Economic instruments to catalyse investments in energy efficiency policy

Anuschka Hilke and Lisa Ryan The future of Energy Efficiency Finance March 15th at IEA premises, Paris



International Energy Agency



Overview

- Need for investment and barriers
- Role of government to encourage investment
- Economic instruments characteristics, definitions, examples
- Instruments and their funding mechanisms
- Choosing, designing, evaluating
- Buildings as the focus of today's workshop

Additional investment needs in the BLUE Map scenario by region and sector

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The EE finance challenge—why so much remains untapped

Principal agent problem

Split incentives

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Absence of clear legal responsibility

Information failure

- Benefits of EE
- Lack of training
- Financial barriers to access to capital
 - Initial cost
 - Perceived high risk
 - Lack of adequate collateral
 - High uncertainty
 - Small size of the projects, high transaction costs
 - Information failure in finance sector





Economic instruments

- Providing a price signal to energy-users to engage in energy efficient activities
- Economically efficient and effective if designed right
- Should be combined with regulatory instruments
- Little evaluation means money wasted
- Can be revenue raisers for green investments







Economic policy instruments for energy efficiency







Economic instruments for EE in industry, transport and buildings

Industry

- Tax relief
- Audit support
- CO₂ emissions trading
- Energy management support
- R&D incentives
- Energy prices
- 3rd party finance and ESCOs

Transport

- Vehicle tax incentives
- Advanced vehicle subsidies
- Fuel taxes
- User charges
- Infrastructure investment
- CO₂ emissions trading

Buildings

- Grants for EE
 equipment
- Loans and grants for refurbishment
- Direct investment in social housing
- 3rd party finance and ESCOs
- Tax relief
- Energy prices

Choice and policy interaction

- Choice of instrument is depending on many context specific factors:
 - Sector

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- Target group
- Existing barriers
- Local economic, legal and infrastructure conditions
- Choice of instruments affects the funding mechanism

Policy interaction and policy coherence:

- Incentives should always be referenced to existing regulation and building codes
 - > ambitious performance criteria are needed as a basis
 - However, no performance without strict enforcement of regulation and building codes
- Policy interaction and coherence also with regard to using several economic instruments in parallel



Design issues

- Design issues may have even stronger influence on effectiveness and economic efficiency:
 - Uptake of the instrument
 - Free riders
 - Marked distortion created
 - Technology lock in
 - Administrative burden
 - Spill over effects
 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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Economic evaluation matrix

Category	Criteria	Indicators
Environmental effectiveness	Impact on market	Uptake of programme (units product)
		Level of awareness/influence (%)
		Sales of qualifying products (units product)
	Energy savings	Gross energy saved (kWh or toe)
		Gross CO ₂ emissions (tCO2)
	Rebound effect	Increase in sales of energy using equipment (%)
		Increase in use of energy efficient technologies (%)
Economic efficiency	Free-ridership	Share of tax incentives to purchasers who would have
		bought the energy efficient equipment anyway (%)
		Multiplier effects (%)
	Costs	Value of awarded tax incentives
		Administrative costs (€)
		Total costs (€)
		Cost-effectiveness = total costs/energy saved (€/kWh)
	Policy interaction	Qualitative analysis of policies
Other criteria	Process features	Ease of administration
		Transaction and administration costs (€)
	Market distortion	Price changes (∆€)

Focus today is on buildings...

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- Nearly all IEA countries have at least one economic instrument for energy-efficient buildings – but not tied to level of energy performance
- More than one third are grants to owners
- Loans and tax relief are also widely used
- Policies and capital to facilitate 3rd party finance is a more recent phenomenon and likely to grow
- Complete information on the effectiveness and economic efficiency of instruments is rarely available and unmeasured
 - High potential for waste of money and little improvement



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