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The Environmental Kuznets Curve and Political Factors

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Oral Presentation O7.2

THE ENVIRONMENTAL KUZNETS CURVE AND POLITICAL FACTORS

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Global climate change has become a prominent issue in today's global community, prompting investigations into the application of the Environmental Kuznets Curve to policy solutions. This paper estimates a global Environmental Kuznets Curve for carbon dioxide emissions and examines the political factors that affect the height and turning point of the curve using cross-country data for each variable. The model attempts to include all attributes and policies of country's government as variables, such as the type of political institution, corruption levels, trade openness, the presence and strictness of environmental regulations, and the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. These variables are investigated by utilizing the existing literature and theory regarding their relationship with the EKC, and their significance is tested through a linear regression to determine their impact on carbon dioxide emissions and the EKC.