



OECD Expert Workshop on
Household Behaviour and Environmental Policy: Empirical
Evidence and Policy Issues

15-16 June 2006, Paris

*Empirical Policy Analysis Unit
National Policies Division
OECD Environment Directorate
Paris, France*

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Location of the Workshop:

OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal,
Paris, 16th Arrondissement.

Room Roger Ockrent

Further details can be obtained from:

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OECD Expert Workshop on

Household Behaviour and Environmental Policy: Empirical Evidence and Policy Issues

Background

The objective of the new OECD activity on Household Behaviour and Environmental Policy is to widen the scope of analysis of environment-related household behaviour in a number of ways, in particular by assessing individual household behaviour. The project adopts a comprehensive approach by covering some of the key areas such as household waste generation and recycling, residential energy use, personal transport choice and organic food consumption.

Differences in responses across households to a wide range of environmental policy instruments with similar environmental objectives are assessed (e.g. economic instruments, direct regulation, information-based measures, provision of public services). Specific measures examined for policy guidance include: waste collection fees and the nature of recycling services provided, energy-efficiency labels and residential energy taxation, organic food labels, vehicle-related taxes and the nature of public transport services.

In addition, by differentiating responses according to significant socio-demographic characteristics (e.g. income, education, age, gender, family size, rural vs. urban), the project provides information of significant value for the targeting of policies. And finally, by examining the effects of household perceptions and values (e.g. environmental concerns), the project draws attention to the role of subjective factors in determining environment-related consumption patterns.

This workshop on 'Household Behaviour and Environmental Policy' will discuss the results of the first phase of the project. It will draw upon reviews of empirical evidence on the determinants of household behaviour in four key environment-related areas. Based upon the evidence presented and countries' experience the implications for public policy will be discussed.

As a follow-up step of this OECD project on Household Behaviour and Environmental Policy, we intend to undertake a comparative international assessment of the effects of different types of environmental policy measures targeted at households. It is anticipated that a household survey covering all four areas examined (energy, waste, food and personal transport) would be carried out in 2007 in approximately six countries representing different OECD regions.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop will be to:

- Review empirical evidence to better understand the determinants of household behaviour in four environment-related areas: waste generation and recycling, personal transport, residential energy use and food consumption.

- Discuss policy implications and provide further insight into how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental policies targeted at household in these four thematic areas while addressing social concerns.

The workshop will be divided into two sessions consisting of presentations of papers prepared by experts with discussants and interventions by policy-makers from different OECD member countries. It will be a one and a half day workshop.

The first session will examine the determinants of household behaviour and the effects of different environmental policy measures in the four thematic areas of study. The role of economic and demographic factors (e.g. income, education, age, household size, urban/rural) will be discussed, as well as the role of attitudinal characteristics (e.g. values, perception on environmental concerns). The second session will review some of the challenges facing policy makers as they seek to design environmentally effective and economically efficient environmental policies target at households in the area of waste generation and recycling, personal transport, energy use and food consumption. Measures to be examined for policy guidance include:

- For waste generation and recycling: unit-based fees vs. flat fee, deposit-refund systems, drop-off vs. collect recycling schemes, labelling schemes etc.
- For personal transport: fuel taxes, congestion charging, parking restrictions, quality of public transport, etc.
- For food consumption: public information provision, labelling schemes (e.g. organic food labels), etc.
- For residential energy use: energy taxes, energy-efficiency labels, differentiated 'green' energy, etc.

DAY 1 – Thursday 15 JUNE 2006

9:00 – Welcome Coffee

9:30 - Welcome Address and Introduction by the Secretariat

SESSION 1 – EVIDENCE ON HOUSEHOLD BEHAVIOUR AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Chair of the Session

Robin MIEGE

DG Environment – European Commission

9:45 – Empirical Evidence on Household Behaviour and Waste Generation and Recycling

Ida FERRARA, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University – Canada will present a review of key empirical findings in the area of household waste generation and recycling.

Discussants:

Thomas KINNAMAN, Bucknell University - US

Christer BERGLUND, Lulea University of Technology, Division of Economics - Sweden

11:15 - Coffee Break

11:30 – Empirical Evidence on Household Behaviour and Personal Transport Choices

Joyce DARGAY, Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds – U.K. will present a review of key empirical findings in the area of residential personal transport.

Discussants:

Inge MAYERES, Catholic University of Leuven – Belgium

Linda STEG, University of Groningen - the Netherlands

13:00 – Lunch Break

2:30 PM – Empirical Evidence on Environmentally Responsive Food Choice

Stefano BOCCALETTI, – Istituto di economia agro-alimentare, Università Cattolica del S. Cuore - Italy will present a review of key empirical findings in the area of environmentally responsive food choice.

Discussants:

Mette WIER, AKF, Institute of Local Government Studies - Denmark

Wouter POORTINGA, Cardiff University – UK

4:00 - Coffee Break

4:15 – Empirical Evidence on Household behaviour and Residential Energy Use

Bengt KRISTRÖM, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU-Umea – Sweden, will present a review of key empirical findings in the area of residential energy use.

Discussants:

Bente HALVORSEN, Statistics Norway - Norway

Loren LUTZENHISER, Portland State University – US

5:45 - Lessons Learned

On the basis of the day's discussions the OECD Secretariat will conclude with a summary of the main lessons learned.

6:00 – Cocktail

A cocktail for workshop participants will be held in the same building, at the Chateau, in Marshall Room.

DAY 2 - FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2006

SESSION 2 – POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Chair of the Session

Dr. Ulf JAECKEL

Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation - Germany

Subsequent to the review of empirical evidence on household behaviour in the key environment-related areas of focus in this workshop (energy, personal transport, organic food consumption and waste), policymakers will be given the opportunity to share their experience on household environment-related behaviour and response to environmental policy measures in these four areas and discuss main lessons.

9:00 - Lessons from Countries Experience

Selected member countries representing different OECD regions will present their experience. In each of the four policy areas covered, country interventions will be followed by a discussion amongst participants.

Germany – Experience with policy targeting Organic Food Consumption will be presented by *Ms. Petra Steffens* from the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

Sweden – Experience with policy targeting Residential Energy Use will be presented by *Dr. Peter Bennich* from the Swedish Energy Agency.

10:30 - Coffee Break

10:45 - Lessons from Countries Experience (continued)

Korea – Experience with Volume-based Waste Fee System will be presented by *Dr. Kim* from the Korea Environment Institute

The Netherlands – Experience with Household Waste Policy will be presented by *Mr. C.P. den Herder* from the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Waste Management Division.

The United Kingdom – Experience with Personal Transport Choice will be presented by *Mr. Jeremy Ketley* from the Department for Transport - Sustainable Travel Initiatives

12:15 - Round-table discussion on Major Issues and Policy Options

Following-up this general discussion of practical policy recommendations for policy makers, a summary of the main lessons learned will conclude the workshop on the basis of the one and half day discussions.

13:15 – Close of the Workshop