



## April 2019 Newsletter

*This is a monthly newsletter of updates from OpenRG Experts.  
For more updates on OpenRG, follow us on Twitter [@OpenRG](#)*

---

Don Boyd

*Don is Co-Director of the State and Local Government Finance Project at Rockefeller College, SUNY Albany, and a consultant, Open Source Policy Center.*

- Worked with colleagues at OSPC to develop disclosure-risk and file-quality measures for a pilot project to develop a synthetic version of the IRS Public Use File of income tax returns that serve as an input into [Tax-Calculator](#).
  - Developed a proposal and methods to build a microdata file of state income tax records based on the IRS public use file, and a state income tax policy analysis model. Began discussing this project with interested parties in several candidate states.
- 

Jason DeBacker

*Jason is an Assistant Professor of economics at the University of South Carolina and a core maintainer of the open source models [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) and [OG-USA](#), which model business taxes and macroeconomic effects of tax policy, respectively.*

- Presented on the [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) at the [April PSL Meetup](#).
- Updated the API for [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#) to allow users to easily work with the model.
- Added methods to produce summary tables and figures through [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#).
- Updated [OG-USA](#) to allow the for differentials in interest rates on private capital and government debt.
- Added a large, open economy parameterization of the [OG-USA](#) model.

---

Richard Evans

*Richard is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago, Director, of the Open Source Economics Laboratory, a Fellow with the Becker Friedman Institute, and President of OpenRG. He is also a core maintainer of [OG-USA](#), a macroeconomic model for fiscal policy analysis in the U.S.*

- Presented on the [OG-USA](#) to the [Tax Policy Center](#) at the [Urban Institute](#).

---

Anderson Frailey

*Anderson is a Research Associate with the Open Source Policy Center at the American Enterprise Institute and a core maintainer of the open source [TaxData](#) project, which cleans and prepares tax data for use in microsimulation tax models.*

- Presented on [Tax Brain](#) at [AnacondaCON](#). A recording of the talk can be seen [here](#).

---

Weifeng Zhong

*Weifeng is a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Weifeng is a core maintainer of the open-source [PCI models](#).*

- Began a new position as a Senior Research Fellow at the [Mercatus Center](#).
- Updated the PCI-China index with the 2019 Q1 data.