

## **ABSTRACT**

### ***The Effect of Free Cash Flow, Audit Quality, Leverage, and Tax Planning on Profit Management (Empirical Study of Energy Companies Listed on the Indonesian Stock Exchange, 2017 – 2021)***

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The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the reasons for the decline in company profits. This can trigger a company manager to take earnings management actions. They do this to avoid bankruptcy by changing the method of recording financial statements so that investors are interested in investing their funds in their company. Indonesia at this time, there are still many cases of earnings management. This study aims to explain and understand the effect of Free Cash Flow, Audit Quality, Leverage, and Tax Planning on Profit Management. This research was conducted at energy companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange for 2017 – 2021. The population used in this study were 16 companies in the energy sector using a sampling of 80 samples. The data analysis technique used is multiple linear analysis which is processed using Eviews12 software. The results of this study reveal that Free Cash Flow, Audit Quality, and Tax Planning have an effect on Earnings Management. As for the Leverage variable in this study, it has no effect on Earnings Management. Simultaneously, the variables Free Cash Flow, Audit Quality, Leverage, and Tax Planning have an effect of 13.5% on Profit Management

**Keywords:** Free Cash Flow, Audit Quality, Leverage, and Tax Planning on Profit Management

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