

David J. Bjornstad is a Distinguished R&D Staff Member at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Fellow for Energy and Environmental Policy at the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, and Research Professor of Economics at the University of Tennessee.

Bjornstad's professional interests center on policy studies to foster technological change that stimulates energy efficiency and environmental integrity through sustainable business practices and lifestyles. He has published over one hundred papers and articles dealing with these and related topics, applying the tools of economics and interdisciplinary behavioral studies. A principal theme in this work is to frame real-world policy issues to be amenable to analysis by diverse research teams, mixing fundamental theory with innovative data collection techniques.

Bjornstad's current work at ORNL deals with understanding the how Science and Technology research organizations could better make available their technical findings to downstream users and ultimately to the market, with special reference to the role of intellectual property rights. He is also preparing "need for power" and "benefit-cost" analyses for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Environmental Impact Statement process. At the Baker Center, Bjornstad is helping to develop an interdisciplinary energy and environmental research program.

Earlier in his career, Bjornstad served as Economics Staff Director for former Secretary of Energy James Watkins' Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. Prior and subsequent to that, he held a number of administrative and leadership positions at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and taught part-time at nearby universities. Bjornstad received his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Economics from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Minnesota State University at Moorhead.