

Session 6A

NET SAVINGS EVALUATION – GETTING IT RIGHT: IT’S MORE THAN A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ON A PARTICIPANT OR MARKET SURVEY

Moderator: Nick Hall, TecMarket Works

PAPERS:

Gross is Gross and Net is Net: Simple, Right?

Richard Ridge, Richard Ridge & Associates
Mike Baker, SBW Consulting
Nick Hall, TecMarket Works
Ralph Prah, Prah & Associates
William Saxonis, New York State Department of Public Service

The Estimation of Spillover: EM&V’s Orphan Gets a Home

Ralph Prah, Prah & Associates
Richard Ridge, Ridge & Associates
Nick Hall, TecMarket Works
William Saxonis, New York State Department of Public Service

A Case Study of How a Market Transforming Program Claims Spillover and Market Effects

Robert Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter & Associates
Jennifer Fagan, Itron
Bobbi Tannenbaum, Research Into Action

SESSION SUMMARY:

This session examines evaluation issues and approaches designed for assessing net savings. Authors will discuss several topics including; the importance of selecting the right baseline approaches that are matched to the net savings analysis approach; the strengths and weaknesses of using codes in assessing net impacts; ways to assess spillover so that the savings are reliable; and a look at methods for assessing market effects impacts that stem from a multi-family program implementation effort.

This first paper lead by Dr. Ridge covers several issues pertaining to the net analysis process and the way in which the baseline and the analysis approach must be coordinated. The paper also covers how the net analysis approach is affected by the degree to which the action taken is an early replacement or replace on failure installation. The paper also covers the differences between various baselines and the degree to which freeriders are already included in those baselines, often leading to the subtracting of freeriders savings twice.

The second paper lead by Dr. Prah covers different approaches for assessing spillover at a level of rigor appropriate for documenting energy savings and crediting those effects to a program or portfolio of programs. With spillover now accounting for over 50% of the savings from of some programs it is important to be able to trust the findings documented by those evaluation efforts. The paper identifies many of the key issues pertaining to the methods for estimating the different types of spillover, and focuses on how to establish methods for documenting spillover so that the savings reported are reliable enough to be trusted by state regulatory officials. The paper focuses on the recently released Spillover Assessment Guidelines issued by the N.Y. Department of Public Service.

The third paper lead by Dr. Wirtshafter presents an approach used for assessing spillover savings achieved by one of NYSERDA's market transformation programs targeting multifamily facilities. The program is complex and can achieve both short term (current spillover) and longer-term spillover (market effects) impacts via a number of impact routes through participants as well as trade allies and partners.