

SESSION 1B

ACTING LOCALLY, IMPACTING THE PLANET

Moderator: Ben Bronfman, The Cadmus Group, USA

PAPERS:

Evaluating Support for Local Authorities to Deliver Sustainable Communities

Claire Murray, Energy Saving Trust

Charles Michaelis, Databuild Ltd

Evaluation of Local Energy Agencies Performance

Marcello Antinucci, Energy Agency of Modena (AESS)

Catrin Maby, SWEA – Severn Wye Energy Agency

What Lessons Can We Draw about the Most Evaluated Programme in the Energy Efficiency Sector – the Local Energy information Centres?

Grégory Chéden, Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADAME), France

SESSION SUMMARY:

This session will focus on how local planning and implementation of efficiency and sustainability programmes are evaluated and contribute to CO₂ emission reduction. Each paper focuses on a different type of programme and evaluation technique.

Murray and Michaelis focus on evaluating a programme that provides support to local authorities to develop sustainable and efficient development in the domestic energy (residential) sector. The authors describe their approach to process and impact evaluation directed at aggregating the effects of the programme across participating communities. The process evaluation describes “what worked” and how the programme’s offerings were adopted and adapted at the community level. The impact evaluation provides an estimate of CO₂ reduction directly attributable to the programme’s intervention and adoption.

Antinucci examines the problem of how to evaluate local agencies’ performance for programmes that are cross-national in scope. Specifically, he addresses the issue of what parameters can be used to assess individual or regional energy agency performance as distinct from the aggregate performance of the EU programme. The paper reports on the development of performance metrics and its application in a sample of the 400 agencies currently part of the EU programme.

Finally, Chéden provides a meta-evaluation of local Energy Information Centres (Espaces Info Energie) in France, which have had ongoing evaluations since 2003. The Centres provide free energy advice to individuals and small companies according to priorities sent in Annual Action Programmes by the National, Regional and Departmental Governments. Two national, bottom-up evaluations were implemented in 2003 and 2005. Since 2005, 14 regional evaluations have been completed. Lessons learned from the transition from national to regional are examined, and recommendations for future evaluation approaches are discussed.