0.005	0.004	-0.08	-0.05	-0.001	0.005
	2.68**	2.49*	5.70**	1.41	2.25*	1.19	1.80*	6.14**	0.12	1.30
Openness	0.06	0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.07	-0.03	-0.05	-0.67	-0.10	-0.02
	2.46*	0.43	0.36	0.72	3.26**	0.60	0.95	9.16**	1.89*	0.45
Trend	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.03
	15.28**	13.47**	11.17**	18.88**	12.65**	12.83**	8.89**	14.19**	11.86**	10.96**
C	2.71	4.79	3.05	1.84	2.22	-10.06	-5.80	-5.01	-8.31	-10.06
	2.87**	4.92**	2.70**	1.90*	2.35*	15.72**	6.85**	4.11**	11.89**	15.11**
N	1222	797	364	1078	1088	1062	717	341	871	1032
Country effects?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: absolute values of t-stats are under the coefficients, with \* signifying significance at the 10% level and \*\* at the 1% level. All independent variables included at their lags. GLS with robust SE and AR(1).

Table 4a. Environment outcomes as a function of different facets of economic freedom

	Dependent Variables: Environmental Outcomes									
	"Cleanliness"					Coal Intensity				
<i>FRASER INDEX FREEDOM VARIABLES</i>										
Size of Government	0.001					-0.07				
	0.26					7.52**				
Legal System/Property Rights		-0.02					-0.0002			
		5.05**					0.02			
Sound Money			0.009					-0.03		
			2.89**					5.46**		
Freedom to Trade				-0.006					0.06	
				1.59					5.20**	
Regulation					0.01					-0.06
					2.83**					3.80**
<i>MACRO CONTROLS</i>										
GDP	-0.73	-0.75	-0.73	-0.72	-0.75	-0.53	-0.63	-0.67	-0.66	-0.64
	25.86**	28.75**	22.33**	25.10**	29.31**	6.49**	9.42**	11.14**	8.82**	10.12**
Schooling	-0.0003	-0.00004	-0.00004	-0.0003	-0.002	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	0.87	0.11	1.13	0.76	0.57	9.86**	10.16**	9.44**	8.53**	8.24**
Manufacturing	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.35	0.40
	1.87*	2.48*	1.65*	2.03*	2.29*	5.23**	5.22**	5.01**	4.92**	5.13**
Agriculture	0.005	0.004	0.01	0.005	0.005	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01
	4.09**	3.97**	4.61**	3.62**	5.39**	2.25*	2.45*	6.06**	1.81*	4.81**
Openness	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	0.21	0.27	0.29	0.26	0.27
	1.62	1.25	1.76*	1.64	2.00*	3.74**	4.68**	5.31**	4.47**	4.43**
Trend	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	0.002	-0.0003	0.0005	0.001	0.003
	16.71**	17.31**	16.84**	16.90**	17.20**	0.54	0.11	0.16	0.24	0.86
C	4.83	4.97	4.60	4.73	4.73	0.56	0.62	1.53	0.58	1.15
	22.68**	24.37**	17.60**	21.58**	23.96**	0.79	1.07	2.99**	0.92	2.21*
N	948	964	946	945	973	686	696	686	686	698
Country effects?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: absolute values of t-stats are under the coefficients, with \* signifying significance at the 10% level and \*\* at the 1% level. All independent variables included at their lags. GLS with robust SE and AR(1).

Table 4b. Environment outcomes as a function of different facets of economic freedom

	Dependent Variables: Environmental Outcomes									
	Electrical Intensity					Gas Intensity				
<i>FRASER INDEX FREEDOM VARIABLES</i>										
Size of Government	-0.04					-0.04				
	5.94**					3.58**				
Legal System/Property Rights		-0.02					0.02			
		2.57**					2.17*			
Sound Money			0.01					-0.04		
			1.53					4.96**		
Freedom to Trade				0.04					0.02	
				4.32**					2.97**	
Regulation					-0.02					-0.03
					1.44					2.65**
<i>MACRO CONTROLS</i>										
GDP	-0.64	-0.59	-0.50	-0.53	-0.47	-0.69	-0.65	-0.57	-0.67	-0.58
	7.24**	7.58**	5.32**	6.02**	5.63**	7.15**	6.96**	6.04**	7.09**	6.17**
Schooling	0.008	0.009	0.007	0.006	0.007	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.005
	5.02**	5.97**	4.26**	3.91**	4.79**	4.98**	6.01**	6.31**	5.02**	4.89**
Manufacturing	0.38	0.42	0.36	0.32	0.34	0.43	0.46	0.39	0.40	0.45
	6.76**	7.63**	6.06**	6.15**	6.15**	6.18**	6.91**	5.48**	5.79**	6.46**
Agriculture	-0.04	-0.05	-0.03	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01
	10.62**	19.30**	5.39**	5.82**	5.91**	4.61**	3.47**	4.57**	3.12**	2.50*
Openness	0.15	0.25	0.05	0.03	0.05	-0.22	-0.24	-0.20	-0.26	-0.22
	2.65**	5.02**	0.73	0.53	0.78	3.72**	4.01**	3.23**	4.38**	3.66**
Trend	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04
	9.36**	7.12**	8.60**	7.52**	8.74**	12.72**	14.10**	11.72**	13.61**	13.22**
C	3.86	3.43	2.17	2.46	2.18	-7.00	-8.03	-7.72	-7.73	-8.25
	4.00**	3.80**	2.09*	2.50*	2.25*	8.29**	9.85**	9.31**	9.40**	10.00**
N	621	633	619	618	638	645	656	645	645	661
Country effects?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: absolute values of t-stats are under the coefficients, with \* signifying significance at the 10% level and \*\* at the 1% level. All independent variables included at their lags. GLS with robust SE and AR(1).

Table 5. Freedom and environmental outcomes, alternate controls

	"Cleanliness"		Coal Intensity		Electrical Intensity			Gas Intensity	
<i>FREEDOM VARIABLES</i>									
CIVIL	-0.02				0.008				
	2.31*				0.39				
Heritage IEF			-0.18			0.02		-0.37	
			2.45*			0.35		4.18**	
Fraser EFW	-0.09		-0.94		-0.19				
	1.94*		7.80**		2.05*				
<i>INSTITUTIONAL VARIABLES</i>									
Executive Constraints								0.01	
								0.85	
<i>CONTROLS</i>									
GDP	-0.44	-0.85	-0.58	-0.08	-0.28	-0.41	-0.06	-0.25	-0.29
	15.75**	20.28**	7.70**	0.98	7.27**	7.33**	0.75	6.30**	3.06**
Land/Population	-1.15	-2.76	3.51	1.83	-0.93	0.44	1.30	-0.98	2.24
	3.04**	5.50**	2.51*	1.78*	2.34*	0.94	1.61	2.43*	1.18
Capital/Labor	-0.0001	0.0005	-0.0002	-0.0005	-0.0005	-0.0003	-0.0002	-0.0005	-0.0004
	0.34	1.46	0.19	6.76**	12.60**	6.32**	4.48**	13.35**	0.44
Trend	-0.03	-0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.03
	30.08***	17.14**	5.05**	8.20**	32.71**	27.43**	20.02**	30.17**	6.92**
C	2.90	5.85	2.13	0.23	0.65	1.72	-0.31	0.43	-7.67
	12.65**	18.22**	3.54**	0.32	0.83	2.82**	0.41	0.58	10.83**
N	2690	731	1124	525	1970	1214	533	1755	969
Country effects?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: absolute values of t-stats are under the coefficients, with \* signifying significance at the 10% level and \*\* at the 1% level. All independent variables included at their lags. GLS with robust SE and AR(1).