

Evolution of Process Evaluation Protocols in the United States

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Overview of Process Evaluation Protocols

As the interest in Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) activities has grown, so too has the recognition of the importance and value that process evaluations provide to both program administrators and policy makers. This shift is also reflected in the attention paid to process evaluations within a larger set of EM&V protocols.

This poster illustrates that initially most EM&V activities focused almost exclusively on documenting activities relating to impact evaluations. Specifically, this emphasis led to the widespread adoption of the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol (IPMVP) as well as the development of Technical Reference Manuals (TRMs), which standardize “deemed savings” estimates for prescriptive energy efficiency measures.

While EM&V professionals acknowledge the importance of conducting process evaluations on a periodic basis to document program operations and identify areas for program improvement, there was little standardization regarding the timing, focus or structure of these activities.

The first set of EM&V protocols were developed as part of the overall California Statewide Evaluation Framework developed in 2006 (Hall et al). However, these protocols focused primarily on clarifying the myriad of issues surrounding impact evaluations. But it did lay the foundation to identifying the most appropriate time to conduct a process evaluation.

As the market has matured, process evaluations are taking on more prominent role in both the scope of program evaluation activities as well as within the EM&V protocols themselves. The Arkansas Public Service Commission adopted a set of EM&V protocols that built off the foundation laid by the earlier California Protocols. New York State has pushed the envelope even further by developing the first comprehensive Process Evaluation Protocols for New York State.

The Process Evaluation Protocols in New York State provide guidance to program administrators and policy makers by offering a new paradigm for examining the process evaluations within the EM&V framework. Protocols were developed to address issues at both the strategic and tactical level. These protocols also establish key decision-points to determine the most appropriate time to conduct process evaluations.

Developing a common set of protocols ensures that the key findings from individual program evaluations are synthesized across the entire program portfolio and used to refine statewide energy efficiency policies. This poster highlights the vital role that process evaluation protocols and help to pay by providing structured guidance to ensure that energy efficiency programs achieve long-term, sustainable energy savings.

References

TecMarket Works, 2006. *California Energy Efficiency Evaluation Protocols: Technical, Methodological, and Reporting Requirements for Evaluation Professionals*, Under Contract with and Directed by the CPUC’s Energy Division, and with guidance from Joint Staff, April.

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1990
2000
2005
2010
2012

Scattered guidelines
Inconsistent guidelines
Multiple sources create guidelines

Connecticut forms the Energy Conservation Management Board

California develops the CA Evaluation Framework

Maryland passes the EmPOWER Maryland Efficiency Act

Kansas uses IPMVP (International Performance Measurement & Verification Protocol) guidelines

Illinois forms the Stakeholder Advisory Group

Pennsylvania develops its first TRM (Technical Resource Manual)

New Jersey approves the Clean Energy Protocols

Massachusetts administers one of the largest EM&V programs

Wisconsin hires state-level evaluator

New York creates statewide Protocols

Michigan forms the EE Collaborative

Arkansas finalizes statewide Protocols

