

Energy policy effectiveness and systematic evidence reviews

EEEN Forum, 23rd November, 2017

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Research Fellow – Policy Effectiveness

- Evidence Reviews for Scottish Energy Policy
- 1st year Pilot study Heat policy

EEEN Forum, 23rd November 2017

- Energy policy making and evidence
- Evidence reviews
- Evidence review topic: private household investment in energy efficiency



Evidence and energy policy-making



Energy policy

- <u>Decision making under uncertainty</u> technical, economic, social and political uncertainty
- <u>Contested views</u> vested interests and a politicised area of policy
- <u>Multiple (competing) objectives</u> environmental sustainability, social equity and security of supply

Evidence: <u>"that which tends to prove or disprove something"</u>

- <u>Hierarchy:</u> are some forms or sources of evidence more valuable than others?
- Supply: What are the sources?
- Demand: When is it needed?



Evidence of energy policy effectiveness



Open social system

- Counterfactuals: difficult to create controlled experimental conditions?
- Quantitative and qualitative evidence

Multiple contexts

- Different national contexts engaging in energy system transition
- Different sources of policy effectiveness evaluation

Evidence of effectiveness

- Conflicting claims
- Patterns of effectiveness



Evidence reviews – 'what works.....for whom, in what context, at what time?'



Conventional 'narrative' evidence review

- Selective use of evidence to present a case
- No explanation of how evidence sources were chosen

Systematic evidence review

- Transparent process of evidence gathering
- Comprehensive assessment of potentially conflicting evidence

Evidence reviews for Scottish energy policy

- Broader policy question rather than single policy interventions
- Synthesis of ex-post evidence for ex-ante assessments









Multiple effectiveness criteria - efficiency, equity and institutional fit



Efficiency

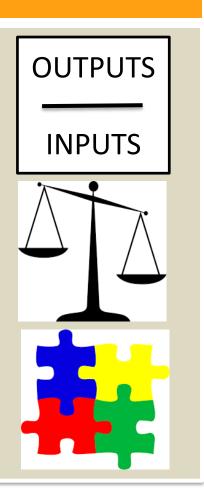
Public resource inputs to policy goal outputs

Equity

- Who pays and who benefits from policy action?

Institutional fit

- Effective policy options from other policy contexts





UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) – Technology and Policy Assessment





A review of regional and global estimates of unconventional gas resources

A report to the Energy Security Unit of the Joint Research Centre of the European commission

September 2012

Authors

Christophe McGlade, University College London (UCL) Energy Institute Jamie Speirs, Imperial Centre for Energy Policy and Technology (ICEPT), Imperial College London

Steve Sorrell, Sussex Energy Group (SEG) at University of Sussex



A report for UKERC by UKERC Technology & Policy Assessment Function



Low carbon jobs:

The evidence for net job creation from policy support for energy efficiency and renewable energy







The costs and impacts of intermittency – 2016 update

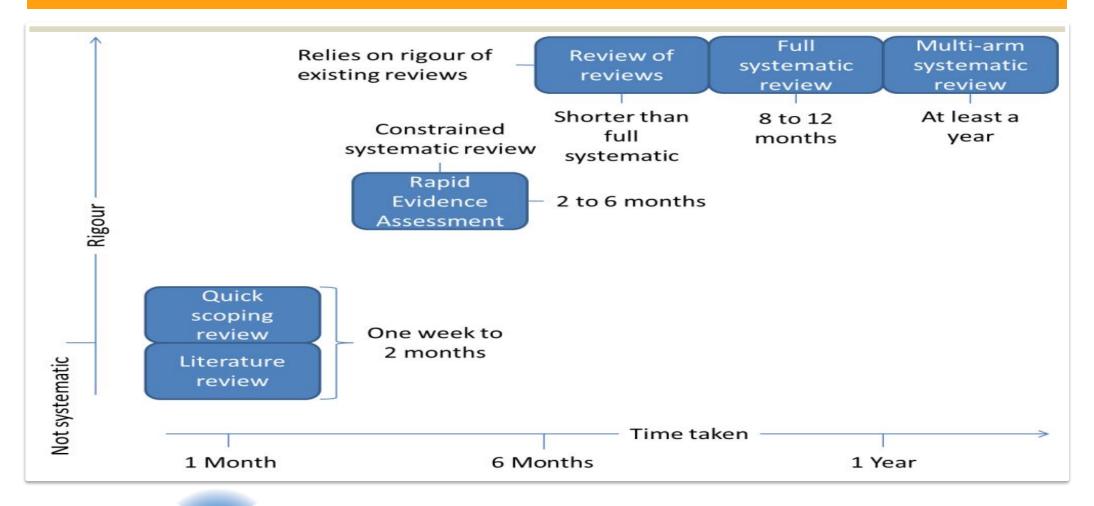
A systematic review of the evidence on the costs and impacts of intermittent electricity generation technologies

Philip Heptonstall, Robert Gross, Florian Steiner February 2017



Timescales for different forms of evidence review – UKERC TPA







Topic selection - Private household investment in energy efficiency retrofit



Policy question

- Topic relevant to current policy decision making
- Topic with a relevant evidence base that can be systematically reviewed

Policy Outcome 1 in Residential Chapter of the Draft Climate Change Plan – "Improvements to the fabric of Scotland's domestic buildings results in a reduction in their heat demand by 2032"

Policy question – "What can be done in Scottish Government policy to more effectively encourage private, 'able to pay' households to invest in energy efficient retrofit?"



Pilot review



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Future of energy retrofit policy in Scotland

- SEEP as a 15-20 year programme
- £10 billion estimated to bring "the vast majority of homes in Scotland to a rating of C by 2025"
- Public funding for SEEP likely to be much lower

Investment gap

- Public and private reasons for investment in retrofit
- Potentially billions of £s of private household investment in retrofit



Policy options

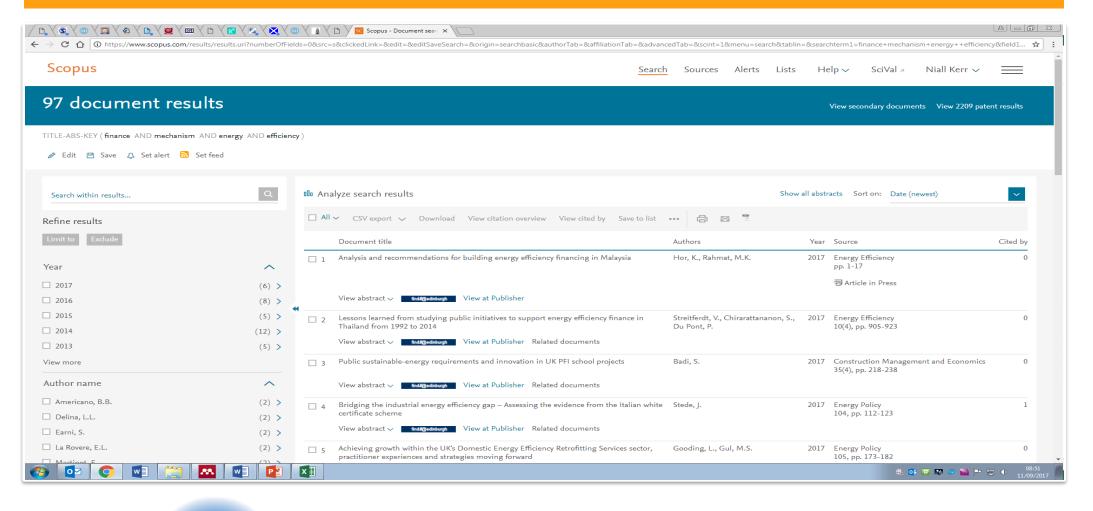


Policy instruments	Examples	Effectiveness
Information based	Energy Performance CertificatesSmart meters	 Does it change behaviour and actually impact on retrofit uptake?
Market based incentives	 Subsidies for energy efficiency retrofit Tax changes for retrofit goods/services 	 How much would have been done without subsidies/tax changes?
Regulation	Private rental marketOwner-occupiers	Guaranteed effectiveness?



Key words: finance, mechanism, energy, efficiency

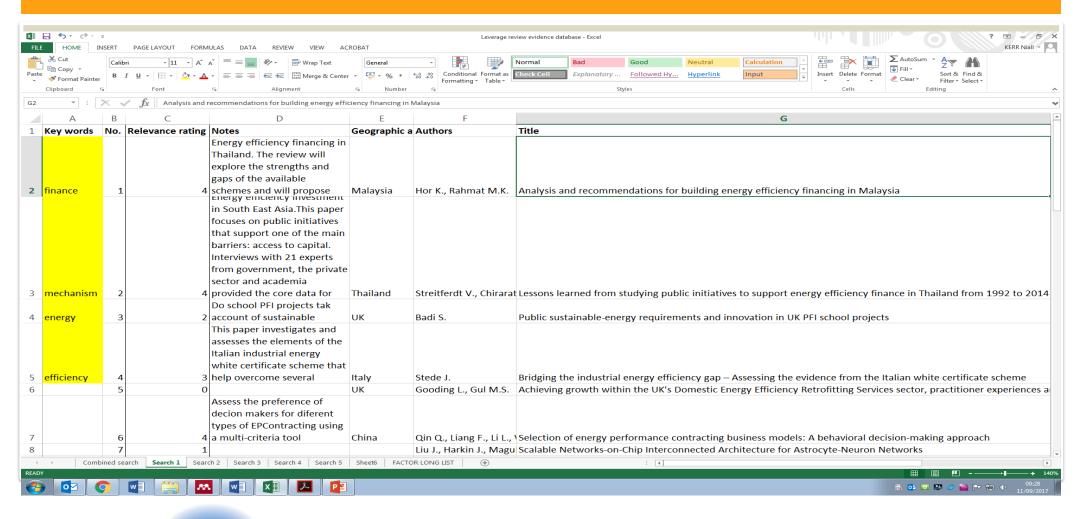






Key words: finance, mechanism, energy efficiency







Summary



Long term energy policy goals

- Energy system transitions with goals for 2050
- SEEP as a 15-20 year programme

Evidence reviews for Scottish energy policy

- Synthesis of available evidence on policy effectiveness
- Pilot year review of energy retrofit policy



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