

Identifying Information

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Paper Information

Title:	The Eco-Patent Commons: A Post-Mortem Assessment
Abstract:	Commons and pledge structures have been used to achieve various goals of patent holders, including the advancement of social and philanthropic aims. We analyze the impact of the “Eco-Patent Commons” (EcoPC) on the diffusion of patented environmentally friendly technologies, using both participant interview and data analytic evidence. Established in 2008 by several large multinational companies and concluded in 2016, the not-for-profit initiative provided royalty-free access to 248 patents covering 94 “green” technologies. Our updated results show that the commons did not increase the diffusion of pledged inventions, and that the EcoPC suffered from several structural and organizational issues. Our findings have implications for the effectiveness of patent commons in enabling the diffusion of patented technologies more broadly.