



Environmental Policy and Household Behaviour



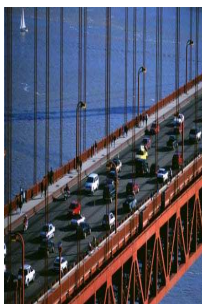
ENERGY



WATER



WASTE



TRANSPORT



ORGANIC FOOD

Objectives

Environmental pressures from households are significant, and their impacts are likely to intensify over the coming years. This OECD project aims at better understanding household environmental behaviour in order to improve policies in five key areas: residential energy use, water consumption, transport, organic food, and waste generation and recycling.

Main phases of the Project

As part of the first step of the project, existing empirical evidence on the main determinants of household consumption patterns was reviewed in these five areas. The results were presented at a Workshop and a publication is forthcoming.

The second stage involves the implementation of a large scale OECD household survey on environmental behaviour. While existing studies generally limit their scope to a single country and focus on a single environmental concern, the questionnaire developed by the OECD covers five key policy areas (energy, waste, food, water and personal transport) and ten countries representing different regions are taking part in the survey: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Based upon the survey results, practical policy recommendations would be formulated for the design of efficient and effective environmental policies targeted at households.

Timeline

- Pre-testing of the survey in selected countries (Spring and winter 2007). [Completed]
- Implementation of the OECD Household Survey on Environmental Behaviour in all 10 countries, with a total sample of 10 000 respondents (January-February 2008). [Completed]
- Data analysis will be carried out to examine differences in environmental behaviour across households (e.g. age, household size, income education) and households' response to a broad range of environmental policy measures (e.g. waste charges, provision of waste collection and recycling services, energy price, energy efficiency labelling, fuel taxes, technical standards, organic food labelling). Thematic reports will be prepared by research teams based upon the results. (2008).
- Presentation of the project results at an international conference (2009) and publication of the conclusions of the project.



Countries taking part in the Survey



Research Teams

The project is coordinated by the OECD Environment Directorate, with research teams with extensive experience based in selected participating countries. These include:

- Catholic University, Piacenza – Italy: Stefano Boccaletti (research team leader)
- Charles University in Prague – Czech Republic: Milan Ščasný (research team leader)
- Korean Environment Institute (KEI): Kwang-yim Kim (research team leader)
- SLU University – Sweden: Bengt Kriström (research team leader)
- University Pantheon-Sorbonne – France: Katrin Millock (research team leader)
- York University - Canada: Ida Ferrara (research team leader)
- Statistics Norway: Bente Halvorsen (research team leader)

Advisory Committee

In order to ensure the soundness of the survey instrument and the political relevance of the outcome of the work, an Advisory Committee including government representatives from the participating countries has been set up in 2007 to help inform this project.

Project Contributors

- Australian Department of the Environment and Water Resources
- Environment Canada
- Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM)
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- French Ministry of the Environment (MEED)
- The Swedish Energy Agency (STEM)
- Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic
- Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico (SEMARNAT)
- Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
- The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment

Contacts

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