

# **Quality of life benefits (problems) that are hard to measure**

**IEA, Dublin, 27.01.11**

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# Excess winter deaths - England

Year	Excess deaths
2000-1	23,290
2001-2	25,790
2002-3	22,620
2003-4	21,930
2004-5	29,740
2005-6	23,740
2006-7	22,380
2007-8	23,290
2008-9	34,200
2009-10	25,400

# Savings vs warmth

Initial temperature °C	% of theoretical energy saving achieved
14	54
15	60
16	66
17	72
18	78
19	84
20	90

# Denial

- People say they are warm enough, even when they are cold
- Many will not admit to poverty or fuel poverty
- Not fair to ask them
- Won't get accurate answers
- Not a basis for assessing the problem

# Effect of being cold

	Much colder
Made me/us feel miserable	55%
Made an existing health problem or problems worse	39%
Made me/us feel anxious or depressed	34%
Did not feel able to invite friends or family to the house	26%
Spent as much time as possible away from the house	18%
Brought on a new health problem or problems	18%
None	15%

# Absence of worry – mental health

- Reducing fuel poverty improves mental health, both due to less financial pressure and greater warmth
- After energy efficiency measures, anxiety or depression was halved (from 300 to 150/1000 occupants)
- Is poor mental health a prelude to poor physical health?

# Condensation and mould

- Mould as a result of condensation on cold surfaces = unpleasant, smelly, hugely difficult to eradicate
- Deteriorating clothes and furnishings
- Constant redecoration
- Causes asthma in children
- Health costs for years

# Effect of household size and efficiency on fuel costs – all uses (£pa)

<b>NHER</b>	<b>40 sq m</b>	<b>80 sq m</b>	<b>120 sq m</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>450</b>



# Under-occupancy

- Half the fuel poor under-occupy, England 2008
- Cannot move people out of the (large) family home
- How to encourage downsizing?
- Reduce the space around the occupant = put insulation on the upstairs bedroom floor and move occupant downstairs.

# Children, stress and fuel poverty

	Fuel poor	All
Respiratory problems (eg asthma)	15%	7%
No quiet place for homework	10%	4%
Excluded from school	10%	3%
Truanted	13%	3%
In trouble with the police	10%	4%
Run away from home	12%	6%
4+ of the above	28%	4%

# Safety

- Disconnected, so use candles = fire risk, especially with children
- No cooker, no fridge = cannot eat properly, food deteriorates
- All go to bed, together, early, to keep warm
- Should be no disconnections of vulnerable in winter

# Exposes utility policies

- Hardship: examination of utilities' policies
- £1bn pa from disadvantaged in GB:
  - Were loyal, so didn't switch
  - Had prepayment meter
  - Switched to more expensive choice
- Liberalised markets worsen fuel poverty
- What market restrictions where the commodity is a basic necessity?

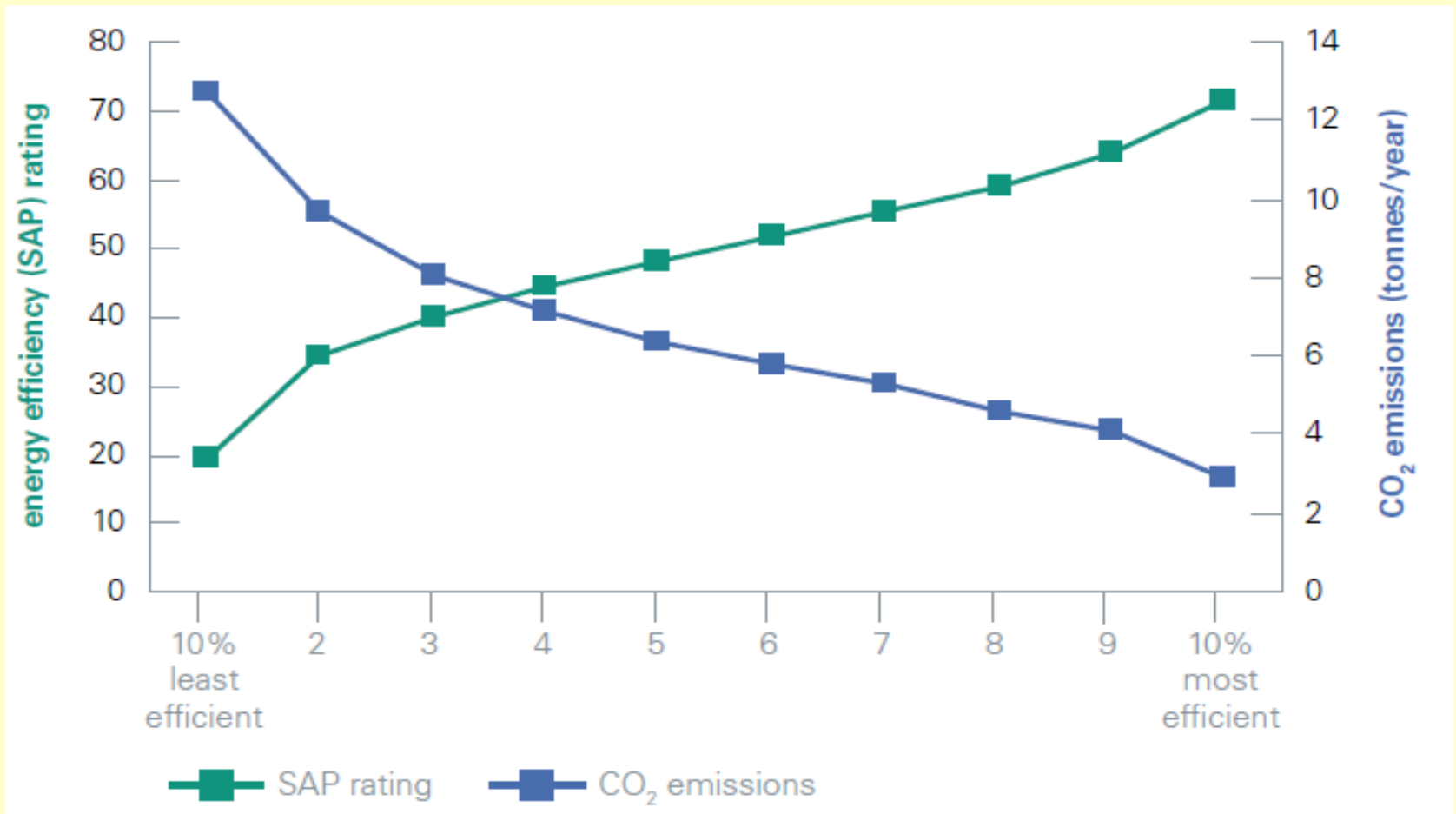
# Constraints on other policies

- Cannot bring in carbon taxes, until fuel poverty treated
- Should not give rich incentives to be low carbon until made fuel poor energy efficient
- An Act of Parliament to comply with

# Synergy between fuel poverty and climate change policies

- Treat the least energy efficient homes first
- Decarbonise the housing stock
- Create employment
- 850,000 pa to SAP 81 for fp x 6 years
- 660,000 pa to SAP 100 for cc x 39 years

# Carbon emissions by SAP rating, England 2006



“We were freezing. Sometimes we slept in the living room because I cannot afford to heat up every single room. If you put your central heating on that can use, just for a couple of hours, it can take £2 or £3. I put £10 on each meter every week and that £10 has got to last me from week to week. ... if it does get really, really cold then I will put the fire on in the living room but it only goes on low, just to keep the room aired.”

(Lucy, not working, single, living with 12 year-old granddaughter)