

SESSION 13

EUROPEAN- AND US-WIDE EVALUATIONS: CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNTS

Moderator: Jean-Sébastien Broc, Ecole des Mines de Nantes, France

PAPERS:

National Evaluation of US Department of Energy State Energy Program

Kathleen Gaffney, DNV KEMA Energy & Sustainability

How are the Neighbours Doing? Making Energy Efficiency Efforts Comparable Through NEEAP Screening

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SESSION SUMMARY:

This session looks at original experiences of evaluation or review at the European Union or United States level, meaning covering various activities from many and very different countries or states. This scale of evaluation has been rarely implemented. It is currently of increasing interest, especially due to the needs to monitor and evaluate large-scale commitments implying significant objectives or funding (e.g., Directives in the EU, national programs in the US). The nature and scope of the materials to be evaluated or reviewed raise new questions, in particular in terms of methodology.

The first paper, “**National Evaluation of State Energy Program**”, deals with the State Energy Program (SEP). This program provides grants and technical support to the states and U.S. territories in order for them to carry out a wide variety of cost-shared energy efficiency and renewable energy activities that meet each state’s unique energy needs while also addressing national goals such as energy security. Supplemented by funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the SEP budget was set at \$3.1 billion for Program Years (PY) 2009 through 2011. The paper discusses the methodology developed to conduct a national evaluation of SEP.

The approach here is to mandate the same team for the evaluation of a large sample of activities. The main objective of the national evaluation is to develop an independent estimate of the key program outcomes. One of the main difficulties is therefore to manage a full-scale evaluation covering 82 different programmatic activities (PAs) that together account for more than 80 percent of funding. The magnitude of this work raises issues about sample design, data collection and related administrative processes, time needed to perform the evaluation tasks, incorporation of results from other evaluation studies at lower scale (among others). This paper analyses the experience feedback about the difficulties encountered.

The second paper, “**How are the neighbours doing? Making energy efficiency efforts comparable through NEEAP screening**”, presents the methodology used by the “Energy Efficiency Watch” project to analyse the information of the 27 NEEAPs (National Energy Efficiency Action Plans) submitted by the Member States to the European Commission in 2011. The NEEAPs are the reporting tool of the EU Directive on energy services (2006/32/EC) setting an indicative target of 9% savings in 2016 compared to a reference period (2001-2005). The NEEAPs delivered in 2011 are an intermediate reporting, which should include both an assessment of the current achievements and the measures planned to meet the 2016 target.

The approach here is a meta-review of the information provided by the Member States, in order to produce an independent analysis of Member States’ state of progress on key aspects and to formulate guidance for the remaining period. The diversity in the content of each NEEAP (in terms

of level and quality of information) forms a true methodological challenge. The paper describes the methodology developed, especially the evaluation criteria and the corresponding rating. This is illustrated by concrete examples, analysing the key aspects of overarching governance frameworks and comprehensiveness of sector-based policy packages. The paper concludes with preliminary findings from the cross-country analysis about the strengths and weaknesses of Member States' energy efficiency policies, and lessons learnt from this second round of NEEAPs.