Energy policy research

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presentation during the visit of Schneider Electric,
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Purpose and outline

• Purpose
  – Provide a brief overview of research activity in the Faculty of Environment related to energy policy

• Outline
  – What interests us
  – What we do
  – How we work
  – Discussion
What interests us

• technology in society
  – How do we secure the maximum potential from innovations, once they are deployed?
  – What social information is important in the development of innovations?

• decision-making
  – individuals, households, businesses, governments, …

• scales
  – individual ↔ household ↔ community ↔ province ↔ country ↔ international
What we do

• ‘projects’
  – in partnerships (more in a moment …)

• ‘applied’ elements
  – usually a ‘policy’ lesson, with policy broadly defined … working towards ‘smart green solutions’

• ‘conceptual’ elements
  – locate project specific findings within broader debates

• student involvement
  – training the next generation of energy professionals
What we do

• Residential Energy Efficiency Project (REEP)
  – Origin
    • 1999 Climate Change Action Project
    • partnership (UW, ECEE, 4 utilities, 4 councils)
  – Goal
    • achieve higher participation rates
    • combine technical tool EnerGuide for Houses with community engagement

www.leepwaterlooregion.ca/
What we do

• Energy Hub Management System project
  – empower energy managers through increased information and control
  – develop and apply integrative ‘smart grid’ systems in residential, agricultural, C/I and industrial sectors

www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/research/greenpower/energyhub/index.html
What we do

• Understanding consumer engagement
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Which end-use is ‘sacrificed’, should the budget be running down?

Which indicator to use? ... electricity, money or environmental impact?

[Image of energy management tool]

environment.uwaterloo.ca/research/greenpower/energyhub/index.html
What we do

• Understanding consumer engagement

How are multiple goals balanced?
What we do

• Understanding consumer engagement
  – thinking about the ‘value’ of energy services
How we work

• Work with a variety of partners:
  – governmental and quasi-governmental organisations; utilities; private sector; civil society groups; other universities

• Aim to impact behaviour and/or policy, as well as research agendas:
  – homeowners’ decisions
  – governments’ debates
Discussion

• key contacts

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