



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Financial Impact on Households of Carbon Fee and Dividend Local Impacts in New York - District 18

Introduction

This study on the impact to households of Carbon Fee and Dividend was funded to respond to concerns expressed by members of Congress that constituents in their district would not benefit under our proposal. Key to the concerns expressed was not only understanding how the average constituent did, but how different groups of constituents fared. Concern for low-income constituents, for instance, is common for members of both parties.

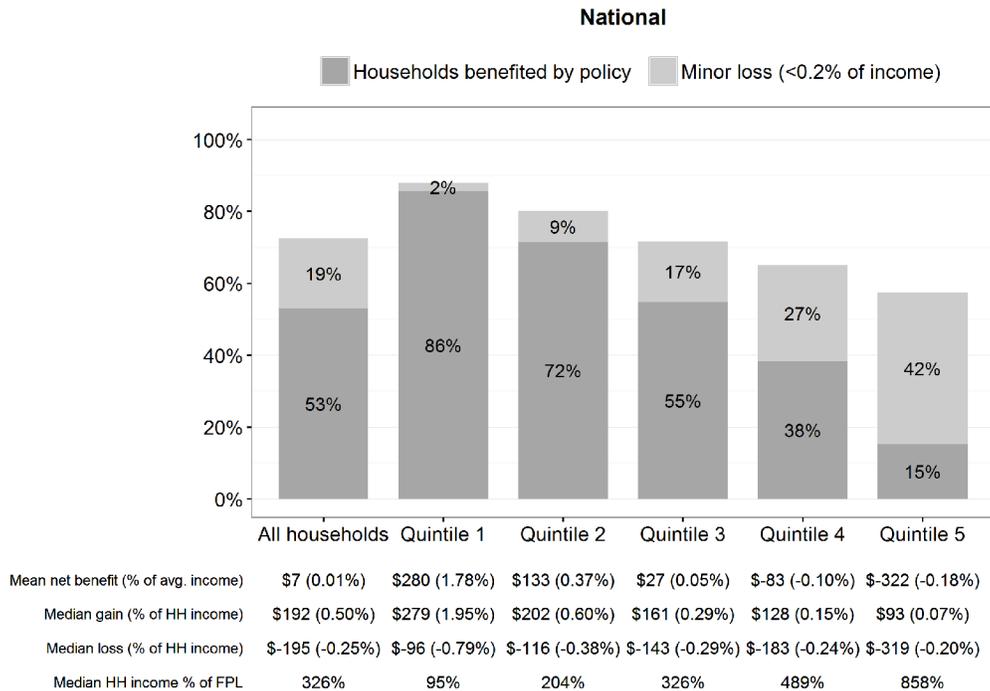


Figure 1: National Averages by Economic Quintile. Note that the three lowest-income quintiles show a benefit for the mean (average) household. The average net benefit for the lowest-income quintile is 1.78% of income, whereas households in the top quintile experience, on average, net losses that are a much smaller percentage of their total income, at just 0.18%.

All data is from the 2016 working paper, “Impact of CCL’s proposed carbon fee and dividend policy: A high-resolution analysis of the financial effect on U.S. households” by Kevin Ummel, Research Scholar, Energy Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

Current working paper and summary available at <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/household-impact/>

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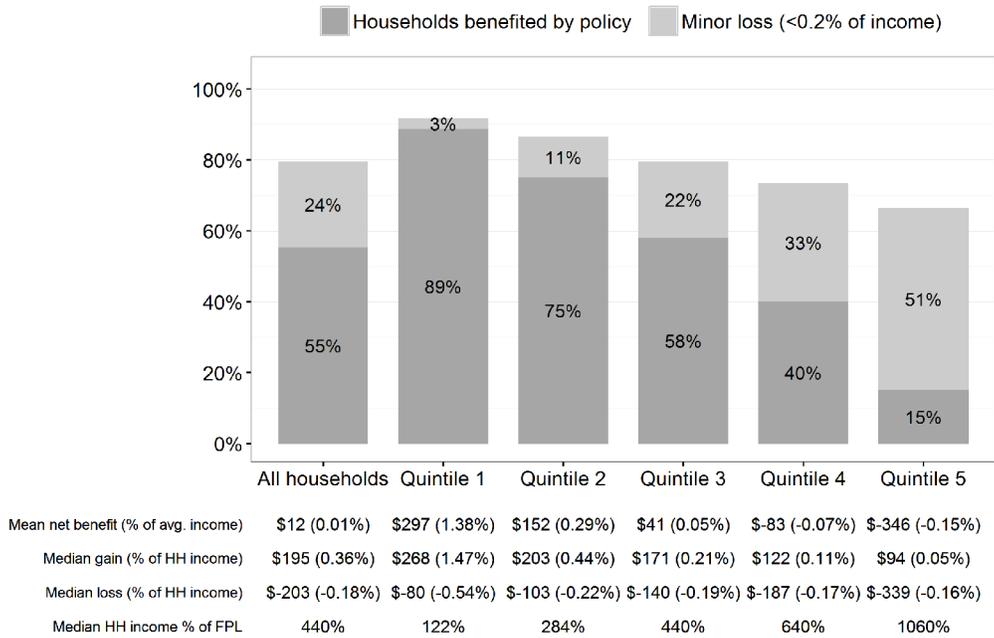


Figure 2: Impact by Quintile for New York - District 18. Looking at the categories on the bottom of this graph, only the numbers for “Mean Net Benefit” and “Median HH income % of FPL” include all households in a given quintile (FPL = Federal Poverty Line). Only those households who receive a financial gain are included in calculating the “Median Gain” figures, and likewise, only those households which experience a loss are included in calculating the “Median Loss” figures.

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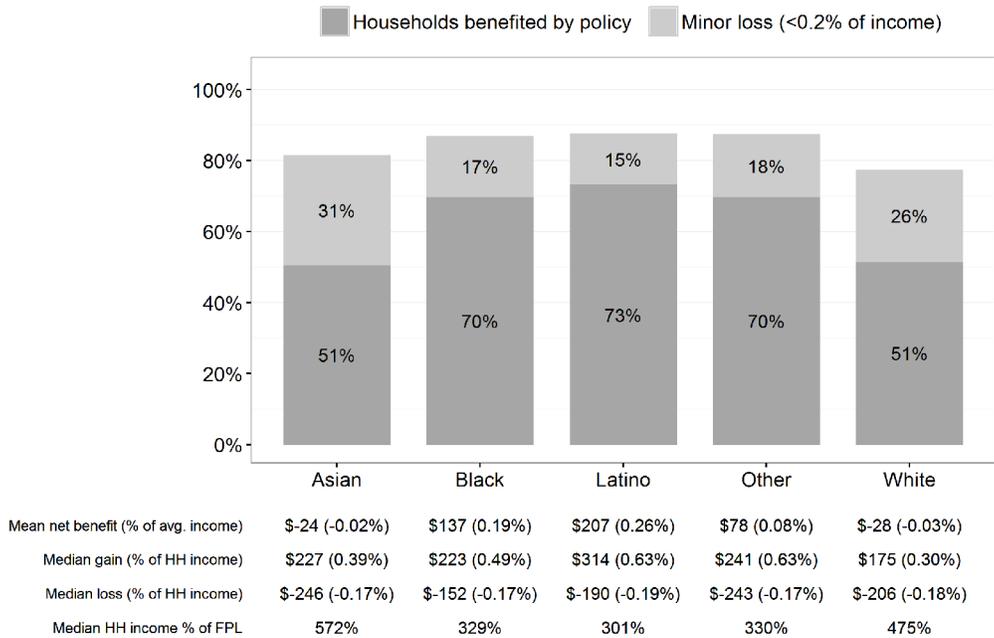


Figure 3: Impact by Race for New York - District 18. Minority households tend to do better than white households as a result of lower average incomes (associated with lower carbon footprint) and/or more people per household (larger pre-tax dividend).

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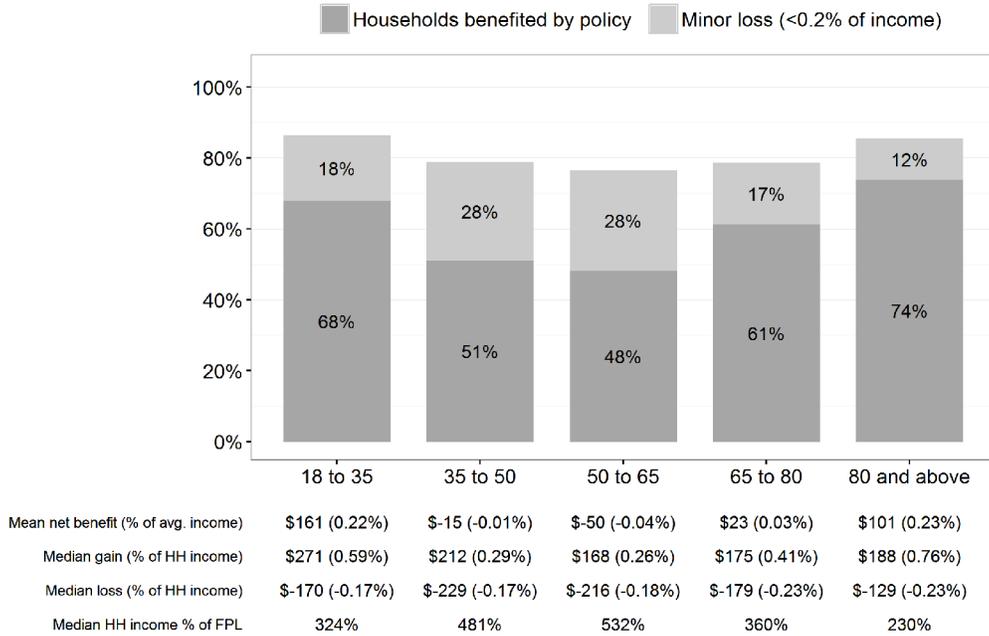


Figure 4: Impact by Age Group for New York - District 18. The pattern of benefits across age groups makes sense given the impact of age on both carbon footprints and dividend received. Older households tend to have smaller footprints, reflecting reduced mobility and less consumption as a result of low fixed incomes. Younger households tend to be larger – and therefore benefited by the dividend formula – in addition to less income/consumption in early career.

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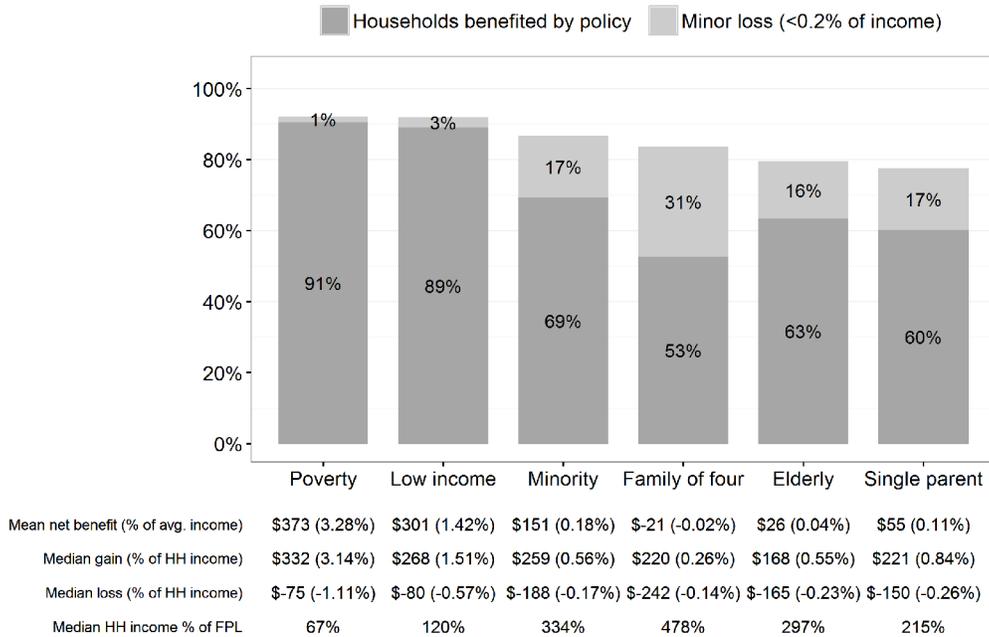


Figure 5: Impact by Household Type for New York - District 18. This graph reports data for demographic groups of particular interest to many legislators. “Elderly” households are defined as having a household head age 65 or older, no more than two adults, and no children present. “Poverty” and “Low income” refer to households with income below 100% and 200% of FPL, respectively.

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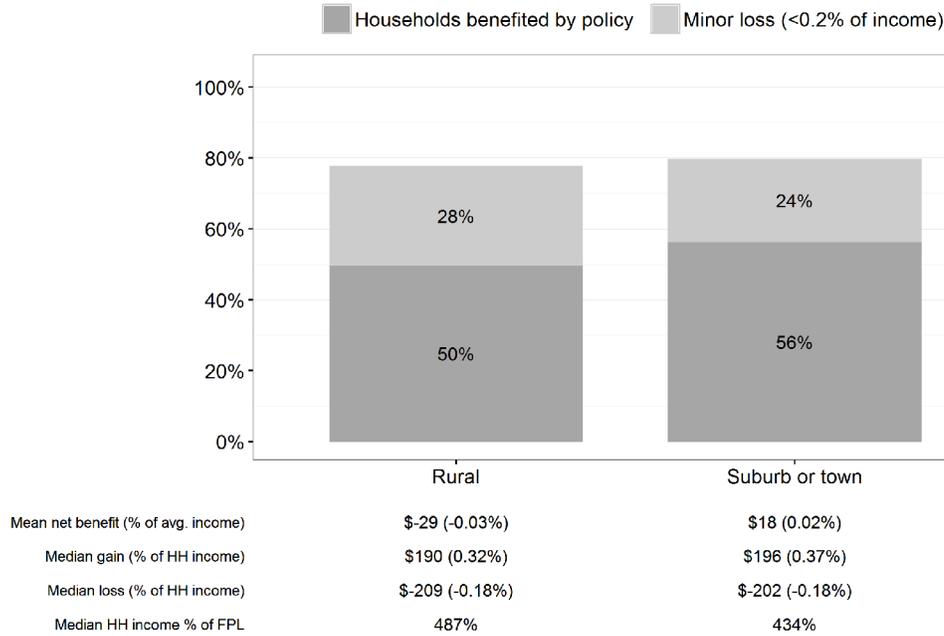


Figure 6: Impact by Community for New York - District 18. This graph breaks down data by “community type” – Rural, Suburb or Town, vs Urban.

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Average tax burden at \$15 per ton CO₂ and current emission levels (2012\$ per person)

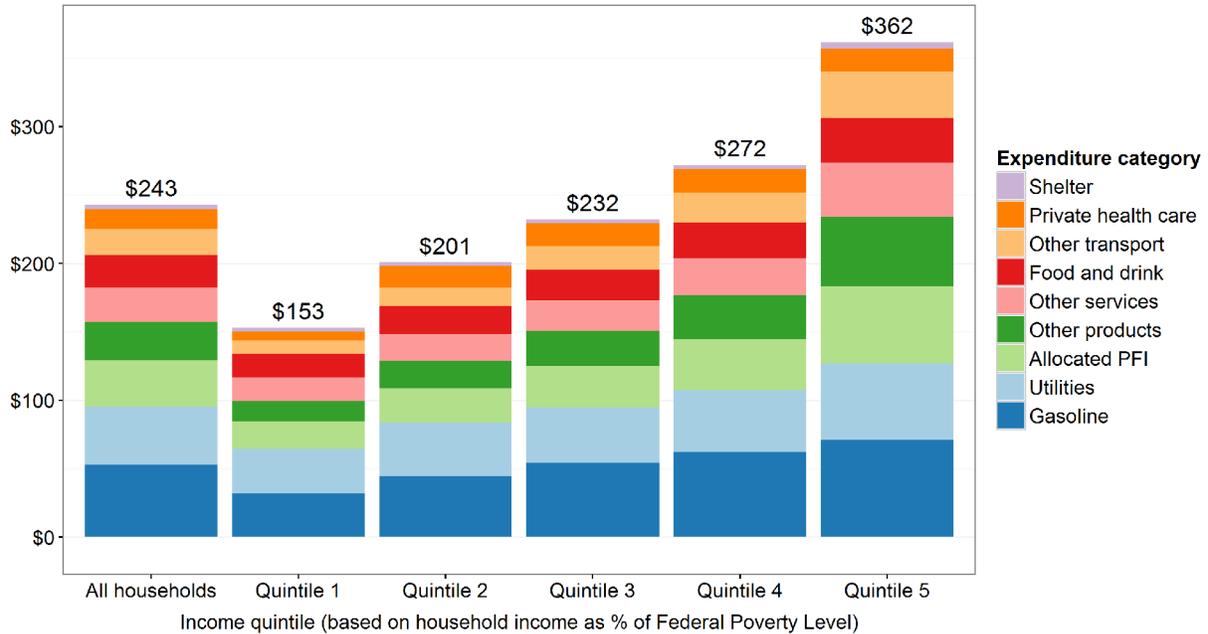


Figure 7: Expenditures by Category for New York - District 18. Here we show a breakdown of where the carbon fee increases expenses (i.e. before the dividend) for each quintile. Note that direct energy expenditures (gasoline and utilities) represent less than half of the expense for most quintiles with other products and services making up the rest. Quintile 1 shows low expenditure for private health care since most health care for households in this quintile is covered by government programs. Allocated Private Fixed Income (PFI) measures economy-wide spending on fixed assets (e.g. structures, equipment, software, etc.) that are used in the production of goods and services.

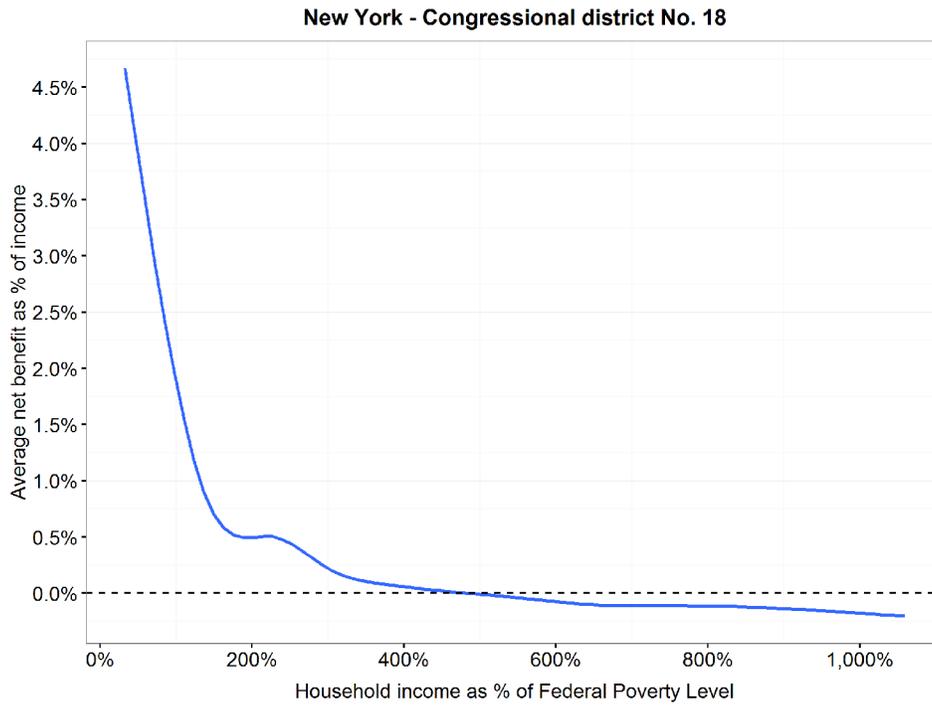


Figure 8: Relationship between benefit and income for New York - District 18. This line graph shows the relationship between income expressed as a percentage of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) vs. the average (mean) benefit as a percentage of income for households. Benefits are highest for those at the lowest income levels and generally positive through 200-300% of the FPL. Average loss for those with higher incomes is relatively small as a percentage of annual income. To avoid anomalies from small sample size at the margins, this graph does not include results for households in the bottom 1% of income, nor those above the 90th percentile of income in the district. This graph also does not convey information about how much of the population in the district is at any given point along the line.