

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES

National programs and policies can ultimately have a profound impact on the economic growth of industries and regions, by shifting the distribution of relative incentives, costs and benefits. EDR Group has a longstanding practice evaluating these effects for government and private clients.

The Consequences of Underinvesting in Infrastructure. For the American Society of Civil Engineers, EDR Group led a series of studies evaluating the economic consequences of continued underinvestment in our nation's infrastructure, and the future economic gains that could if there was greater investment in community infrastructure. There were separate studies examining the consequences of inadequate investment in surface transportation systems, water and wastewater treatment, electricity and airports, marine ports and inland waterways.

Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), a consortium of eight states, hired EDR Group to assess the economic consequences of adopting a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This initiative included stringent carbon dioxide regulations, auctions of emissions rights, and reallocation of auction revenues towards energy-efficiency and renewable energy investments. The initiative was subsequently adopted by the states.

Federal Economic Stimulus. For the US Dept. of Energy, EDR Group evaluated the job generation impacts of federal economic stimulus funds via the State Energy Program, which funds energy-efficiency and renewable capacity outcomes, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. EDR Group also coauthored a study of job generation impacts of the US Dept. of Transportation's state grants.

US Treasury Business Programs. For the US Treasury, EDR Group evaluated business benefits of the New Markets Tax Credit and Financial Assistance programs for small business investment. The study examined the completeness and usefulness of departmental databases and records regarding applications, implementation and monitoring of final outcomes.

US Travel: the Role of Airport Investments. For the US Travel Association, EDR Group developed measures of the economic impact of aviation infrastructure improvements enabled by passenger fees. The study examined impacts of these projects on both travel destinations and the overall U.S. economy. It encompassed new runways, terminal expansion, public transit connections and the implementation of air traffic control technologies.

Transportation Prioritization and Selection. The US Transportation Research Board contracted with EDR Group to develop a series of national reports on methods used by public agencies to select transportation projects. For airports, EDR Group reviewed benefit/cost methods used for airport capital project funding, and also ways to update the value of time delays. For highways and multimodal transportation projects, EDR Group developed a guidebook on how social and economic benefits should be assessed, as well as a guide to measuring productivity benefits. For public transportation, EDR Group conducted a synthesis of best practice regarding measurement of the economic benefits of transit services.