



Evaluation in DECC

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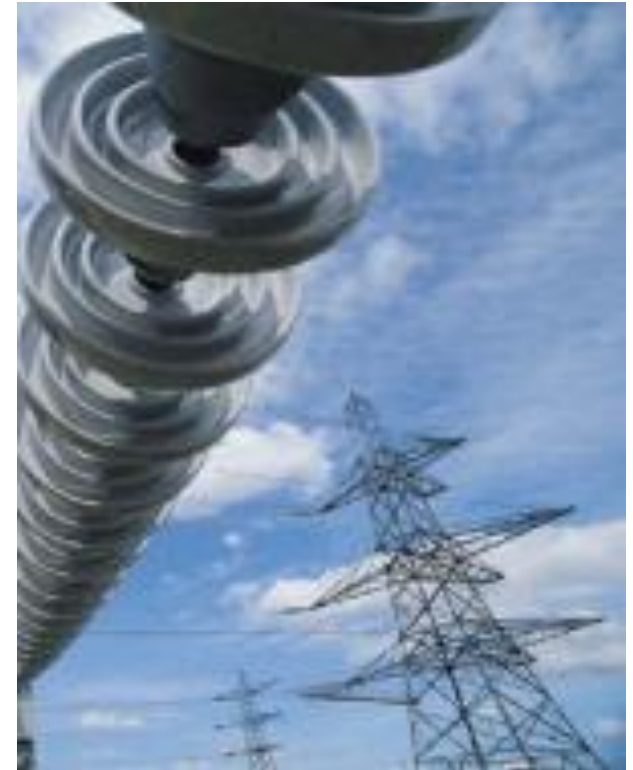
DECC's mission



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**Power the country and protect
the planet**

***“To promote economic growth by
delivering affordable, sustainable
and secure energy to the UK,
while driving ambitious action on
climate change internationally”***



Climate
Change

Consumers

Growth and
Infrastructure

The 'trilemma'



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Security of supply:

We need diverse reliable and resilient electricity supplies to keep the lights on

Climate change:

By 2050: 80% reduction in carbon emissions on 1990 levels.

By 2020, 15% of our energy from renewables

Affordability:

Minimise costs to taxpayers and keep energy bills down

Huge transformation in supply and use of energy required



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Supply-side implications



Demand-side implications



But a limited evidence base on which to make policies that...



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- Drive investment in supply of clean energy
- Speed up innovation in development of technology
- Increase uptake of energy efficiency products and public acceptance of new energy supplies
- Change consumer attitudes and behaviours towards energy efficiency
- Help to secure and speed up planning permissions for new plant
- Help with managing complex evolving markets
- Help to secure the transformational change in emerging / developing economies required for international progress

And so a clear rationale for evaluation designs that help fill gaps in the evidence base, in the context of live policies in action...

Making evaluations happen



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Context - Strong drivers from across government and internally.

Strategy for driving evaluation in DECC:

- Evaluation planning embedded in business case approval
- Evaluation Board – 13 priority evaluations but responsibility is at programme level (SROs accountable)
- Central Evaluation Team activities
- DECC Evaluation Framework contract

A focus on learning and de-risking policies



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Learn and adapt

Evidence

Learn
about
policy

Adapt
policy,
reduce
risks

Accountability / institutional knowledge

Transparency and
accountability

Evidence to respond
to scrutiny

Improved evidence
base & assumptions

Better decision
making & policies

Making evaluations good



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- Evaluation activities undertaken before, during and after
- Integrating evaluation planning into policy design and development (where possible)
- Large scale complicated and complex evaluations to match our policies
- Supporting evaluation practice e.g. through Evaluation Practitioners Group, training
- Supporting evaluation design e.g. DECC Evaluation Framework Contract
- Tackling deficits on the evaluation supply side
- Methodological and practice innovation e.g. possible ESRC Centre for Evaluation of Complexity

Making evaluations count



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- Findings delivered in time for key decisions and processes
- Further develop our ability to extract thematic learning from evaluations and research, and integration of external research
- Develop tools and strategies to support evaluation use in design of policies, policy appraisal process and wider decision making e.g. Comprehensive Spending Review

Conclusions



- Fair wind for Evaluation in Government
- Much greater role for evaluation that helps and informs policy – given limited evidence base, especially for policies with large scale transformative ambitions
- We need to grow expertise and practice in government and supply base for delivering large scale complicated and complex evaluations