

Lecture 14: Public Goods

PPPA 6007

Fall 2024

Goals for this class

- Understand definition of public goods
- Identify public goods
- Explain how equilibrium for public goods differs from private goods
- Apply policy tools to solve public goods problems

What to read for this assignment

Weinzierl, Acocella, and Yamazaki, “Astroscale, Space Debris, and Earth’s Orbital Commons.” Linked on course webpage.

You should also listen to the two linked podcasts on public goods. They help explain what public goods are. This assignment relies on that definition, but does not analyze the examples from the podcasts.

What to turn in for summary

Please answer the following questions, separating the answer to each question in your response.

1. What is the public good in this article?
2. The case suggests that there is a “market failure.” Which market is failing and why?
3. Name two potential policy solutions. For each solution, explain the benefits and the potential for failure.
4. Do a little web research to update yourself since 2016. Write updates on at least two of the basic facts from the case. Do these updates change your opinion of any of your previous answers? Why or why not?

This need not be a long response. No response should be longer than two pages.

How to turn in

- Turn assignment into Blackboard
- Go to “assignments” and you’ll see the Lecture 14 case study submission.
- Submit a pdf.
- Please do not use any special characters in your file name.