



Workshop:

Economic Challenges for Energy

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ABSTRACT

Estimating energy efficiency and energy demand in households

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Improving efficiency in the use of energy is an important goal for many nations since end-use energy efficiency can help to reduce CO₂ emissions. Furthermore, since the residential sector in industrialised countries requires around one third of the end-use electricity, it is important for policy makers to estimate the scope for electricity saving in households to reduce electricity consumption by using appropriate steering mechanisms. This is especially important in Switzerland, as after the Fukushima incident, the Federal council decided to phase out nuclear power plants within a certain time span. How can we estimate the level of energy efficiency in households using a microeconomic approach? And if we know how large the potential is, would a price based instrument work in steering residential consumers in Switzerland? Further, in Switzerland, some utilities started implementing so-called demand side management (DSM) strategies. To what degree can DSM programs reduce the demand for electricity in the residential sector?

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