

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Innovation mostly occurs in OECD countries, but some transfer to developing countries will be needed to address environmental problems.

Transfer of wind (top) and solar photovoltaic (bottom) technologies, 1990-2007

Transfers from Annex I to non-Annex I signatories, measured using duplicate patent applications



How to read this figure

The figures present data on the extent of transfer (measured in terms of duplicate patent applications) from Annex I to non-Annex I signatories of Kyoto Protocol for two key technologies – wind power and solar photovoltaics. The direction and thickness of the arrows reflect the relation between the country in which a patent application was first filed and subsequent duplicate filings in other countries. Patenting is costly in terms of the preparation of the application and the administrative costs and fees associated with the approval procedure. As such, inventors are unlikely to apply for patent protection in a second (or “duplicate”) country unless they are relatively certain of the potential market for the technology in that country. On this basis it is possible to see how widely innovations are diffused in the global economy and learn which countries are the sources and recipients of such innovations. See www.oecd.org/environment/innovation.

Source: OECD (forthcoming), *The Invention and Transfer of Environmental Technologies*, OECD, Paris.