

How to Compare Impacts of the Same Kind of Programs to Reduce GHG

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Background

Related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), each country has to report on the policies and measures that it has adopted to implement its commitments to reduce the GHG emissions. Programs targeted to improve energy efficiency are important for these policies and measures. But how to measure the impacts of these programs? How should the information, reported by different countries, be fairly compared? Is it traceable? What are the main elements that determine the impact of a program, etc.?

To have a tool for the judging the results of energy efficiency (EE) programs, as well as estimating the future role for such programs in policies, we are preparing an international evaluation guidebook. The International Energy Agency DSM Agreement is the umbrella for a group of experts from nine countries (seven EU countries and Canada and Korea) that started mid-2002 to develop a useful methodology — documented in the form of a guidebook — to evaluate DSM and EE programs. A final draft of this guidebook is planned for early 2004.

This project is clearly different from previous work in that it will focus on the evaluation methods currently used and not on evaluation results. Furthermore, it does not aim to present evaluation theory from A-Z. Instead the project will identify some of the most critical points related to evaluation of specific categories of EE policy measures, based on experience from the participating countries.

Major Outputs of the Project

During the project, country experts will have roundtable discussions and knowledge exchanges based on evaluation case examples for the following groups of policy measures: economic incentives, energy audits, voluntary agreements, information, regulation, government by example and packages of measures.

The case examples will be described in more details in the country reports that also include the evaluation methods currently in use in a country, as well as the costs related to evaluation. The case examples and each country report will use common formats.

The guidebook will include a chapter on evaluating EE programs, with references to existing literature (as much as possible the (English) reports will be made available on the web site: dsm.iea.org/t1st9/evaluation.html). Each group of policy measures will have a separate chapter. The methods presented will be based on and illustrated by country case examples.

The country experts will contribute to a special discussion in the chapter on evaluating packages of policy measures and the evaluation on different level of ambition. This is in line with experiences in Denmark (in early 2003, a practical handbook in evaluating energy saving was finalized) and the structure of programs as used in the system of Logical Framework.

