

Smart Meter Energy Demand Research Project: anonymised data release

Introduction to the Energy Demand Research Project

The Energy Demand Research Project (EDRP) was a major set of trials across Great Britain, conducted and co-funded by four energy suppliers and managed by Ofgem on behalf of DECC. It was designed to help better understand how domestic consumers react to improved information about their energy consumption over the long term.

The trials incorporated different combinations of measures (such as energy efficiency advice, clip-on real-time displays and smart gas and electricity meters), and included around 60,000 households, of which approximately 18,000 had smart-type meters. The majority of the trials began in late 2007 or early 2008 and the trials finished towards the end of 2010, with most interventions being monitored for two years post-implementation. In 2010, AECOM conducted an independent evaluation of the trials and provided further analysis of the data collected, resulting in a final report and annexes that were published by Ofgem in June 2011¹.

The findings and conclusions from AECOM's review set out the quantitative savings that were achieved through a range of interventions enabled by early smart-type meters, demonstrating the potential of smart metering as an enabling platform for measures to influence consumer behaviour. Together, with a review of the wider literature, they identified the interventions that had proved most effective in reducing consumption, and drew out a number of findings about how to maximise benefits.

Under the Government's Open Data commitment, DECC considered options for making an anonymised version of the trials data available to researchers. The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) supported Ofgem and DECC in the evaluation and management of the project and also led on the central collection and management of energy data from the individual suppliers. This included the preparation of an anonymised version of the data for publication on behalf of DECC.

Publication of anonymised EDRP Data

Three datasets have been disseminated via the UK Data Archive: The first two are half-hourly smart electricity and gas consumption data between January 2008 and September 2010 for 14,621 households. The third is a dataset containing geographic data (Government Office Region and Local Authority) and ACORN segmentation data² which can be linked to the consumption data via an anonymised household ID.

Access conditions

All users are required to agree to the terms and conditions of the UK Data Service and must accept the End User Licence (EUL) agreement which is accessible during the registration process. Further registration details and how to register for access to the anonymised EDRP data can be found at:

<http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data/how-to-access/conditions.aspx>

Smart Metering Programme

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¹ www.ofgem.gov.uk/gas/retail-market/metering/transition-smart-meters/energy-demand-research-project

² <http://acorn.caci.co.uk/what-is-acorn>