

Robin Vanner

Research and Public Policy Manager

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A dedicated and forward-thinking professional with extensive experience leading all facets of research and public policy management to drive positive social change and improve community outcomes. Well-versed in developing and advocating for policies and initiatives that address critical societal challenges and promote positive social outcomes. Adept at building and maintaining strategic partnerships with government agencies, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders to advance shared goals and objectives. Excels at evaluating effectiveness and impact of existing policies and programs through rigorous assessment and evaluation methodologies to identify opportunities for improvement/innovation.

Areas of Expertise

- Stakeholder Collaboration
- Environmental Policy
- Policy Development
- Project Management
- Research Data Application
- Evidence-Based Decision Making
- Team Leadership
- Resource Economics
- Partnership Management

Professional Experience

Understanding Society (UKHLS), Colchester
Policy & Partnership Manager

2022 — Present

Manage stakeholder engagement and communication strategies to ensure alignment with organizational goals. Analyse data and research findings to provide insights for policy formulation and program development. Facilitate knowledge exchange and dissemination activities to promote the impact of research on social policy.

- Established strategic partnerships with government agencies and research organizations to maximize the utilization of longitudinal evidence and data. Organized events to showcase policy-relevant evidence.
- Advocated for the application of longitudinal survey data in evaluating social policy, underscoring its potential to yield real-world double-blind findings.
- Pioneered the use of household longitudinal survey data to elucidate the factors contributing to the declining levels of productivity within the UK economy.

Policy Studies Institute, London
Senior Research Fellow

2012 — 2016

Conducted in-depth research on environmental policies, including the impacts of innovation on regulatory costs and the benefits of EuP-related directives. Led multidisciplinary teams in the design and execution of research projects, ensuring alignment with project objectives and timelines. Collaborated with government agencies and international organisations to inform policy development and decision-making.

- Secured funding and spearheaded the circular economy scoping study for the EU, driving a critical EU policy agenda aimed at enhancing coherence and prioritization.
- Led the Institute's team contribution to the EU-wide initiative aimed at directing policy towards achieving absolute decoupling of consumption from environmental impact.

Self-employed, Bristol
Visiting Research Fellow/ Freelance Consultant

2008 — 2014

Provided expert consultation on environmental policy matters to various organisations, including government agencies and NGOs. Conducted independent research on sustainability issues, delivering valuable insights and recommendations for policy development. Collaborated with academic institutions as a visiting research fellow, contributing to ongoing research projects and publications. Developed innovative solutions to address complex environmental challenges, emphasising sustainability and resource efficiency.

- Directed a team of economic modelers to showcase the advantages of utilizing economic input-output model results as the foundation for 'green' border-levelling tax adjustments.
- Assisted the economics team at the Environment Agency of England & Wales in conducting cost-effective analyses mandated by the Water Framework Directive.

Additional Experience

Senior Consultant, Eunomia Research & Consulting

Research Fellow, Policy Studies Institute, London

Research Consultant, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), London & Oxford

Actuarial Analyst, Norwich Union

Education

Master of Science in Environmental Technology (Energy Policy Option)

Imperial College London, UK

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Technology

University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

Key Projects

- Dynamic policy mixes for absolute decoupling of environmental impact of EU resource use from economic growth - DYNAMIX, (EU Commission, 2012 to 2015).
- Scoping study to identify potential circular economy actions (EU Commission (DG ENV), 2013 – 2014). I led a consortium of partners to deliver this project.
- Benefits of EuP-related Directives to the UK green economy (Defra 2012).
- Impacts of innovation on the regulatory costs of Energy-using Products policy (Defra 2010).
- Tackling Carbon Emissions Embedded in Trade – The Role of Border Carbon Adjustments (CLCF & University of Leeds, 2011).
- Policies to Encourage Sustainable Consumption (EU 2011).
- Real-world consumer behavior relating to the purchase of environmentally preferable goods (European Commission 2009).
- Cost-Benefit Analysis for Delivering Water Neutrality in the Thames Gateway Development (Environment Agency in Association with Metroeconomica 2008/9).
- Household and economy-wide impacts of changing environmental behavior (Defra in Association with the Policy Studies Institute 2008).
- Economics support to the National Economics Team Environment Agency (Environment Agency).
- Administrative costs as a sustainability indicator for policy development in the EU (European Commission in Association with the Policy Studies Institute 2008).
- Modelling using the Standard Cost Model to assess the administrative burdens of the Environment Agency's Environmental Permitting Programme 2.
- Citizens' Science for Sustainability (2005-2006) EPSRC. Action-based research is designed to promote dialogue and collaboration between EPSRC scientists and lay citizens from marginalised and excluded groups.
- Sustainable Consumption and Production - Development of an Evidence Base for the UK Defra 2006.
- Ex-post estimates of costs to business of EU environmental policies (DG ENV 2005).