

**IEA Fuel Poverty Workshop #1:  
EVALUATING THE CO-BENEFITS OF LOW-  
INCOME WEATHERISATION PROGRAMMES**

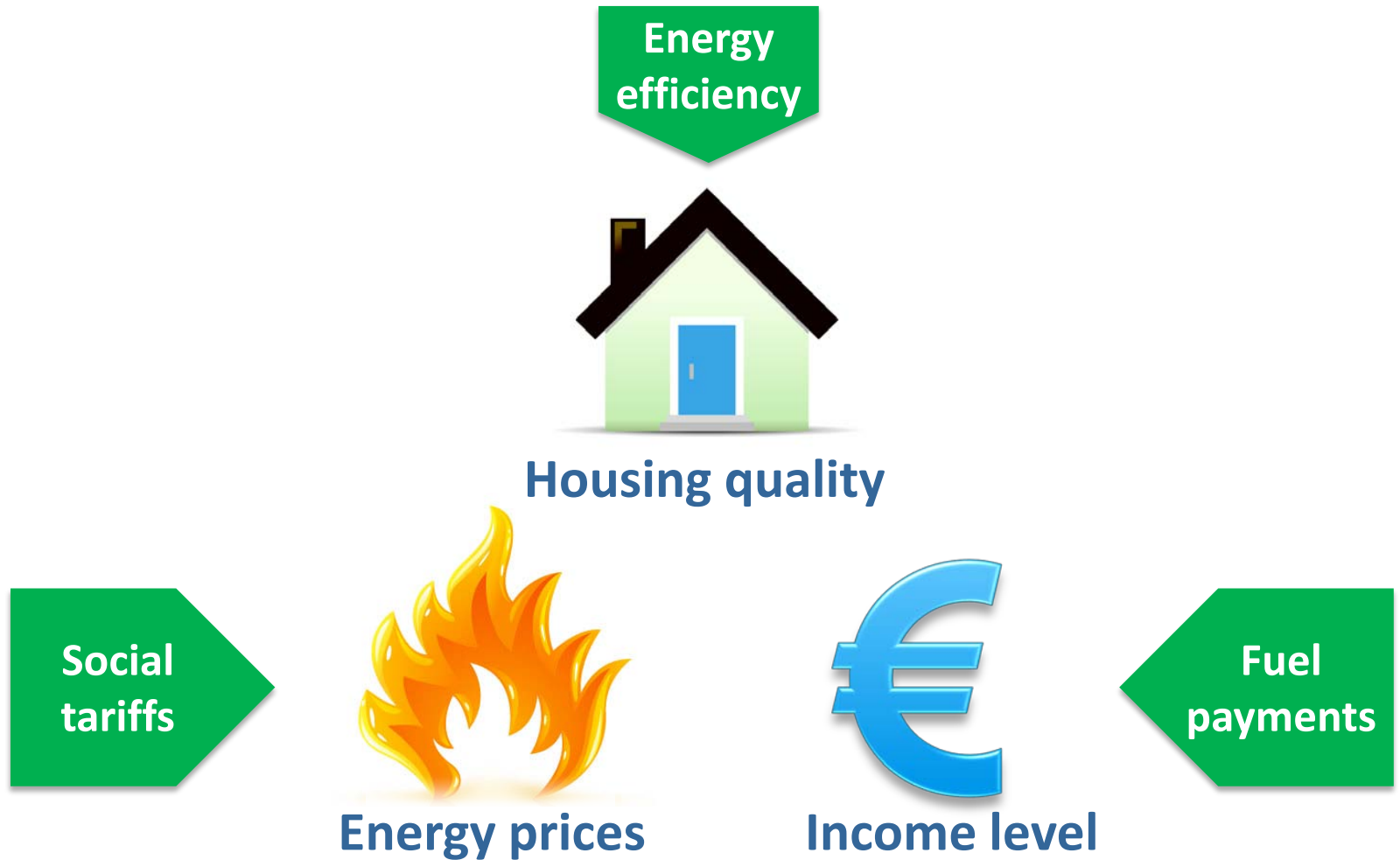
**27-28 January 2011**

**Dublin Castle, Ireland**

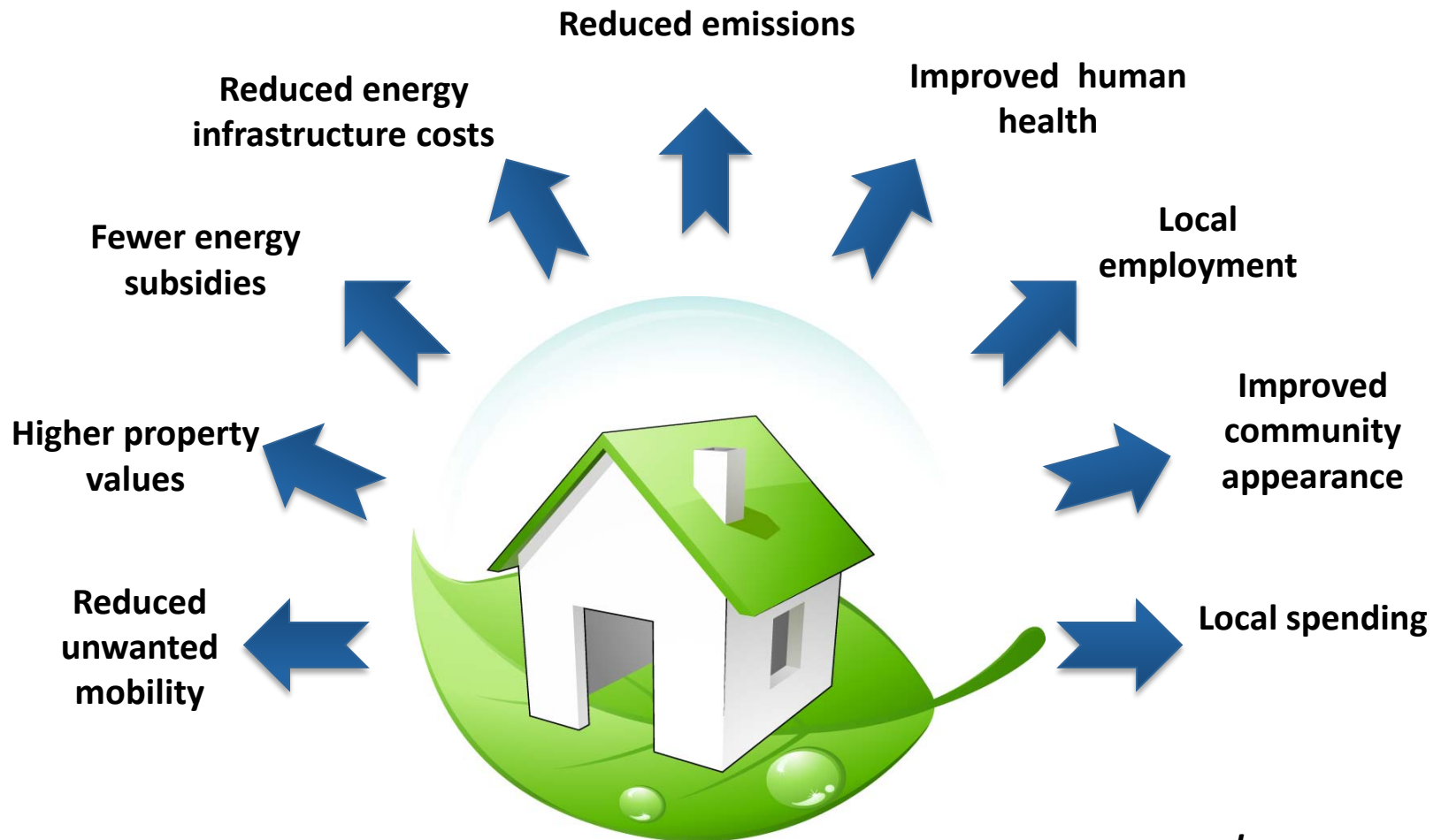


International  
Energy Agency

# Fuel poverty directly affects IEA Member countries



# Co-Benefits of Low-Income Energy Efficiency



*and more...*

# Key Workshop Questions

- **What co-benefits are most relevant to fuel poverty policy decision-making?**
- **Do non-participant benefits count in evaluating low-income energy efficiency?**
- **How can we improve the link between evaluation and decision making?**
- **What new approaches and methods are most promising to advance co-benefits evaluation?**
- **How can IEA Member countries collaborate on fuel poverty and low-income energy efficiency policies and evaluation?**

# Preliminary Workshop Observations

## Fuel poverty definitions are important

- Boardman 10% rule; Energy insecurity index; EU twice-the-median; Energy precariousness
- Data availability
- Comparability: do we need a climactic differentiator?
- Policy relevance
- However defined fuel poverty is growing
  - 1 in 5 households in UK and France
  - 44% in Northern Ireland
  - More than half in some Transition Economies
- Co-benefits are large but largely excluded
  - 2-3 times energy benefits
  - Certain co-benefits (jobs, children's health) stand out
- Co-benefits evaluation methods are scattered
  - Massachusetts regulator
  - Wisconsin study of economic development benefits
  - ORNL study

# Preliminary Observations (Con.)

- **Be cautious in developing new methods**
  - **Potential for double-counting**
  - **Persistence of benefits**
  - **Difficulty in measuring multiple benefit streams & beneficiaries**
- **Nature of evaluation is different**
  - **Demonstrate causal chains through clinical evidence**
    - ◆ **Cold-related deaths are indoor- cold-related**
    - ◆ **Anxiety depression halved after reducing FP**
    - ◆ **Asthma – mold connection**
  - **Does survey research even work for FP policy?**
  - **Developing relationships between previously-unlinked data**
    - ◆ **Housing conditions data**
    - ◆ **Health costs**
    - ◆ **Education**
- **Be realistic about the potential of EE**
  - **In N. Ireland, no amount of EE will eliminate FP**
  - **EE can never replace the need for LIHEAP-type income supplements**

# Other Take-Aways

- **Benefit Entitlement Checks as an FP reduction strategy**
- **Warmth as medicine**
- **Smart pre-payment meters**
  - **Overturns pre-payment stigmata**
  - **Builds customer-provider rapport**
- **Extend research on LIHEAP-health outcomes to include WAP-health outcomes?**
- **The chicken-and-egg evaluation problem**
  - **Regulators/governments must accept benefits premise before investment in new evaluation methods can take place**

# Next Steps for the IEA

- **Update concept note, compile discussion notes and develop a Workshop Report**
- **Identify opportunities for collaboration on co-benefits evaluation research**
- **In parallel, develop additional avenues of low-income energy efficiency policy work**
  - **Mobilizing private sector investment**
  - **Regulatory approaches**
- **Seek out working partners**
  - **IEA member country governments**
  - **NGOS**
  - **Private sector**