

PRACTICAL APPROACHES FOR KEEPING EVALUATION RELEVANT IN AN EVOLVING ENERGY POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Moderator: Bill Saxonis, New York State Department of Public Service

PAPERS:

The Continued Value of Evaluation in California’s Shareholder Incentive Mechanism

George Tagnipes, California Public Utility Commission

Making Impact Evaluations More Impactful: A California Collaboration the Nation Can Adopt

Adam Scheer, Pacific Gas and Electric Company

James Gill, Itron

Robert Kasman, Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Rachel Harcharik, Itron

Jonathan Taffel, DNV GL

Amy Reardon, California Public Utilities Commission

Fred Coito, DNV GL

From Targets to Impacts: Eight Steps for Evaluating Energy Efficiency Policies

Barbara Schlomann, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI,

Simon Hirzel, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI

Lisa Nabitz, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI

Stephan Heinrich, Prognos

Dominik Jessing, Angelika Paar, and Martin Pehnt, ifeu

Oliver Antoni, SUER

SESSION SUMMARY:

This session explores practical approaches for keeping evaluation relevant in the real world of emerging data technologies, shareholder incentive mechanisms and growing demands from policy makers for increased clarity, consistency, and reliability of impact evaluations.

Our first paper (Tagnipes) tackles California’s shareholder incentive mechanism highlighting the steps used to make the calculation process more effective including making evaluation data more understandable and transparent. The paper concludes with five specific lessons learned, each with applicability beyond California.

The second paper (Scheer) describes the steps California has taken toward making impact evaluations more consistent, comparable and accessible, both to technical and non-technical audiences. Specific topics include the “Impact Evaluation Standard Reporting Guidelines” and the “Energy Performance Incentive” database. This paper also offers ideas that will be applicable beyond California.

Our final paper (Schlomann) is from the authors of an eight-step approach for evaluating energy efficiency programs in Germany. The paper outlines the approach and describes how it was applied to a specific program.