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FIRM OWNERSHIP AND GREEN PATENTS. DOES FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN BUSINESS MATTER?

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Firm ownership and green patents.

Does family involvement in business matter? •

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Abstract This paper investigates how family and non-family firms differ in terms of their capability to introduce environmental innovation, which is measured by green patents. The analysis is carried out using a large patenting data set related to the inventions produced by about 4200 Italian manufacturing firms over the period 2009–2017. The results show that family firms are less likely than non-family firms to implement innovations in green technologies. Moreover, the role played by the stock of knowledge and the environmental management system certification differs across firm type.

JEL codes: O31; C23; G34.

Keywords: eco-innovation; green patent; family firms.