



Clean energy firms' stock prices, technology, oil prices, and carbon prices

Mara Madaleno
University of Aveiro Aveiro

Alfredo Marvão Pereira
The College of William and Mary

College of William and Mary
Department of Economics
Working Paper Number 162

First Version: June 2015

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
WORKING PAPER # 162
June 2015

Clean energy firms' stock prices, technology, oil prices, and carbon price

Abstract: Production costs of alternative energies are still high, but increased demand for oil, future oil supply shortage concerns and climate change concerns, have led to the fast development of renewable energy firms. The sector accomplished has accomplished remarkable progress and attracted attention to clean energy, both at the industry level and at the academic side. With this work we attempt to determine whether or not the placement of a price on carbon emissions encourages investments in clean energy firms. Unlike previous literature we focus on the German case and we address the issue at the individual company level. We were able to verify this link but only for the case of companies whose weight over the amount of total energy produced is relevant, which is the case of solar in Germany.

Keywords: Clean Energy; Firm Stock Prices; Oil Prices; Carbon Prices; Technology.

Mara Madaleno
Department of Economics, Management and Industrial Engineering, , DEGEI, GOVCOPP,
University of Aveiro Aveiro, Portugal,
maramadaleno@ua.pt

Alfredo Marvão Pereira
Department of Economics,
The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, USA
PO Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187
ampere@wm.edu

Clean energy firms' stock prices, technology, oil prices, and carbon prices

Mara Madaleno

Department of Economics, Management and Industrial Engineering, DEGEI, GOVCOPP, University of Aveiro
Aveiro, Portugal
maramadaleno@ua.pt

Alfredo Marvão Pereira

Department of Economics
The College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia, United States
ampere@wm.edu

Abstract—Production costs of alternative energies are still high, but increased demand for oil, future oil supply shortage concerns and climate change concerns, have led to the fast development of renewable energy firms. The sector accomplished has accomplished remarkable progress and attracted attention to clean energy, both at the industry level and at the academic side. With this work we attempt to determine whether or not the placement of a price on carbon emissions encourages investments in clean energy firms. Unlike previous literature we focus on the German case and we address the issue at the individual company level. We were able to verify this link but only for the case of companies whose weight over the amount of total energy produced is relevant, which is the case of solar in Germany.

Index Terms—Clean Energy; Firm Stock Prices; Oil Prices; Carbon Prices; Technology.

I. INTRODUCTION

Climate change, resource scarcity of fossil fuels, energy security issues, and the development of new technologies have driven the debate, attention and scientific exploration regarding clean energy. The quick increase in demand in emerging economies (mostly China and India) and future oil supply shortages concerns (according to [1], world oil production is estimated to peak between 2016 and 2040) are expected ultimately to lead to higher oil prices in the future. Energy security issues and increased concern over the natural environment are also driving factors behind oil price movements. Moreover, the growing interest on renewable energy may be related to the development of new technologies and environmentally conscious consumers [2].

All of these issues suggest that economies need to protect themselves by substituting away from oil to alternative energy sources. Accordingly, they have also caused a surge in alternate energy investments. Indeed, the renewable energy sector has accomplished remarkable progress at the global level during the last decade. At the global level, it has been estimated that private and public investment in renewable energy climbed from 20 billion US\$ in 2008 up to 150 billion in 2009. Nevertheless, the total investment in renewables is

just a very modest 0.26 percent of the global GDP. There is, therefore, huge room for expansion of the clean energy sectors.

The economics literature has followed these developments. In [3], the authors use a five-variable vector autoregressive model (VAR) using weekly data for stock prices of clean energy firms, technology stock prices, oil prices, carbon prices, and the interest rate. It argues that global climate change drive the growth of alternative energy sources (less carbon intensive), inducing a positive relationship between the price of carbon emission permits and the stock prices of alternative energy sources. In [4] a Markov-Switching VAR is used relating oil prices, clean energy, technology stock prices and interest rates. It finds a positive relationship between oil prices and clean energy prices after accounting for structural changes. It also argues in favor of the existence of a similarity in terms of market responses to both clean energy stock prices and technology stock prices. In turn, [5] document the return and volatility spillover effects between the stock prices of Chinese new energy and fossil fuel companies using the asymmetric BEKK model and daily data between 30 August 2006 and 11 September 2012. Their empirical results show that new energy and fossil fuel stocks are competing assets; that positive news about new energy stocks could affect the attractiveness of fossil fuel stocks and that new energy stock investment is more speculative and riskier than fossil fuel stock investment. In [6] a VAR is employed using daily data from 3 January 2001 until 30 May 2007 to study the relationship between clean energy stock prices and oil prices. The authors find that there is little impact of oil prices but a significant impact from technology stock prices on stock prices of alternative energy companies. In [7] the contribution to this empirical analysis is pursued at the company level considering a sample of 560 US companies divided into 14 sectors. Using a GARCH model, it shows that different economic sectors are affected in a different way by changes in oil prices. The transport and energy sectors are positively impacted by oil price increases while the other sectors are negatively impacted.

With this empirical evidence in mind, our main goal in this note is to explore how oil prices, carbon prices, technology stocks and individual stock returns are related to each other. The main goals of this work are: first, to explore at the firm level the links between clean energy stock prices, oil prices, carbon prices, and technology stock prices (as in [3], but at the company level and considering the fact that from 2014 onwards oil prices faced a sharp drop); second, to account for the relationships among the different variables at the individual firm level, while endogenously controlling for structural changes in the market such as the financial crisis, big oil price increases/decreases, and changes in the carbon allowances markets (in the spirit of [4]); third, to see if at the individual stock company data the result of a significant relationship between carbon prices and the stock prices of the firms continues to fail to be identified (as in [3]); fourth, to understand how sensitive the financial performance of alternative individual energy companies are to changes in oil prices, technology stock prices and carbon prices (in the spirit of [6]).

Policymakers, with these results, would be able to judge which type of policies leverage significantly new energy stock investments and the extent to which the relevant financing channel, for energy development; the energy related stock market is able to turn easier the economy transition to a green market. Fossil fuel companies should be aware of the downside risks for fossil fuel stock prices in the context of current energy policy. Opposite and favorable fossil fuel policies (mainly the upward adjustment of product oil prices) are not expected to stimulate new energy stock investments in some cases. As such, different energy policy combinations could have different effects on the stability of energy stock investments and a higher effort should be placed to guarantee new energy development.

II. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

A. Data

In this work, we use weekly data from the German stock market. We select to work with the German market because renewables contributing 23.9 per cent of gross electricity production in Germany in 2013. In 2012 Germany had one third of the world's solar panels, and at one point these panels generated a lot of Germany's electricity, thus justifying the inclusion of more solar energy companies into our sample. In fact, in [8] we can read "Comparing countries' share of renewable energy in their energy supply, the map shows that European countries rank best in using low carbon resources for their energy production. Germany's "energy transition" could prove to be a role model for other countries to reduce their fossil fuel consumption." (p. 14). In this report USA and China are marked as "poor" performers, despite their massive investment in renewable energy in recent years. This further justifies changing the market analysis focus to the German case away from focusing on these countries, as in the previous literature.

We collected daily data for the thirty one green companies listed in the German market. Due to space limitations we have selected ten of these to report here. These ten companies were chosen as representative of the different types of renewable

energy produced. Their names, activity, source, and start date are described in Table 1.

Table 1: Data Set

Company	Var. Name	Start date	Activity	Weekly observ.	Source
BIOGAS WÖRD	r4	12/14/2006	Constructs biogas plants	309	deutsche-boerse.com
CROPENERGIES	r10	10/2/2006	Produces biethanol	319	deutsche-boerse.com
HELIOCENTRIS EN.SLTN.	r12	6/26/2006	Fuel cell system platforms	333	deutsche-boerse.com
NORDEX	r15	8/5/2005	Wind energy	379	deutsche-boerse.com
PETROTEC	r17	11/6/2006	Biodiesel producers from waste	314	deutsche-boerse.com
S&O AGRAR	r20	8/5/2005	biogas facilities	379	deutsche-boerse.com
SOLON	r27	8/5/2005	Solar energy production	379	deutsche-boerse.com
SUNLINE	r29	10/20/2005	Solar energy production	369	deutsche-boerse.com
SUNWAYS	r30	8/5/2005	Solar energy supply	379	deutsche-boerse.com
VERBIO VER.BIOENERGIE	r31	10/16/2006	Biodiesel , bioethanol producers	317	deutsche-boerse.com
All renewable energies index dax	rdax	3/31/2008		242	deutsche-boerse.com
BD EU-MARK 3M DEPOSIT (FT/TR) - MIDDLE RATE	rtr	8/4/2005		379	www.bundesbank.de
EEX-EU CO2 EMISSIONS E/EUA - spot market	reexo2	8/5/2005		379	www.eex.com
Germany-DS Technology price index (TecDax)	rtgr	8/5/2005		379	deutsche-boerse.com
Europe Brent Spot Price FOB (Dollars per Barrel)	reubt	8/5/2005		379	www.eia.gov

For each of the remaining variables we considered alternative possibilities. With respect to carbon prices, we have data from the EEX-EU CO2 emissions E/EUA, the Settlement price CO2, Reuters CER 1-pos E/mt and the CO2, Reuters CER 2-pos E/mt EUR. With respect to technology indices we have daily data from the Germany-DS technology price index and the PSE adjustment close price. Finally, oil prices series were collected with respect to: Cushing, OK WTI Spot Price FOB (dollars per barrel) and Europe Brent Spot Price FOB (dollars per barrel).

All daily series were transformed into weekly observations by using the value of every Wednesday in the spirit of [3]. The data period goes from: 05-08-2005 until 28-11-2012 (changing with respect to start date depending on the series; see again Table 1). Furthermore, all price series have been transformed into log-levels.

B. Methodology

The methodology used is a vector autoregressive analysis. We consider weekly five-variable VARs to study the relationship among the different variables for each of the 10 clean energy companies stock prices as well as for the all renewable energies index DAX for a total of 11 VAR models. The remaining variables are the same in all cases: the stock index of technology companies in Germany, oil prices, carbon prices and the interest rate.

We start by performing descriptive statistics and correlation matrices of the data used. Next we study unit root properties of the data and to the optimal number of lags to be used in the estimations. Afterwards we present the results obtained through VAR estimations, their impulse response functions and variance decompositions.

When the issue of orthogonalization was pertinent, we followed the assumptions in [3]. The oil price was treated as the most exogenous variable given that from the set it is the most independent one, once it mainly depends over OPEC's decisions regarding petroleum supply, although we may think of other factors able to affect it. After we have considered the carbon price and companies/index returns. Climate change

concerns should induce the use of cleaner energies, while higher oil prices redirects users to other sources not always less pollutant, which should impact CO2 allowances prices in the market. Later these markets movements will be reflected in individual alternate company's returns. Furthermore, the technology index and the interest rate representative are left for last because we assume that only if alternate energy investments are made it is justified the jump over the technology index and this positive impact will also exert influence over the interest rate.

Considering all of the alternative data series for technology, carbon price, oil price, and interest rates as presented above, we find that our empirical results were not particularly sensitive to the specific series we select to work with for each variable. As such, we focus on the results pertaining to the series identified in Table 1.

III. EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Granger Causality

In Table 2, we show the Granger causality tests. Granger causality tests indicate that the alternate DAX index is explained by oil returns and technology stock prices. In addition, r10 is Granger caused by carbon allowance prices and r12, r29 and r30 by high technology returns. So we cannot establish a behavioral pattern with respect to company's activity. Moreover, while oil returns Granger-causes high technology returns, the reverse impact only occurs for the renewables index rDAX and in r20 and r29 companies.

In all models we find that interest rates and the stock prices of clean energy companies are not related from a Granger causality perspective, contradicting [3] and [5], except for r15 and r17. There are only a few cases where carbon allowances Granger-cause oil prices, whereas oil prices help explain carbon allowances in all situations. In some situations, similar to [3], with the exception of r10, r15, r17, r27, r31, we see that carbon prices do not Grange-cause the stock prices of clean energy firms and vice-versa. This result may be due to the spot price series used for carbon allowances and not future prices. But it may also be due to the fact that carbon prices are too low to internalize the carbon externalities. In sum, from a Granger causality perspective, oil prices are not the only variable able to explain the stock price of alternative energy companies.

Also, and unlike the literature, when we perform this type of analysis with respect to individual clean energy firms, the interest rate does not Granger-cause the stock price of high technology firms or even in the opposite direction, and these results prevail independently of the company considered. This result may be justified by the low interest rates in recent years of our analysis and the low investment levels due to the financial crisis in Europe.

Table 2: Granger Causality Tests

Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.	Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.	Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.	Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.				
REUBT	REEXCO2	5.339	0.255	REUBT	REEXCO2	10.151	0.008	REUBT	REEXCO2	10.020	0.008	REUBT	REEXCO2	8.941	0.063				
RDAX	10.223	0.037	RA	7.325	0.120	R10	4.777	0.311	R12	6.738	0.150	R15	3.873	0.423	R17	0.482	0.975		
RTGR	17.384	0.002	RTGR	6.818	0.145	RTGR	7.560	0.109	RTGR	6.144	0.189	RTGR	5.344	0.254	RTGR	8.809	0.066		
RIR	1.043	0.939	RIR	0.399	0.983	RIR	0.379	0.983	RIR	0.531	0.970	RIR	4.464	0.347	RIR	0.420	0.981		
All	34.274	0.005	All	25.905	0.005	All	22.286	0.134	All	23.714	0.096	All	24.583	0.078	All	17.465	0.356		
REEXCO2	REUBT	35.721	0.000	REEXCO2	REUBT	35.989	0.000	REEXCO2	REUBT	36.349	0.000	REEXCO2	REUBT	31.851	0.000	REEXCO2	REUBT	42.350	0.000
RDAX	8.439	0.077	RA	1.894	0.755	R10	7.647	0.105	R12	9.451	0.051	R15	9.507	0.050	R17	1.264	0.867		
RTGR	1.011	0.938	RTGR	1.939	0.747	RTGR	1.717	0.788	RTGR	1.016	0.907	RTGR	4.553	0.336	RTGR	2.752	0.600		
RIR	1.750	0.702	RIR	1.988	0.738	RIR	2.021	0.752	RIR	2.652	0.618	RIR	0.973	0.914	RIR	2.297	0.681		
All	51.134	0.000	All	45.859	0.000	All	53.213	0.000	All	56.601	0.000	All	55.887	0.000	All	45.316	0.000		
RDAX	REUBT	13.966	0.007	RA	REUBT	4.006	0.405	R10	REUBT	6.124	0.191	R12	REUBT	4.981	0.289	R15	REUBT	5.351	0.253
RTGR	REUBT	2.317	0.678	RTGR	REUBT	6.137	0.189	RTGR	REUBT	8.692	0.069	RTGR	REUBT	1.680	0.794	RTGR	REUBT	4.312	0.366
RIR	REUBT	24.836	0.000	RIR	REUBT	4.665	0.324	RIR	REUBT	2.264	0.695	RIR	REUBT	10.368	0.035	RIR	REUBT	5.784	0.216
All	REUBT	1.287	0.864	All	REUBT	0.972	0.914	All	REUBT	0.523	0.971	All	REUBT	2.473	0.650	All	REUBT	5.365	0.252
All	REUBT	56.037	0.000	All	REUBT	16.046	0.450	All	REUBT	18.257	0.309	All	REUBT	21.058	0.176	All	REUBT	19.628	0.237
RTGR	REUBT	11.015	0.005	RTGR	REUBT	8.982	0.062	RTGR	REUBT	7.556	0.109	RTGR	REUBT	7.553	0.109	RTGR	REUBT	7.347	0.119
RDAX	REUBT	2.818	0.389	RA	REUBT	7.684	0.104	R10	REUBT	6.664	0.155	R12	REUBT	6.038	0.196	R15	REUBT	10.462	0.033
RIR	REUBT	3.666	0.453	RIR	REUBT	3.062	0.547	RIR	REUBT	3.480	0.483	RIR	REUBT	3.379	0.497	RIR	REUBT	3.010	0.556
All	REUBT	24.541	0.078	All	REUBT	38.411	0.001	All	REUBT	34.194	0.005	All	REUBT	25.333	0.064	All	REUBT	30.999	0.014
RIR	REUBT	1.792	0.774	RIR	REUBT	2.185	0.702	RIR	REUBT	1.920	0.750	RIR	REUBT	1.632	0.803	RIR	REUBT	2.291	0.788
REEXCO2	1.369	0.862	REEXCO2	2.989	0.560	REEXCO2	4.192	0.381	REEXCO2	2.780	0.599	REEXCO2	0.411	0.982	REEXCO2	4.116	0.391		
RDAX	3.900	0.420	RA	2.158	0.707	R10	1.240	0.871	R12	3.842	0.428	R15	8.846	0.065	R17	16.231	0.003		
RTGR	2.061	0.725	RTGR	3.585	0.465	RTGR	1.455	0.835	RTGR	1.591	0.810	RTGR	2.107	0.716	RTGR	1.688	0.793		
All	9.701	0.882	All	9.916	0.871	All	9.227	0.934	All	11.943	0.748	All	19.082	0.265	All	24.476	0.000		

Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.	Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.	Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.	Dep.	Excluded	Chi-sq	Prob.
REUBT	REEXCO2	8.612	0.072	REUBT	REEXCO2	4.316	0.116	REUBT	REEXCO2	9.399	0.052	REUBT	REEXCO2	9.553	0.049
R20	4.869	0.301	R27	2.024	0.364	R29	1.737	0.784	R30	2.247	0.691	R31	3.050	0.549	
RTGR	9.278	0.055	RTGR	3.320	0.191	RTGR	8.894	0.064	RTGR	6.958	0.138	RTGR	9.256	0.055	
RIR	4.034	0.402	RIR	0.995	0.608	RIR	3.907	0.419	RIR	4.217	0.377	RIR	0.395	0.983	
All	25.637	0.059	All	11.878	0.157	All	22.636	0.124	All	22.862	0.118	All	20.435	0.201	
REEXCO2	REUBT	38.571	0.000	REEXCO2	REUBT	23.883	0.000	REEXCO2	REUBT	38.398	0.000	REEXCO2	REUBT	41.104	0.000
R20	0.166	0.997	R27	5.577	0.062	R29	1.022	0.906	R30	6.044	0.196	R31	10.660	0.031	
RTGR	3.243	0.518	RTGR	0.772	0.681	RTGR	2.726	0.605	RTGR	2.788	0.594	RTGR	2.570	0.632	
RIR	0.839	0.933	RIR	0.104	0.949	RIR	0.856	0.931	RIR	0.968	0.915	RIR	2.156	0.707	
All	45.353	0.000	All	31.060	0.000	All	45.698	0.000	All	51.981	0.000	All	56.386	0.000	
R20	REUBT	1.988	0.738	R27	REUBT	4.278	0.118	R29	REUBT	3.172	0.530	R30	REUBT	6.439	0.169
REEXCO2	0.058	1.000	REEXCO2	0.442	0.802	REEXCO2	0.335	0.987	REEXCO2	3.151	0.533	REEXCO2	6.921	0.140	
RTGR	2.614	0.624	RTGR	2.104	0.349	RTGR	11.105	0.025	RTGR	8.783	0.067	RTGR	6.992	0.136	
RIR	2.579	0.631	RIR	0.470	0.791	RIR	0.986	0.912	RIR	1.022	0.906	RIR	5.677	0.225	
All	6.496	0.983	All	7.854	0.448	All	14.423	0.567	All	16.599	0.412	All	19.333	0.252	
RTGR	REUBT	8.697	0.069	RTGR	REUBT	5.970	0.051	RTGR	REUBT	8.653	0.070	RTGR	REUBT	6.135	0.189
REEXCO2	8.111	0.088	REEXCO2	3.426	0.180	REEXCO2	8.255	0.083	REEXCO2	10.246	0.037	REEXCO2	REUBT	7.966	0.093
R20	2.554	0.635	R27	4.808	0.090	R29	4.209	0.379	R30	13.106	0.011	R31	18.112	0.001	
RIR	1.759	0.780	RIR	0.468	0.791	RIR	1.805	0.772	RIR	2.093	0.790	RIR	3.788	0.435	
All	22.646	0.124	All	17.223	0.028	All	24.046	0.089	All	33.793	0.006	All	39.649	0.001	
RIR	REUBT	5.367	0.253	RIR	REUBT	3.653	0.161	RIR	REUBT	5.407	0.248	RIR	REUBT	4.684	0.321
REEXCO2	0.429	0.980	REEXCO2	0.194	0.907	REEXCO2	0.498	0.974	REEXCO2	0.414	0.981	REEXCO2	3.795	0.435	
R20	0.761	0.944	R27	1.822	0.402	R29	4.660	0.324	R30	7.421	0.115	R31	1.988	0.738	
RTGR	3.692	0.449	RTGR	0.621	0.733	RTGR	5.032	0.284	RTGR	4.791	0.316	RTGR	2.955	0.565	
All	10.767	0.824	All	7.701	0.463	All	14.582	0.555	All	17.615	0.347	All	9.952	0.869	

B. Variance Decomposition

In Table 3 we have the results obtained for the variance decomposition considering horizons up to ten weeks. With respect to the all renewables DAX index, the variable which most contributes to the explanation of the variance of the error produced in the prediction of oil is technology, being followed by the index, while it is oil that most explanatory capacity has over carbon allowances followed by the DAX. There is an even higher influence of the technology index in terms of the explanatory capacity of the variance of the error produced in the prediction over the all renewables index, followed by oil, but it is oil that most influences technology. In terms of the interest rate, the impact of the other variables is almost marginal, thus reinforcing the previous results.

investments performed justify more the existent relationship between oil, technology, allowances and returns.

Once again, the impact of the interest rate is not relevant. Still, oil returns are more able to explain the prediction error variance produced in the estimate of carbon allowances, results being mixed with respect to companies when we consider the explanatory capacity of oil and technology over the variance prediction error of company's stock returns.

C. Impulse Response Results

We see that the renewables index impact leads to a positive and significant answer of oil prices, while a technology impact entails a positive and significant answer of oil prices and of the rDAX index. There is still no significant evidence of the interest rate over all the other variables. With respect to the oil return shock we may say it is positive and significant in the short run over the renewables index being negative in the technology case. However, these effects fade out from week six onward.

In the case of individual company's returns, and with respect to the biogas plants constructor r4, we only find evidence of positive and significant shocks of stock returns over oil, of technology over oil and of technology over oil with a two weeks lag. These shocks are significant and negative in the case of stock returns over technology and of oil over high technology returns. For the bioethanol producer r10 oil reacts positively to technology, carbon allowances react positively with a one week lag to oil and that technology reacts negatively and significantly to both oil returns and to the stock return of that company.

When we consider the fuel cell producer r12 we see that our main conclusions remain practically unchanged. That is to say that oil reacts positively and with statistical significance to stock returns and to technology in the very short run, which is to say one week. Still carbon allowances returns only react positively to oil price shocks with a two week lag and it is also evident once more the significant and negative impact of oil and company stock returns over the technology index, whose effects tend to die out after 6 weeks.

We now focus our analysis on the solar energy companies - r27, r29 and r30. These represent most of the total renewables production. Still, we are unable to establish a general patterns. We may argue that oil returns are now positively and with statistical significance impacted by carbon allowances, company stock returns and by technology. As such, the effect of higher oil prices and the relationship discussed previously between oil, carbon allowances and technology is more evident in the solar energy companies.

Moreover we also see that in the case of solar producers' carbon allowances react in a negative and significant way in the short run to the company returns. But although the first impact is negative, at the two week lag, carbon allowances returns suffer positive shocks from both oil returns and individual companies stocks thus showing that according to

the initial predictions when oil price increase in the market, the tendency is for the substitution of conventional energy sources by renewables. This is especially evident for company r27 and r30. As such, higher oil prices contribute to the development of the renewables sector and the fact that carbon emission are priced in the market encourages investments in clean energy firms when we consider the individual company level. This is true only when the weight of these same companies is high enough in the total amount of renewable energy produced.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

With respect to previous results in the literature and our initial predictions, we should expect a positive impact of technology over alternate company's returns. However, our empirical estimates for ten renewable energy firms listed in the German stock market, do not allow us to say that investors see these two assets in the market as parallel in general terms. The initial effect of stock prices of clean energy companies to shocks of prices of oil-producing companies is negative instead of positive. When positive considering a three weeks delay, they are not statistically significant. Finally, when we are considering individual clean energy company's returns, all our results suggest that the interest rate is irrelevant.

For the sake of robustness, we have performed a lot more estimations always using the VAR methodology changing variables ordering and by reducing the number of variables in our VAR. The main results remained unchanged. Yet, there are still some issues that deserve a more deeply understanding and maybe using a panel VAR would help us sharpen our results and would allow us to take a deeper look into the relationship between individual company's stock returns, oil, carbon prices, technology and the interest rate.

REFERENCES

- [1] T. Appenzeller, "The end of cheap oil". National Geographic, 205, 6, 82-109, 2004.
- [2] P. Sadorsky, "Correlations and volatility spillovers between oil prices and the stock prices of clean energy and technology companies". Energy Economics, 34, 1, 248-255, 2012.
- [3] S. Kumar, S. Managi, and A. Matsuda, "Stock prices of clean energy firms, oil and carbon markets: A vector autoregressive analysis". Energy Economics, 34, 1, 215-226, 2012.
- [4] S. Managi, and T. Okimoto, "Does the price of oil interact with clean energy prices in the stock market?" Japan and the World Economy, 27, 1-9, 2013.
- [5] X. Wen, Y. Guo, Y. Wei, and D. Huang, "How do the stock price of new energy and fossil fuel companies correlate? Evidence from China". Energy Economics, 41, 63-75, 2014.
- [6] I. Henriques, and P. Sadorsky, "Oil prices and the stock prices of alternative energy companies". Energy Economics, 30, 998-1010, 2008.
- [7] P.K. Narayan, and S.S. Sharma, "New evidence on oil price and firm returns". Journal of Banking & Finance, 35, 12, 3253-3262, 2011.
- [8] Climate Action Network, The Climate Change Performance Index – Results 2013. Brussels, 2014.