Innovation in clean/green technology: Can patent commons help?

This paper explores the differences between approximately 100 patents contributed by major innovators to the Eco-patent Commons, for which a non-assertion pledge has been signed, and patents in the same technologies or held by the same multinationals, in an effort to understand the potential for such commons to encourage innovation in the climate change area. This study, therefore, indirectly provides evidence on the role of patents in the development and diffusion of green technologies. More generally, the paper sheds light on the performance of hybrid forms of knowledge management that combine open innovation and patenting.