

Update on DECC's National Energy Efficiency Data-framework (NEED) – July 2012

I am writing to update you on progress with DECC's National Energy Efficiency Data-framework (NEED) and to keep you informed of our future plans.

Our previous report, acted as pilot for NEED and was very well received by a range of interested individuals and organisations. It demonstrated the value of NEED and its importance to DECC and a wider group of stakeholders. This was further confirmed by the good attendance and participation we had at our stakeholder event in November 2011 and a well received paper at an international conference on energy programme evaluation in June 2012. We are now planning to build on these successes, including with a second publication of results from NEED in Autumn this year.

Progress since November stakeholder event

The outputs from NEED have been a core part of evidence for key DECC policy, including feeding into the Impact Assessment of the Green Deal and ECO¹ which was published on 11 June and making use of aggregate level information to inform a Heat Map, which models heat demand in building and will be used to support policy development by central and local Government, and was published in March 2012².

We have also made NEED more prominent through the creation of a new page on the DECC website, solely for NEED. This will act as a focus for outputs from NEED and currently includes the June 2011 publication and a summary of the November 2011 stakeholder event. It will continue to be updated as new outputs are published:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/en_effic_stats/need/need.aspx

In addition to the above, there have been a number of less public developments since the June 2011 publication, such as:

- The inclusion of 2009 and 2010 consumption data.
- Updated data on energy efficiency measures installed, up to 2011.
- Matching address information for Scotland so that analysis can be done for all of Great Britain where data is available.
- The completion of work by NERA Economic Consulting – looking at the drivers of energy consumption.
- A two year agreement is now in place for use of property attribute data held by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). This builds on the previous work carried out at VOA allowing two DECC staff to be seconded to VOA to carry out analysis.
- Quality assurance of input data and refinement of the methodology used to assess the impacts of energy efficiency measures.

¹ http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

² http://ceo.decc.gov.uk/en/ceol/cms/heatmap/user_guide/user_guide.aspx

- Creation of a matched dataset for non-domestic data (this is at the very early stages and is yet to be quality assured, see the autumn publication plan for more details).
- Implementation of additional security procedures.

These developments contribute to the analysis DECC is currently undertaking with the intention of producing a publication in November 2012 (exact date to be confirmed).

Autumn Publication

The publication planned for Autumn 2012 will build on the previous publication (in June 2011), updating existing analysis and adding new areas of analysis, and provide an opportunity for a wider audience to understand the evidence DECC policy development is based on. The publication will include:

- Gas and electricity consumption by property type and household
- Take up of energy efficiency measures by property type and household
- Savings made by households from energy efficiency measures (e.g. cavity wall insulation)

In addition to refinements to the results published in the previous report, this publication will also include data for 2010, and if data quality allows, will look at a wider range of measures (e.g. solid wall insulation). Additions to the report have been made which take on feedback from users about what they would like to see. We will therefore also include information on the distribution of savings from measures and will be publishing a more detailed methodology note as an annex to the report.

In the report we also plan to include a summary of work undertaken by contractors on behalf of DECC, including the work done by NERA Economic Consulting and the work done by Katalysis – who undertook work which informed the June 2011 report. These reports look at alternative methods of measuring energy savings and models of energy demand.

Finally, for the autumn publication we are planning to include an initial assessment of the non-domestic data in NEED. This will report results of the data matching and data quality assessment and - assuming the quality assessment proves the data to be of sufficient quality - high level summary statistics; for example average consumption by particular premises types or sectors.

Longer Term Plans

In the longer term we will continue to work towards achieving the priorities highlighted by stakeholders.

We are planning to add new datasets to the framework where agreement can be reached with data owners. Legislation has now been passed to allow the sharing of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data. DECC are currently working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to get access to these data and hope to be able to include some key variables from EPCs in NEED. This will provide valuable additional historical information as well as being the main source of information

on energy efficiency measures installed in properties in future; once measures start to be installed through the Green Deal and ECO.

It is also intended that the spine of NEED, which is currently the National Land and Property Gazetteer Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN), will change to the AddressBase UPRN over the next 12 months. This new source of data is a development which builds on the National Land and Property Gazetteer as well as Ordnance Survey's property identifier (Address Layer 2). It should improve the quality of the data in NEED and improve the identification of more problematic properties, such as flats.

NEED will also become an increasingly important part of DECC's evidence base as Green Deal and Smart Meters are rolled out. It will be a key element enabling robust evaluation in both of these areas and is likely to play a more significant role in the development and evaluation of heat policy in future.

If the initial non-domestic analysis planned for the Autumn report is successful we will add additional non-domestic data into NEED, we will inform you of developments in this area following the initial work we will be reporting on in the autumn.

As set out in previous updates and highlighted as a top priority at the stakeholder event, DECC is also continuing to explore the potential for making data available to other users. This has been highlighted as a top priority for users in the academic community and is something which we are keen to continue to make progress with. We are currently looking into the legal issues that need to be negotiated to make this possible and how the data might be shared in practice. We will continue to update you on progress with this.

Thank you for your continued interest in this project. We are keen to retain dialogue with users, so please get in touch if you have any queries or would like to discuss any of the above or wider issues. Contact details are:

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July 2012