

SESSION 4C

TOP DOWN, BOTTOM UP EVALUATIONS

Moderator: Pierre Landry, Southern California Edison Company

PANELISTS:

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The 2007 Energy Services Directive of the EU's Integrated Climate and Energy Policy required Member States to adopt a 9% energy end-use savings target for 2016 and an even greater energy savings target for 2020. For decision makers to know if these national targets are being achieved, it is essential that the impacts of energy efficiency programmes and policies be reliably measured. This panel examines two general categories of evaluation methods: bottom-up and top-down. The term "bottom up methods" typically refers to procedures for the evaluation of single programmes, services and measures. A "bottom-up" assessment sums up the programme results with some attention to minimizing any overlapping measurements and filling any gaps in the analysis. Programme-specific impact or summative evaluations are typically bottom-up evaluations. On the other hand, "top down" evaluations look at national or regional energy usage, trends, and changes, as well as the causes of these changes, some of which may be programme interventions. Top-down methods rely on indicators such as those developed at the EU level within the ODYSSEE project. Both evaluation methods have certain advantages and drawbacks. In particular, there is a trade-off between accuracy of measured impacts and the costs of the evaluation effort. A blended approach seems preferred, but is it truly feasible? This panel will discuss the bottom-up and top-down evaluation methodologies, their strengths and weaknesses, the usefulness of these tools in assessing the achievement of policy goals, the feasibility of blending the approaches, and the future employments of these approaches in the EU and elsewhere.