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Determinants of eco-innovations by type of environmental impact. The role of regulatory push/pull, technology push and market pull

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The Role of Regulatory Push/Pull,
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Non technical summary

In recent years, several studies have identified determinants of environmental innovations. In most econometric studies, environmental innovations in general were analyzed, some distinguish between end-of-pipe-innovations and cleaner production. Due to the lack of specific data, the existing literature on the driving forces of environmental innovations neglected the analysis of different environmental innovation types such as recycling, low carbon technologies or water management.

The Community Innovation Panel (CIS) 2009 included, for the first time, a special module on eco-innovation differentiating between these specific types of environmental innovations. Analysing the German part of the CIS 2009, the main purpose of our paper is to test whether different types of environmental innovations (according to their environmental impacts) are triggered by different factors.

Within our analysis, we define environmental innovations as product, process, marketing and organizational innovations leading to a noticeable reduction of environmental burdens. Positive environmental effects can be explicit goals or side-effects of innovations.

In the literature, the important role of regulation and cost savings as motivations triggering eco-innovations is accentuated. In fact, a complex set of supply factors such as the endowment and availability of technological resources, company specific factors, organizational innovations, competition conditions or consumer demand have to be included in the analysis. Our empirical analysis shows that the innovation activities with high or medium environmental impacts concentrate on the reduction of energy use, CO₂ emissions and recycling whereas "older" areas such as the reduction of SO₂ or NO_x emissions or water pollution that are not in the focus of present political discussions are under-represented.

Except material and energy saving process innovations, regulations seem to be important for all other environmental impact areas. Especially for typically end-of-pipe oriented areas such as other air emissions (SO₂ or NO_x) the influence of present and future regulations is higher than for other areas. For innovations to reduce energy use cost-savings are the main motivation. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) seem to be especially important tools to trigger these cost-saving cleaner technologies because they help to overcome incomplete information within a firm. Concerning environmental product innovations, our results show that present regulations are only relevant for air, water, soil and noise emissions but not for the other two regarded areas (energy consumption and recycling) but the firms confirm a high importance of expected future regulations for all environmental product innovations.

Das Wichtigste in Kürze

In den letzten Jahren hat die Forschung zur Analyse der Bestimmungsgründe von Innovationen im Umweltbereich an Bedeutung gewonnen. Die diesbezüglichen ökonomischen Untersuchungen konzentrierten sich dabei auf Umweltinnovationen im Allgemeinen, lediglich einige unterschieden dabei etwa zwischen End-of-pipe und integrierten Umwelttechnologien. Aufgrund des Mangels an geeigneten Daten hat die bestehende Literatur die Analyse der Determinanten unterschiedlicher Umweltinnovationsbereiche wie Recycling, kohlendioxidarme Verbrennungstechniken oder Wasserreinigung vernachlässigt. Das Hauptziel dieses Artikels ist es daher, herauszufinden, ob unterschiedliche Bereiche von Umweltinnovationen gemessen an ihren Umweltwirkungen von unterschiedlichen Faktoren beeinflusst werden. Als Datenbasis kann hierzu die aktuelle deutsche Innovationserhebung des ZEW im Rahmen des europäischen Innovationspanels 2009 (Community Innovation Panel, CIS) verwendet werden. Zum ersten Mal wurde in dieser Erhebung ein eigenes Modul zu Umweltinnovationen berücksichtigt, das die Analyse dieser Innovationen nach unterschiedlichen Umweltbereichen erlaubt.

Im Rahmen unserer Untersuchung werden Umweltinnovationen als Produkt-, Prozess-, Marketing- und organisationsbezogene Innovationen definiert, die zu einer deutlichen Verringerung der Umweltbelastung führen. Es spielt dabei keine Rolle, ob die Umwelteffekte Ziel der Innovationstätigkeit waren, oder lediglich als positiver Nebeneffekt resultierten.

In der einschlägigen Literatur werden die Bedeutung von Regulierungen sowie Kosteneinsparungen als Motivationen für die Durchführung von Umweltinnovationen betont. Darüber hinaus müssen jedoch viele weitere Faktoren wie die Ausstattung und Verfügbarkeit technischer Ressourcen, firmenspezifische Faktoren, organisatorische Innovationen, das Wettbewerbsumfeld sowie die Konsumnachfrage einbezogen werden.

Die empirische Analyse zeigt, dass sich die Innovationsaktivitäten mit mittleren bis hohen Umweltauswirkungen auf die Bereiche Energieverbrauch, Kohlendioxidemissionen und Recycling konzentrieren, während „etablierte“ Bereiche wie die Reduktion von Luftschadstoffen wie Schwefeldioxid oder Stickoxiden sowie der Wasserverschmutzung, die zur Zeit nicht so deutlich in der politischen Diskussion stehen, deutlich unterrepräsentiert sind.

Regulierungen sind für die meisten Umweltbereiche außer material- und energiebezogenen Prozessinnovationen von hoher Bedeutung. Besonders für End-of-pipe dominierte Bereiche wie die Reduktion von Luftemissionen wie SO_2 und NO_x spielen schon existierende und auch erwartete zukünftige Regulierungen eine quantitativ wichtigere Rolle als für andere Bereiche. Für Innovationen zur Energieeinsparung sind eher Kostenersparnisse entscheidend. Umweltmanagementsysteme helfen dabei, derartige Innovationsaktivitäten auszulösen, da sie offenbar dazu beitragen, das Problem nicht funktionierender Informationsflüsse in einem Unternehmen zu lösen. In Bezug auf produktbezogene Umweltinnovationen zeigen die ökonomischen Analysen, dass schon bestehende Regulierungen nur für Luft-, Wasser- und Lärmemissionen bzw. Bodenbelastung wichtig sind, nicht jedoch für energiesparende Produkte und Recycling. Die befragten Firmen bestätigen jedoch eine hohe Bedeutung zukünftig erwarteter Regulierungen für die Realisierung von umweltschonenden Produkten.

Determinants of Eco-innovations by Type of Environmental Impact

The Role of Regulatory Push/Pull, Technology Push and Market Pull

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Abstract

Empirical analyses of the determinants of environmental innovations were rarely able to distinguish between different areas of environmental impacts. The paper tries to close this gap by employing a new and unique dataset based on the German Community Innovation Survey conducted in 2009. The main purpose of the paper is to test whether different types of eco-innovations (according to their environmental impacts) are driven by different factors. Besides a complex set of different supply, firm specific and demand factors, the literature on the determinants of environmental innovations accentuates the important role of regulation, cost savings and customer benefits. We find that current and expected government regulation is particularly important for pushing firms to reduce air (e.g. CO₂, SO₂ or NO_x) as well as water or noise emissions, avoid hazardous substances and increase recyclability of products. Cost savings are an important motivation for reducing energy and material use, pointing to the role of energy and raw materials prices as well as taxation as drivers for eco-innovation. Customer requirements are another important source for eco-innovations, particularly with regard to products with improved environmental performance and process innovations that increase material efficiency, reduce energy consumption and waste and the use of dangerous substances. Firms confirm a high importance of expected future regulations for all environmental product innovations.

JEL classification: Q55, O33, O38, C25

Keywords: Environmental Innovation, Environmental Impacts, Discrete Choice Models, Regulation, Cost Savings, Demand Pull, Environmental Policy

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1 Introduction

In recent years, a lot of research has been done to identify the determinants of environmental innovations (del Rio Gonzalez, 2009). In most econometric studies, environmental innovations in general were analysed while only a few papers distinguished between end-of-pipe-innovations and cleaner production. In the literature, there is agreement that environmental innovations are more or less regulation driven though many studies show a positive role of cost-savings as a motivation especially for cleaner production technologies (Horbach, 2008; Frondel et al., 2007). However, due to the lack of more differentiated data, the literature on driving forces of environmental innovations so far has neglected to analyse different areas of environmental impacts of eco-innovations such as recycling, low carbon technologies or innovations for water management (Kammerer, 2009). Kammerer also emphasises the role of customer benefits as a determinant for environmental innovations.

The aim of our paper is to contribute to the existing research on driving forces of environmental innovations by identifying determinants for eco-innovations targeting different areas of environmental impacts.

We use data from the German part of the Community Innovation Survey (CIS) conducted in 2009. This survey contains detailed information on environmental innovations, distinguishing between different impact areas both for process and product related eco-innovations and captures the importance of these impacts for a firm's overall contribution to reduce environmental externalities. Furthermore, the survey includes data on innovation sources, competition conditions, R&D expenditure or subsidies allowing an analysis how to improve the regulatory framework and the market opportunities of the firms operating in these areas. Identifying specific determinants of environmental innovation by area of environmental impact can help to

formulate more detailed policy recommendations that are better fitting for different market segments.

Our paper is structured as follows: Section 2 explains definitions and gives an overview on the literature. In Section 3, our data basis and descriptive statistics are presented. Section 4 contains the results of our econometric estimations. Finally we derive some conclusions and policy recommendations.

2 Definitions and Literature Review

2.1 Environmental innovation

In this paper, we apply a definition of environmental innovation (or “eco-innovation”) which is taken from a EU funded research project called „Measuring Eco-Innovation“ (MEI). This project aimed at developing a concept for measuring environmental innovations and their main determinants and impacts in large-scale international firm surveys. The MEI definition is as follows (Kemp und Pearson 2008):

“Eco-innovation is the production, application or exploitation of a good, service, production process, organizational structure, or management or business method that is novel to the firm or user and which results, throughout its life cycle, in a reduction of environmental risk, pollution and the negative impacts of resources use (including energy use) compared to relevant alternatives”.

This definition shows three important features: it is based on a subjective view of innovation (i.e. the innovation has to be new for the firm), it only considers implemented innovations (rather than activities targeted at reducing environmental impacts), and it relates environmental impacts to the state of the art.

The subjective view of innovation is fully in line with the Oslo Manual on collecting and interpreting innovation data (OECD and Eurostat, 2005) though it somewhat deviates from the traditional economic notion of innovation introduced by Schumpeter (1934) which typically regards an innovation as the first introduction of a new product, process, service or organisational structure into the market. Kemp and Pearson (2008) deviate from this view to include the adoption of innovations already introduced by others before. Including adoption to the definition of innovation implies focusing on the diffusion of technologies.

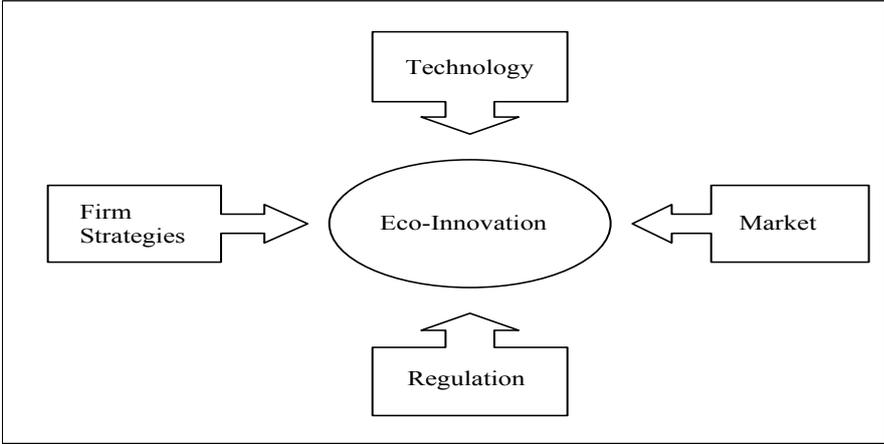
The MEI definition emphasises on results (in contrast to motivation). According to this definition it does not matter if environmental improvements have been the primary goal of a new product or process or came as a by-product or simply by chance. Eco-innovations can thus be the result of other economic rationalities such as increasing market shares or reducing costs. One may assume that many innovations leading to less environmental externalities have not been predominantly motivated by environmental concerns. While end-of-pipe technologies had only one environmental goal to be fulfilled in the past, and induced some extra-costs, the new generation of integrated environmental technologies – known as cleaner production – are complex innovation activities following more than one target.

Finally, the definition requires environmentally beneficial innovations compared to relevant (i.e. conventional) alternatives, e.g. energy saving light bulbs compared to conventional bulbs. This element of the definition ensures that eco-innovations have real effects on a firm's environmental impacts.

2.2 Determinants of environmental innovations

We use a simple framework for separating four groups of factors that have been found as main determinants of eco-innovations in the literature: firm strategies, technology, market and regulation (see Figure 1). In this study, we particularly focus on regulation and market forces.

Figure 1: Determinants of eco-innovations



Regulation has been identified as an important determinant of environmental innovation in several empirical studies (e.g. early studies from Green et al., 1994; Cleff and Rennings, 1999; Rennings and Zwick, 2002; Brunnermeier and Cohen, 2003) and is known as the “regulatory push/pull effect” (Rennings 2000, recent overview in del Rio Gonzalez 2009). Recently, Popp (2006) found evidence in a study based on patent data from the United States, Japan and Germany that innovation decisions of companies were mainly driven by national regulation, not by regulation abroad. Del Rio Gonzalez (2005) identified regulation pressure and corporate image as the main drivers of adopting cleaner technology in a survey in the Spanish pulp and paper industry. Frondel et al. (2007) find that generally policy stringency is an increasingly important driving force for environmental innovations rather than the choice of single policy instruments – a similar result was found by Arimura et al. (2007) for the effect of regulation on green R&D. Facilities facing very stringent environmental regulation are more likely to conduct environmental R&D. Frondel et al. (2007) point to the fact that the effects of regulation may differ with regard to different environmental technology fields: Whereas end-of-pipe technologies are especially triggered by regulation, cost savings and environmental management systems seem to be more important for the introduction of cleaner technologies.

Horbach (2008) analyses panel data and finds influence from regulation and the motivation of cost saving as main determinants.

A recent paper of Khanna et al. (2009) also distinguishes between present and anticipated environmental regulation – an issue that is also included in our econometric analysis (see Section 4). The authors find that “... anticipated regulations and the presence of ‘complementary assets’ is important for creating the incentives and an internal capacity to undertake incremental adoption of pollution prevention techniques” (Khanna et al., 2009:85).

An important contribution to the discussion has been made by Kammerer (2009). Firstly, because he has shown that innovation effects of regulation vary by different areas of environmental impacts. Thus one should distinguish between eco-innovations that target energy and material efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emission, improving recycling or reducing water and soil emissions. Furthermore, product and process innovations should be separated.

Secondly, Kammerer (2009) contributes to the discussion of market pull factors as determinants of environmental innovations by introducing the concept of customer benefits which is well known in the marketing literature. While regulation seems to be still necessary to overcome the double externality problem, existing studies indicate that there is not a strong stimulus for environmental innovation from the demand side since eco-friendly products are still too expensive (Rehfeld et al., 2007). While it is argued that also consumers can drive innovations (van den Bergh 2008, Brohmann et al. 2009), the argument is hardly supported by empirical evidence. Kammerer (2009) finds empirical evidence that customer benefits play a key role for environmental innovations as soon as a product delivers added value to the customer. In other words: While it may be difficult to get added value from green electricity (except if it is labelled and thus differentiated for consumers), there are certain environmental product innovations with substantial customer benefits such as food or baby clothes. Consequently, individuals’ willingness to pay a premium for organic food or organic baby clothes is much

higher than for green electricity. Finally, also environmental process innovations create customer benefits such as less water, material or energy use.

Furthermore, also supply factors play an important role for environmental innovation. On the basis of German panel data, Horbach (2008) shows that the improvement of technological capabilities (“knowledge capital”) by R&D triggers environmental innovations. Canon de Francia et al. (2007:307) find that “...availability of greater technical knowledge within the company moderates its vulnerability in the face of the demands of new environmental regulations.” It is also widely agreed that proximity to the best knowledge infrastructure is one of the main drivers of R&D investments abroad (Edler et al., 2003).

Finally, also company specific factors influence the innovation decision, such as knowledge transfer mechanisms and involvement in networks (Wagner 2009). From the perspective of the resource-based view of the firm, “green capabilities” play an important role (Hart, 1995, Kammerer, 2009). The importance of environmental management systems for eco-innovations has been shown by Rennings et al. (2006), Rehfeld et al. (2007), Wagner (2008) and Khanna et al. (2009). Especially for the introduction of cost-saving cleaner technologies, Environmental Management Systems (EMS) seem to be very important because they help to overcome incomplete information within a firm. This aspect has also been pointed out in the literature dealing with the famous Porter-hypothesis. Following Porter and van der Linde (1995), firms do not detect the potential of environmental innovations because they are “... still inexperienced in dealing creatively with environmental issues” (Porter and van der Linde, 1995: 99). Environmentally and economically benign innovations are not realised because of incomplete information, organizational and coordination problems. Firms are not able to recognize the cost saving potentials (e.g. energy or material savings) of environmental innovation so that EMS may serve as a tool to detect the lacking information. Khanna et al. (2009) confirm this argument by accentuating the important role of a broader view of environmental

management systems in their theoretical and empirical analysis: "... senior management commitment, team-work, empowerment of employees at all levels, and techniques such as process mapping, root cause analysis and environmental accounting can enable the firm to become aware of inefficiencies that were not recognized previously and to find new ways to increase efficiency and reduce the costs of pollution control" (Khanna et al., 2009:90). Therefore, it seems to be necessary to include indicators for the general organizational structure of a firm including organizational innovations when empirically explaining environmental innovation activities.

Existing research has shown that a firm's decision to introduce eco-innovations is influenced by a variety of factors, including technology push, market pull, policy and firm specific aspects (Horbach, 2008, 2010). Owing to a lack of more detailed data, the existing empirical literature concentrated on the analysis of determinants of environmental innovation in general. A detailed empirical distinction between different impacts was not possible. However, the different areas of environmental impacts such as energy and material use, pollution of air, water or soil, recycling or climate policies or abatement technologies reducing noise or toxic substances may be affected very differently by different types of policy interventions or market expectations. We already pointed to the fact that e.g. cleaner technologies are triggered by different motivations such as cost savings compared to end-of-pipe technologies that are mostly motivated by regulations. Furthermore, the market success may play a different role for different environmental fields. For that reasons, our paper may also be understood as an explorative empirical analysis trying to find different determinants of different environmental fields. Against this background, we want to contribute to the discussion by focusing on:

- different impacts of environmental innovations introduced by firms; (differences e.g. in determinants but also regarding the use of information sources and the competitive situation);

- the role of market factors for introducing eco-innovations, particularly with regard to customer demand and cost savings;
- the role of both current and planned government regulation;
- impacts of eco-innovations on firm performance by different area of environmental impacts to find out which environmental fields are predominantly market driven.

3 Data and descriptive statistics

3.1 Data

Our study rests on a unique firm data set collected in the context of the Community Innovation Surveys (CIS) of the European Commission. For the CIS conducted in 2009, a separate module on environmental innovations was introduced. The module largely follows the concept for measuring eco-innovation developed in the MEI project mentioned above, though some modifications have been made to make it compatible with the basic definitions and methodologies used in the CIS. An environmental innovation has been defined as “a new or significantly improved product (good or service), process, organisational method or marketing method that creates environmental benefits compared to alternatives. The environmental benefits can be the primary objective of the innovation or the result of other innovation objectives. The environmental benefits of an innovation can occur during the production of a good or service, or during the after sales use of a good or service by the end user.” In what follows is a list of environmental benefits that an environmental innovation could have produced either with the firm or from the after sales use of a product by the user for which surveyed firms should say whether this benefit has occurred or not.

The German CIS further developed this question in two important respects. Firstly, firms reporting a certain environmental benefit were asked to assess whether this benefit was of high, medium or low importance in terms of reducing environmental impacts. Secondly, the list of potential environmental benefits has been enlarged to better distinguish different areas of environmental externalities and associated policies.

In addition, the survey asked firms whether any of these eco-innovations have been introduced in response to existing or expected environmental regulations, the availability of financial support by governments, demand from customers, or voluntary codes or industry agreements.

The German CIS of 2009 covers 7,061 firms in mining and quarrying, manufacturing, energy and water supply, and a large number of service sectors. The response rate was 26% both for manufacturing and services which is in line with comparable non-mandatory surveys. In order to control for a likely response bias between innovating and non-innovating firms, a non response survey was performed, covering a stratified random sample of more than 4,800 non responding firms. This survey was conducted by telephone and revealed that the share of innovators among non responding firms did not differ significantly from that of responding firms.

Furthermore, we also use data stemming from a telephone survey that the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) conducted in addition to the German CIS 2009. A subsample of 3,778 firms of the German CIS 2009 was considered, the response rate was 78% so that the answers of 2952 firms are available. The firms were considered for the additional telephone survey if they

- answered to the CIS questionnaire;
- introduced an innovation from 2006 to 2008 with at least low environmental impacts in one or several environmental fields.

In contrast to the CIS questionnaire using the before mentioned scale of no, low, medium or high impact, the additional telephone survey only allowed a yes-no option to assess the environmental impacts of a firm's innovation. Therefore, only 1,294 firms out of the 2952 firms confirmed having introduced environmental process or product innovations from 2006 to 2008. The information from the telephone survey allows further exploring the market orientation of different environmental fields by analysing their different influence on a firm's performance (see also Section 4.2).

3.2 Descriptive results

Descriptive results (see Table 1) show that the innovation activities with high or medium environmental impacts concentrate on the reduction of energy and material use, CO₂ emissions and recycling whereas areas such as the reduction of other air emissions or water pollution that are not in the focus of present political discussions are under-represented. This holds for process and product innovations.

Table 1: Environmental innovations by different areas

<i>Introduction of innovations with environmental benefits within the firm 2006 to 2008</i>					
Environmental impact areas	In % of all firms with innovations				Number of firms*
	High	Medium	Small	No	
Reduced material use per unit of output	5.6	16.8	17.6	60.0	4,929
Reduced energy use per unit of output	7.9	16.7	20.5	55.0	4,929
Reduced CO ₂ emissions	7.3	12.6	15.4	64.8	4,927
Reduced emissions of other air pollution	4.8	8.9	12.1	74.3	4,928
Reduced water pollution	4.2	9.3	11.4	75.1	4,927
Reduced soil pollution	2.4	5.5	8.5	83.6	4,927
Reduced noise pollution	3.4	9.6	13.2	73.7	4,925
Replacement of hazardous substances	4.4	9.5	12.0	74.1	4,928
Recycled waste, water or materials	7.3	14.6	17.4	60.7	4,926
<i>Introduction of innovations with environmental benefits from using a firm's products 2006 to 2008</i>					
Reduced energy use	9.1	15.7	14.0	61.2	4,886
Reduced air, water, soil or noise emissions	7.0	10.5	12.8	69.8	4,887
Improved recycling of products after use	4.6	9.4	12.0	74.0	4,886
* only firms with product, process, organizational or marketing innovations ("innovators")					

Source: German CIS 2009

The firms also reported on whether certain impulses triggered their environmental innovations (see Table 2). The relative importance of the anticipation of future regulations seems to be as important as existing regulations. Only 10% of the questioned firms denote subsidies as relevant for triggering environmental innovation. Supporting the analyses of Kammerer (2009, see also Section 2) the demand of customers seems to be very relevant.

Table 2: Impulses for environmental innovations from 2006 to 2008

<i>Environmental innovations that were introduced in response to</i>	Yes	No	Number of firms*
	In % of all firms with at least weak environmental impacts		
Existing regulations	31.5	68.5	3,733
Expected regulations	27.0	73.0	3,730
Financial support by governments	9.9	90.1	3,733
Demand from customers	27.4	72.6	3,733
Voluntary codes and industry agreements	28.0	72.0	3,727
*only firms with environmental innovations			

Source: German CIS 2009

The relative importance of the anticipation of future regulations seems to be as important as existing regulations (see Table 2). Only 10% of the questioned firms denote subsidies as relevant for triggering environmental innovation. Supporting the analyses of Kammerer (2009, see also Section 2) the demand of customers seems to be very relevant.

Table 3: Effects of the main environmental innovation of the firm – in %

Effects	Higher	No effect	Lower	Number of firms
Change of cost	19.6	43.2	37.2	1,256
Change of turnover	32.4	65.9	1.7	1,258
Change of employment	13.3	85.0	1.8	1,282

Source: Additional telephone survey 2009

The results of the additional telephone survey (Table 3) show that the majority of eco-innovations lead to lower or constant cost, 32% of these innovations are connected with a higher turnover so that they are also economically successful. The employment effects are also mainly positive because only 2% of the questioned firms reported a decline of employment because of their main eco-innovation – a result that is in line with a recent analysis of Horbach (2010) based on the establishment panel of the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) in Nuremberg.

4 Econometric analysis

4.1 Estimation strategy and description of variables

To find empirical evidence to our theoretical considerations on the determinants of eco-innovations we proceed in two steps:

Firstly, we estimate a discrete choice model detecting the specificities of environmental innovations compared to other innovation fields to establish comparability to similar analyses in the literature using older data bases (see e.g. Cleff and Rennings (1999), Rehfeld et al. (2007), Horbach (2008), Wagner (2008)).

In a second step, we restrict our analysis to firms with environmental innovations to analyze the differences between our environmental impact areas separated by process and product innovations. Do the stylized facts on the determinants of eco-innovation still hold for all environmental impacts or does, for instance, regulation only trigger selected fields?

Eco-innovations as dependent variables are measured for twelve different areas of environmental impacts. Nine refer to impacts stemming from processes in the firm while nine are related to the use of a firm's products. The nine process-related areas of environmental impacts are

- Reduced material use per unit of output
- Reduced energy use per unit of output
- Reduced CO₂ emissions
- Reduced emissions of other air pollution
- Reduced water pollution
- Reduced soil pollution
- Reduced noise pollution
- Replacement of hazardous substances

- Recycled waste, water, or materials

The three areas of environmental impacts from the after sales use of a product by its user are

- Reduced energy use
- Reduced air, water, soil or noise emissions
- Improved recycling of products after use

All environmental innovations must have been introduced during the three year period 2006 to 2008. In case a certain environmental impact occurred, its importance in a firm's total activities to reduce environmental externalities had to be stated on a three-point Likert scale (ranging from low to medium and high).

Since we are interested in looking at eco-innovations with a significant impact on the reduction of a firm's environmental externalities, we only consider firms as being eco-innovators as long as they report eco-innovations with medium or high importance of environmental impact. This means that we exclude firms from our definition of eco-innovation that only report innovations with a low importance for reducing their environmental impacts.²

Our correlated variables from the questionnaire of the Community Innovation Panel include a large number of variables that allow testing our theoretically derived hypotheses. We consider the following set of variables (for an exact definition and descriptive statistics see Appendix 1):

² We also tested our model by using an extended definition that included firms reporting only low importance of their innovations on environmental impacts. The results did not differ qualitatively, though most effects of our explanatory variables were less strong or sometime insignificant.

- Policy measures (regulations, subsidies)
- Self-commitment of industry (as a hybrid form of regulation, neither pure regulation nor pure market push)
- Customer demand, cost savings (for market pull)
- Technology Push: Knowledge capital and infrastructure, environmental management systems, organizational innovations
- Information sources
- Cooperation
- Competition conditions
- Other control variables (e. g. sector dummies)

Regarding policy measures our questionnaire makes the difference between existing, *present regulations*, anticipated *future regulations* and the fulfillment of norms and standards (*normsstandards*). Furthermore, *general subsidies* and subsidies including tax reductions for environmental innovations (*envsubsidies*) are considered. Factors triggering eco-innovations are also customer *demand* and *self-commitments* of the respective branch. The role of *cost savings* is also explored as an important motivation of environmental innovation. Highly significant values of cost savings point to the fact that these eco-innovations are mainly market driven. Furthermore, the opening of *new markets* and the increase of the *market share* as innovation goals are included to explore this argument.

Regarding the technology push drivers, Environmental Management Systems introduced before 2006 (EMS-2006) and between 2006 and 2008 may also play an important role for improving the environmental innovative capacity of a firm (see also Section 2). Following Khanna et al. (2009), the role of general organizational innovations for the realization of process and product innovations is analyzed (see also Section 2): Influence of new methods for organizing business processes (*business org*), new forms of labour organizations (*labour org*)

and newly organized relationships to other firms and public organizations (*relation to other firms*).

Further education measures measured by the further education expenses per employee may be important to improve the innovative capacities and therefore increase the knowledge capital of a firm. The *innovation intensity* measured by the total innovation expenses per employee shall help to explain whether environmental innovations are more R&D intensive compared to other innovations. Further variables describing the technological capabilities of the firm such as *the investment intensity*, the purchase of *equipment or software* and the *qualification* level of the employees are included. We also analyze if eco-innovations predominantly rely on *internal or external R&D* and if the *purchase of patents* or other property rights plays a role. Furthermore, the importance of *marketing activities* for the introduction of environmental innovations is explored.

As information sources for the realization of innovations we analyse the role of *internal sources* denoting sources within the firm or the whole group of companies; the influence of information coming from *customers* and *suppliers*; other firms as *competitors* and *consulters*. Information for innovation activities may also be drawn from *conferences* and *exhibitions*, *universities* and other *public research institutions*, *associations*, *patents*, *standardization committees* and scientific *journals*.

To assess the relevance of cooperation activities for the realization of eco-innovations the existence of R&D *cooperations* from 2006 to 2008 is considered. The variable *self-cooperation* describes if the eco-innovation was realized within or in cooperation with other firms. It helps to measure the influence of cooperations on the market success of eco-innovations measured by the variable *turnover effects* (see Table 6).

The competition conditions are captured by the following variables: A high risk of market entry of new competitors (*market entries*), a future demand that is difficult to foresee (*foresee demand*) and the *competition intensity* by foreign firms.

As control variables we used sector dummies to control for sector differences, the *size* and the *age* of the firm, dummies for *innovators* and East-Germany (*eastwest*). In Section 2 we defined eco-innovations by their environmental effects but it is also important to know in which of the different environmental fields innovations are especially motivated by the reduction of environmental impacts (*envimpacts*) as innovation goal in contrast to fields where market pull arguments are more important.

In a first step, we estimated ordered probit models due to the ordinal character of our dependent variables representing the environmental impacts in different areas. Because of relatively few firms in the "high" category and due to an easier interpretation of marginal effects, we also estimated binary probit models summing up the categories "high", "medium" and "small", "no effect", respectively. We decided to use the more robust results of these binary probit models because there were only marginal differences compared to the ordered probit models.

For our problem, the binary probit model can be described as follows: For each environmental field, the firm has to decide whether to innovate ($Y = 1$), or not ($Y = 0$). Following our theoretical considerations, we believe that different factors such as regulation, cost savings or environmental management systems summarized by a vector \mathbf{x} influence this decision. Therefore, we need an estimation of the probability

$$\text{Prob}(Y = 1 | \mathbf{x}) = F(\mathbf{x}, \beta).$$

Because of the binary character of our dependent variable, we use the probit model assuming the normal distribution: $\text{Prob}(Y = 1 | \mathbf{x}) = \Phi(\mathbf{x}'\beta)$

The parameters β reflect the impact of changes in x on the probability (Greene, 2008: 772).

We calculate marginal effects that allow comparing the different environmental innovation areas. For each environmental innovation area we estimated a probit model, and further divided between product and process innovation.

4.2 Results for the determinants of eco-innovations versus other innovations

In a first step, we explore the specificities of environmental innovations compared to other innovations (see Table 4).³ In line with former similar analyses, we observe a strong influence of regulation on eco-innovations (see Section 2). Regulations are significantly more important for eco-innovations compared to other innovations. Furthermore, cost savings especially trigger eco-innovations – a widespread result of the respective literature.⁴

³ Different to our analysis comparing different environmental fields, we cannot use the question on direct determinants of eco-innovations (fulfillment of regulations, subsidies, demand etc.) because this question is restricted to eco-innovations. Therefore, we use the innovation goal “fulfillment of laws and regulations” as a proxy for the influence of regulation activities for this model comparing eco-innovations to other innovations.

⁴ See also Rave et al. (2011) for a very recent analysis confirming this result.

Table 4: Determinants of eco-innovations compared to other innovations

<i>Dependent variable: EcoInnovation</i>			
1	Innovations with high or medium environmental effects in at least one environmental innovation field		
0	Innovations with only low or no environmental effects		
Correlates			
<i>Policy measures</i>		<i>Information sources</i>	
Regulation	0.09 (2.46)**	Customers	-0.03 (-1.23)
NormsStandards	-0.02 (-0.56)	Suppliers	0.06 (1.81) ⁺
GeneralSubsidies	0.05 (1.67) ⁺	Universities, Public Research	0.06 (1.53)
<i>Market pull</i>		Patents	0.04 (0.66)
Cost savings	0.25 (9.77)**	Standardization	0.02 (0.48)
New Markets	-0.01 (-0.27)	<i>Cooperation</i>	
Market share	0.00 (0.02)	Coop	0.05 (1.90) ⁺
<i>Technology push</i>		<i>Competition</i>	
Innovation Intensity	0.00 (2.19) [*]	Market entries	0.03 (1.65) ⁺
Internal R&D	0.04 (1.56)	Foresee demand	0.02 (1.20)
External R&D	-0.01 (-0.22)	Competition intensity	-0.00 (-0.08)
Purchase of patents	-0.04 (-1.53)	<i>Control variables</i>	
EquipmentSoftware	0.14 (5.97)**	Size	0.00 (1.72) ⁺
Marketing activities	0.06 (2.57)**	Age	0.00 (0.04)
Qualification	-0.00 (-3.92)**	EastWest	-0.02 (-1.12)
EMS 2006	0.17 (5.86)**	Innovator	-0.04 (-1.09)
Business org.	0.06 (3.13)**		
Labour org.	0.06 (2.78)**		
Relation to other firms	0.04 (1.97) [*]		
<p>Probit regression reporting marginal effects. Number of observations: 3,606. Z-statistics are given in parentheses. LR Chi² (62) = 742. Pseudo R² = 0.15. ⁺, [*], ^{**} denote significance at the 10%, 5% and 1% level, respectively.</p> <p>The marginal effects for the continuous independent variables were calculated at their means. Concerning dummy variables the values report the change in probability for a discrete change of the dummy variable from 0 to 1. Sector dummies are not reported.</p> <p>Innovators are all firms with product, process, organizational or marketing innovations.</p>			

Source: German CIS 2009

As a relatively new technology field (e. g. the solar cell industry in East-Germany), eco-innovations are characterised by higher innovation intensity, consequently the purchase of

new equipment and software and marketing activities are more important compared to other innovations. On the other side, other innovations rely more on their internal human capital capacities documented by the significant negative influence of the variable *qualification*.

The observation that the environmental sector is still a relatively young and dynamic field is also confirmed by the significantly positive influence of the variable *market entries* denoting fragile market positions because of probable market entries of new competitors. Eco-innovators are also more likely to cooperate with other firms (positive influence of *coop*).

Environmental Management Systems (*EMS 2006*) significantly trigger eco-innovations but also general organizational changes such as new forms of labour organization or quality or supply chain management are highly correlated to eco-innovations supporting Khanna et al. (2009) and further theoretical considerations pointed out in Section 2.

4.3 Results for differences between different environmental impacts

In a second step, we enlarge our analysis by differentiating between different environmental technology fields. The results of our probit models reporting marginal effects for each environmental innovation areas are summarized in Table 5 a) and b).

Environmental innovations within the firm (process innovations)

Except the field “reduced material and energy use” regulations seem to be important for all environmental areas as expected from earlier analyses. Nevertheless, our analysis reveals some interesting new insights: For typically end-of-pipe oriented areas such as other air emissions (SO₂ or NO_x) the marginal effects for present (8.4%) and future (8.8%) regulations are higher than for other areas. For energy savings cost savings are the main motivation. On the other side, cost savings do not play a dominant role for water, soil, noise or dangerous substances. That confirms the view that areas such as material or energy savings and the reduc-

tion of CO₂ emissions dominated by cleaner technologies are more likely to be also economically benign compared to the other areas.

Material and energy savings are accompanied by changes in the organization of labour (e.g. realignment of departments) whereas for water, soil and noise not internal organizational changes but the relation to other firms and customers seems to be relevant.

Subsidies are quantitatively very important for CO₂ emissions – in fact a relatively young innovation area that still highly depends on basic research activities that have to be financed by public funds. Self-commitments are relevant for all environmental innovation areas, they are quantitatively most important for recycling. This is due to the German tradition of negotiated agreements in the area recycling resp. circular economy, regulation is often based on take-back agreements with firms. The reduction of environmental impacts as motivation especially triggers CO₂ and other air emission innovations.

Concerning information sources the differences between different environmental innovation areas are only small, in fact, there are only few significant coefficients. This is also the case for competition conditions – a sign that the differences between the different innovation areas according to this aspect seem to be rather small.

Table 5: Determinants of eco-innovation by different environmental areas

a) Eco-innovations within the firm

Determinants	Material	Energy	CO ₂	Other Air	Water	Soil	Noise	Dang. substances	Recyc.
Present regulations	-	-	5.1	8.4	5.7	-	4.1	9.1	5.2
Future regulations	-	-	7.3	8.8	3.4	5.4	7.2	7.0	8.6
Env. Subsidies	-	-	19.4	7.3	-	-	-	-4.4	-
Demand	5.4	5.7	3.8	-	-	-	-	5.1	6.0
Self commitment	8.9	9.6	6.9	4.7	8.7	5.8	6.3	3.7	12.0
EMS – 2006	7.8	6.8	4.6	3.8	3.8	-	3.7	4.3	6.8
EMS 2006-2008	-	6.4	9.1	8.0	7.0	-	4.3	7.2	7.0
Cost savings	19.7	24.8	11.7	5.5	-	-	-	-	6.5
Reduction Env. Impacts	12.4	11.0	26.3	21.6	11.8	9.3	12.1	12.2	8.4
Size of the firm	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age of the firm	-	-	-0.0	-0.0	-	-0.0	-	-	-
East West	-	-	-6.0	-4.7	-4.8	-2.7	-	-4.1	-
Innovation Intens.	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0
Internal R&D	-	-	-	3.5	-	-3.1	-	-	-
External R&D	-	-4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-4.2	-4.9
Cooperation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.5	-
Info Sources									
Internal sources	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	-	4.0
Customers	-	-4.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Competitors	-	-	-7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-5.7
Exhibitions, conf.	-6.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Universities	10.0	8.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.1
Patents	10.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Org. innovation									
Business org.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.2	-	-
Labour org.	6.5	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.7
Relation to other firms	-	-	-	-	6.1	3.4	3.3	-	4.6

Marginal effects are reported (in %). The marginal effects for the continuous independent variables were calculated at their means. Concerning dummy variables the values report the change in probability for a discrete change of the dummy variable from 0 to 1. Only significant marginal effects (at least at 10% level) are considered. "-" means that the marginal effect is not significant.

Source: German CIS 2009

b) Product innovations

Determinants	Energy consumption	Emission reductions air, water, soil, noise	Recycling
Present regulations	-	3.6	-
Future regulations	11.1	10.5	10.7
EnvSubsidies	8.9	11.2	-6.9
Demand	17.2	16.2	11.3
Self commitment	7.7	4.4	8.9
Cost savings	13.6	-	-
Product quality	4.5	-	-
Reduction Env. Impacts	10.6	21.9	11.2
Org. innovation			
Business org.	6.6	-	-
Labour org.	-	-	-
Relation to other firms	6.7	-	6.7
Marginal effects are reported (in %). The marginal effects for the continuous independent variables were calculated at their means. Concerning dummy variables the values report the change in probability for a discrete change of the dummy variable from 0 to 1. Only significant marginal effects (at least at 10% level) are considered.			

Source: German CIS 2009

Results for product innovations

Concerning environmental product innovations our econometric results show that present regulations are only significant for reductions of air, water, soil and noise emissions but not for the other two regarded areas (energy consumption and recycling) but the firms expect a growing importance of future regulations for all product innovations. In all considered environmental innovation areas future regulations already trigger innovations. Not surprisingly, the demand is quantitatively important for all areas and especially for energy consumption where the demand is driven by the renewable energy law. Whereas subsidies are an important determinant of energy and emission reduction products they are significantly negatively correlated to recycling products, the respective marginal effect amounts to -7%. For this innovation field, self-commitments seem to be more important, also connected with a positive marketing effect for the firm.

Contrary to process innovations, environmental management systems do not play an important role for environmental product innovations. For energy saving products organizational innovations such as quality management and supply chain management and relations to other firms are important showing that these product innovations may only be realized in close cooperation with all actors of the value chain.

Concerning information sources and competition conditions there were only few significant coefficients pointing to the fact that the differences between our three product innovation fields are not so important with respect to these variables.

The previous results point to the fact that the potential market success of eco-innovations is an important variable constituting differences between the various eco-innovation fields. In fact, it is important to know whether environmental innovations may be triggered by stricter regulations or rather by the improvement of market conditions. The use of the data of the aforementioned additional telephone survey allows exploring this important aspect in more detail. We try to find out which environmental innovations are more market-driven compared to other areas that are more likely to be triggered by regulations. Therefore, we estimate a binary probit model with the turnover effects of environmental innovation activities as dependent variable (see Table 6).

Table 6: Turnover effects of environmental innovations

Dependent variable: Turnover effects			
1 Increase of turnover because of the main environmental innovation			
0 Constant or decreasing turnover			
Correlates			
<i>Eco-innovations within the firm</i>		<i>Product innovations</i>	
Material use	0.11 (2.67)**	Energy saving prod.	0.08 (1.85) ⁺
Energy use	-0.08 (-1.79) ⁺	Emissions (air, water, soil, noise)	0.01 (0.14)
CO ₂ -emissions	0.02 (0.50)	Recycling	0.22 (0.49)
Other air emissions	0.02 (0.44)		
Water pollution	0.04 (0.67)	<i>Control variables</i>	
Soil pollution	-0.03 (-0.44)	Size	0.0 (0.07)
Noise	-0.04 (-0.78)	Self-Cooperation	0.14 (3.56)**
Dangerous substances	-0.03 (-0.58)	Internal research	0.09 (2.19)*
Recycling of material, waste and water	-0.09 (-2.20)*	Further education	0.09 (2.51)**
		Investment intensity	0.00 (2.29)*
		Competition intensity	-0.09 (-2.36)*
<p>Probit regression reporting marginal effects. Number of observations: 872. Z-statistics are given in parentheses. LR Chi² (38) = 144. Pseudo R² = 0.13. ⁺, *, ** denote significance at the 10%, 5% and 1% level, respectively.</p> <p>The marginal effects for the continuous independent variables were calculated at their means. Concerning dummy variables the values report the change in probability for a discrete change of the dummy variable from 0 to 1. Sector dummies are not reported.</p>			

Source: German CIS 2009

The results show that material savings within the firm and energy saving products led to an increase of turnover whereas energy saving activities seem to rise costs in the short run and therefore leading to a decrease of turnover. This observation may not be a contradiction to our afore-mentioned results where cost savings are a determinant of the introduction of energy saving measures within the firm because in the short run we observe higher cost because of high investments but cost savings in the long run because of lower energy use.

A further interesting result is that the improvement of the recyclability of products significantly reduces turnover because of higher cost within the firm.

The econometric results for further control variables show that internal R&D, high investment intensity and an improvement of the innovative capacities of the firm trigger the economic success of the eco-innovation. Furthermore, especially firms that predominantly developed the eco-innovation itself or in cooperation with other firms are economically successful.

5 Summary and Conclusions

Up to now, empirical analyses on the determinants of environmental innovations were rarely able to distinguish between different environmental areas such as the reduction on energy use, air, water or soil pollution. The paper tries to close this gap by using a new and unique database of the German part of the Community Innovation Panel (CIS) 2009. This panel wave of the CIS contained, for the first time, a special module on eco-innovation allowing analyzing environmental innovations by different areas. We complemented our analysis by results of an additional telephone survey conducted by ZEW in 2009 using a subsample of the German CIS.

Within our analysis, we define environmental innovations as product, process, marketing and organizational innovations leading to a noticeable reduction of environmental burdens. Positive environmental effects can be explicit goals or side-effects of innovations. They can occur within the respective firms or by using products or services by the customers.

The literature on the determinants of environmental innovations accentuates the important role of regulation, furthermore cost savings as motivation trigger eco-innovations. In fact, a complex set of supply factors such as the endowment and availability of technological resources, company specific factors (e. g. knowledge transfer mechanisms), organizational innovations, competition conditions and policy variables have to be included in the analysis. In the recent literature, the role of customer demand has been emphasized, too.

Descriptive results of our empirical analysis show that the innovation activities with high or medium environmental impacts concentrate on the reduction of energy use, CO₂ emissions and recycling whereas "older" areas such as the reduction of other air emissions or water pollution that are not in the focus of present political discussions are under-represented. The majority of eco-innovations (80.4 %) lead to lower or constant cost, 32% of these innovations are connected with a higher turnover so that they are also economically successful.

In a first step, we analyzed the determinants of environmental innovations compared to other innovations. In line with former similar analyses, we observe a strong influence of regulation on eco-innovations. Furthermore, cost savings especially trigger eco-innovations – a widespread result of the respective literature.

In a second step, we restrict our analyses to those firms that realized eco-innovations. For each environmental field further divided between process and product innovations, we estimated separate probit models reporting marginal effects that allow a comparison of the results.

In fact, except for material and energy reduction process innovation regulations seem to be important for all environmental areas as expected from earlier analyses. Nevertheless, our analysis reveals some interesting new insights: For typically end-of-pipe oriented areas such as other air emissions (SO₂ or NO_x) the marginal effects for present and future regulations are higher than for other areas. For energy consumption cost savings are the main motivation. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) seem to be especially important tools to trigger these cost-saving cleaner technologies because they help to overcome incomplete information within a firm. Subsidies are quantitatively very important for CO₂ emissions – in fact a relatively young innovation area that still highly depend on basic research activities that have to be financed by public funds.

Concerning environmental product innovations, our econometric results show that present regulations are only significant for air, water, soil and noise emissions but not for the other two regarded areas (energy consumption and recycling) but the firms expect a growing importance of future regulations for all environmental product innovations.

To explore the market orientation of the different environmental areas, we estimate a probit model capturing the turnover effects of different environmental innovations. The results show that material savings within the firm and energy saving products led to an increase of turnover. A further interesting result is that the improvement of the recyclability of products significantly reduces turnover because of higher cost within the firm. The other regarded environmental areas do not show significant effects on turnover.

Our results show that the different areas of environmental impact need different policy approaches. Fields such as material and energy savings do not need strict regulatory approaches because of their (potential) economic benefits. Nevertheless, these benefits are not automatically observed and realised by the firms because of organisational, control and coordination problems. For these fields soft instruments such as environmental management systems in connection with further organisational innovations are good tools to overcome these problems. Contrary to that, other fields such as the replacement of dangerous substances or noise reduction normally leading to higher costs still need strict environmental regulation measures.

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Appendix 1: Definition of variables and descriptive statistics

Name of variable	Description	Mean	Std. Dev.
EcoInnovation	1 Environmental innovators: realization of innovations with high or medium environmental effects, 0 Other innovators	0.47	0.50
<i>Eco-innovations within the firm by areas</i>			
Material use	1 High or medium reduction of material use, 0 Other innovators	0.23	0.42
Energy use	1 High or medium reduction of energy use, 0 Other innovators	0.25	0.43
CO ₂ -emissions	1 High or medium reduction of CO ₂ emissions, 0 Other innovators	0.20	0.40
Other air emissions	1 High or medium reduction of other air emissions, 0 Other innovators	0.14	0.35
Water pollution	1 High or medium reduction of water pollution, 0 Other innovators	0.14	0.35
Soil pollution	1 High or medium reduction of soil pollution, 0 Other innovators	0.08	0.28
Noise	1 High or medium reduction of noise pollution, 0 Other innovators	0.14	0.34
Dangerous substances	1 High or medium replacement of dangerous substances, 0 Other innovators	0.15	0.35
Recycling	1 High or medium improvement of recycling of material, waste and water, 0 Other innovators	0.23	0.42
<i>Product innovations</i>			
Energy saving prod.	1 High or medium reduction of energy use, 0 Other innovators	0.25	0.43
Emissions (air, water, soil, noise)	1 High or medium reduction of air, water, soil, noise emissions, 0 Other innovators	0.18	0.38
Recycling	1 High or medium improvement of recycling of material, waste and water, 0 Other innovators	0.14	0.35
Turnover effects	1 Increase of turnover because of eco-innovation, 0 Decrease or constant turnover	0.32	0.47
<i>Policy measures</i>			
Regulation	Fulfilment of laws and regulations (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.17	0.38
Present regulations	Fulfilment of present laws and standards (1 yes, 0 no)	0.32	0.47
Future regulations	Anticipation of future regulations (1 yes, 0 no)	0.27	0.44
NormsStandards	Fulfilment of norms and standards (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.18	0.38
GeneralSubsidies	Subsidies from German ministries or the EU (1 yes, 0 no)	0.21	0.40
EnvSubsidies	Public support of eco-innovations (1 yes, 0 no)	0.10	0.30
<i>Market pull</i>			
Demand	Customer demand for eco-innovations (1 yes, 0 no)	0.27	0.45
Self commitment	Self commitments of the branch (1 yes, 0 no)	0.28	0.45
Cost savings	Reduction of material or energy cost (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.17	0.38
New Markets	Opening up of new markets (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.34	0.47
Market share	Increase of the market share (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.34	0.47
<i>Technology push</i>			
Innovation Intensity	Total innovation expenditure 2008 per employee	16.97	66.28
Investment intensity	Gross investment 2008 per employee	20.40	69.70
Internal R&D	Internal R&D (1 yes, 0 no)	0.51	0.50
External R&D	External R&D (1 yes, 0 no)	0.23	0.42
Purchase of patents	Purchase of patents or other property rights (1 yes, 0 no)	0.24	0.43
EquipmentSoftware	Purchase of equipment or software (1 yes, 0 no)	0.55	0.50
Marketing activities	Internal or external marketing activities (1 yes, 0 no)	0.35	0.48
Qualification	Share of employees with university degree 2008 in %	22.06	25.43
Further Education	Expenditure for further education per employee in 2008	1.22	6.52
EMS 2006	Introduction of an Environmental Management System (EMS) before 2006 (1 yes, 0 no)	0.15	0.35

EMS 2006-2008	Introduction of an EMS between 2006 and 2008 (1 yes, 0 no)	0.08	0.27
Business org.	New methods for organizing business processes (1 yes, 0 no)	0.43	0.50
Labour org.	New forms of labour organization (1 yes, 0 no)	0.39	0.49
Relation to other firms	Newly organized relationships to other firms (1 yes, 0 no)	0.25	0.43
<i>Information sources</i>			
Internal sources	Sources within the firm (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.44	0.50
Customers	Customers or clients (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.37	0.48
Suppliers	Suppliers (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.11	0.31
Competitors	Competitors, other firms (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.13	0.34
Consulters	Consulters(1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.04	0.20
Universities	Universities (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.07	0.25
PublicResearch	Other state institutions (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.03	0.17
Universities, Publ. Res.	Universities or public research (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.07	0.26
Exhibitions	Exhibitions, conferences (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.11	0.31
Journals	Scientific journals(1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.08	0.27
Associations	Associations (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.04	0.20
Patents	Patent descriptions (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.03	0.17
Standardization	Standardization committees (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.04	0.19
<i>Cooperation</i>			
Coop	R&D cooperations 2006-2008 (1 yes, 0 no)	0.26	0.44
Self – Cooperation	Realization of the eco-innovation: 1 within the firm or in cooperation with other firms, 0 Predominantly by other firms	0.71	0.45
<i>Competition</i>			
Market entries	Market position threatened by entry of new competitors (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.37	0.48
Foresee demand	Development of demand is difficult to foresee (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.63	0.48
Competition intensity	High competition intensity by foreign firms (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.36	0.48
<i>Control variables</i>			
Size	Number of employees 2008	752	11083
Age	Age of the firm (2008 – year of foundation + 0.5)	31.9	39.3
EastWest	1 East Germany, 0 West Germany	0.30	0.46
Innovator	Realised, not yet finished or interrupted innovations (1 yes, 0 no)	0.62	0.49
Reduction EnvImpacts	Reduction of environmental impacts as innovation goal (1 highly relevant, 0 other)	0.13	0.33
<i>Sector dummies</i>			
Sec1	Agriculture, mining, quarrying of stones	0.01	0.11
Sec2	Food products and beverages, tobacco	0.05	0.21
Sec3	Textiles, leather	0.03	0.17
Sec4	Processing of wood, paper, printing	0.06	0.24
Sec5	Chemical Industry	0.04	0.20
Sec6	Rubber and plastic products	0.03	0.17
Sec7	Glass, ceramics	0.02	0.15
Sec8	Basic metals and fabricated metals	0.07	0.25
Sec9	Machinery	0.08	0.27
Sec10	Electrical machinery and apparatus	0.06	0.23
Sec11	Precision and optical instruments	0.05	0.22
Sec12	Motor vehicles, other transport equipment	0.03	0.18
Sec13	Furniture	0.02	0.15

Sec14	Recycling, waste and waste water removal	0.01	0.09
Sec15	Energy and water supply	0.03	0.16
Sec16	Construction sector	0.01	0.10
Sec17	Wholesale and retail trade	0.04	0.19
Sec18	Transport and communication,	0.06	0.24
Sec19	Banking sector, assurances, renting of cars and other products	0.05	0.21
Sec20	Data processing, research and development, consulting	0.15	0.36
Sec 21	Other services	0.12	0.32