Climate Change Policy Evaluation in the UK

February 2015
Agenda

> What does evaluation mean in the UK?

> Internal Evaluation: The Green Deal

> External Evaluation: Carbon Budgets in the UK
What does evaluation mean in the UK?

Monitoring and evaluation are closely related, and a typical evaluation will rely heavily on monitoring data. Good piloting and evaluation will typically consist of:

- **Process evaluation** (whether a policy is being implemented as intended, whether the policy design is working, what is working more or less well, and why)

- **Impact evaluation** (an objective test of what changes have occurred, the extent of those changes and an assessment of whether they can be attributed to the policy. This is typically through experimental methods and/or theory-based approaches)

- **Economic evaluation** (a comparison of the benefits of the policy with its costs).
Organization of Evaluation in Ministries

Evaluation Board
Central Evaluation Team
13 Priority Evaluations per year
Evaluation practitioners group: theory and practice

Programme responsibility: resources and spend
SRO accountability
Embedded in business case approval
Evaluation guidance, support, & Framework contract
Training – introductory, expert workshops
QA process for evidence
Internal Evaluation: Pre-launch research for the Green Deal

‘Conjoint’ survey
>
Looked at relative importance to consumers of elements of the Green Deal (GD) package. Identified which aspects of the GD would be important and why (such as ensuring that assessors are independent from installers and GD finance; and the importance of tailoring of assessments to customer requirements)

Green Deal Incentives research
>
Looked at relative appeal of different options to incentivise take up of GD measures
Internal Evaluation: GD – monitoring and research projects mapped to evaluation themes

- **Consumer demand**
  - Household Tracker Survey: £500k
- **Supply chain**
  - GD customer journey - pre-assessment: £90k
  - GD customer journey post assessment: £800k
  - Supply chain participants research: £200k
- **Finance**
- **Consumer protection**
- **Core remittance and testing**
- **ECO & ECO brokerage**
  - ECO customer journey - pre-and post-assessment: £300k
  - Other GD & ECO evaluation projects: £250k

On-going monitoring of GD & ECO assessments, quotes, plans, and installations
Internal Evaluation: Examples of key findings from the GD evaluation

- **Identified barriers to take up** of interested customers, including some which have now been addressed (such as the poor quality of on-line search tool and advice line).

- **Identified a range of hassle factors** preventing take up of GD incentives schemes and shown how these can be avoided.

- Provided evidence about the **consistency of Green Deal Assessments** – indicating that improvements to training, systems and / or tools are required to improve quality.
Internal Evaluation: GD: Measuring the impact on carbon emissions

Uses monitoring, social research and technology performance data:

- **monitoring** data about number and type of installations by funding source (GD, self, ECO)
- **social research on** prevalence and impact of consumer interference with measures;
- **Technology performance** data on the effectiveness of discrete and combined measures;
- and modelled assumptions about comfort-taking ie customer perceptions
3. External Evaluation: Carbon Budgets in the UK
A good example of policy evaluation is the work done on Carbon Budgets.

The Climate Change Act requires that the CCC report annually to Parliament on progress meeting carbon budgets.

Climate Change Committee delivered report advice on the level of the first three carbon budgets and the 2050 target.

Evaluation that will lead to new Carbon Budget

UK Government sends a response on the recommendations to the Parliament

It is important to mention that the UK government has never rejected a recommendation from the CCC regarding the Carbon Budgets.

Carbon Budget is published

Parliament legislates
A carbon budget places a restriction on the total amount of greenhouse gases the UK can emit over a 5-year period. The UK is the first country to set legally binding carbon budgets.

Under a system of carbon budgets, every tonne of greenhouse gases emitted between now and 2050 will count. Where emissions rise in one sector, the UK will have to achieve corresponding falls in another.

The carbon budgets were introduced as part of the Climate Change Act 2008 to help the UK reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050.

There have been set the first 4 carbon budgets in law, covering the period from 2008 to 2027. We have committed to halving UK emissions relative to 1990 during the fourth carbon budget period (2023 to 2027).
External Evaluation – UK Carbon Budgets

Figure 15: UK’s progress towards meeting Kyoto Protocol and carbon budget targets

Data from 2013 do not take account of emissions trading

- Carbon Budget 1: Emissions with allowance for trading
- Carbon Budget 2: Emissions before trading
- 2008-2012 Kyoto Protocol target
- 2008-2012 Carbon Budget 1 target
- 2012-2017 Carbon Budget 2 target


Note:
1. The chart shows emissions under carbon budgets coverage. These are slightly different to the emissions used to assess compliance against the Kyoto Protocol target.
2. For 2013 the emissions shown are before taking account of emissions trading, as emissions net of trading are not yet available. It is emissions net of trading that are used to assess final compliance against carbon budget targets.
External Evaluation – UK Carbon Budgets

Each February:
Final emissions statistics provide users with the latest emissions and allow the UK to monitor its progress towards international and domestic targets.

Provisional statistics:
provide users with an early indication of trends in emissions nearly a year ahead of the final statistics publication.

Annually:

Local authority statistics:
allow local authorities to monitor their progress against any local level targets.
The first three carbon budgets, which cover the period 2008-2022, were legislated in Parliament in May 2009.

The fourth carbon budget, which covers the period 2023-2027, was set in June 2011 and requires emissions to be reduced by 50% against 1990 levels. The level of the fourth carbon budget is subject to review in 2014.

The Act established clear and regular accountability to Parliament. It requires the independent CCC to report by June 30 each year on progress towards meeting the carbon budgets and the 2050 target. The Government must in turn lay a response to this report before Parliament by October 15 in the same year.