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Energy-Efficiency and the Economics of Pollution Abatement

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ENERGY-EFFICIENCY AND THE ECONOMICS OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT

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KEY WORDS: environment, energy in economic growth and development

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INTRODUCTION

For reducing pollution from energy production and use, perhaps no single recommendation has received more attention recently than that of improving the efficiency with which energy is produced and used—or “energy-efficiency” (as it is often called). Improvements in efficiency have undoubtedly helped to abate pollution in the past, and will do so in the future. During the past two centuries, the efficiency of energy-producing and energy-using activities, as measured by the amount of energy needed to provide a given output or service, has improved by factors ranging from 50 to more than

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