

## SESSION 2E

### CAN WE KEEP EVALUATION IN FRONT OF POLICYMAKERS?

*Moderator: Jacqueline Berger, President, APPRISE*

#### PANELISTS:

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#### SESSION SUMMARY:

In a perfect world, large-scale energy efficiency programs would be evaluated on a regular basis and program policy decisions would flow directly from the findings from those evaluations. The real world is messy; comprehensive evaluations are complicated and expensive to implement, and policymakers often need to make decisions with only partial information, or no information at all. In this panel, the discussants address those issues in the context of the National WAP Evaluation; a study that has been five years in the making, but wasn't even off the ground before the Obama administration committed to spend \$5 billion through the WAP network. Why is it important to complete the retrospective study of the WAP program? What value is contributed by the evaluation of the large-scale, but short-lived ARRA program? And, what lessons does this experience offer policymakers from commissions and utilities regarding the evaluation of ratepayer-funded programs?