



## Developing A Policy Guideline For Rebound Effects

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### ABSTRACT

Improving efficiency of products or services is generally regarded as an effective strategy to reduce energy and resource demand. However, changes in behaviour may render observed energy savings lower than expected based on engineering-economic analyses. While there is wide-spread consensus that energetic rebound effects exist, their magnitude is disputed. A large part of the discussion of rebound effects is centred on different explanations and their implications for environmental policy (Sorrell 2007; Sorrell and Dimitropoulos 2008; Maxwell et al. 2011). For non-energetic resources (e.g. water, raw materials) hardly any study on rebound effect exists and data to analyze rebound effects is difficult to obtain. Moreover, various scholars have called for a systematization of the debate on rebound effects (e.g. Turner 2013).

The aim of our study is to evaluate relevance of rebound effects in various areas of energy and resource consumption as well as for different consumer groups (households, commercial consumers), to analyze their drivers and to derive need as well as options for policy measures to contain them. Therefore, a comprehensive literature review and a categorization and evaluation of drivers for rebound effects in various areas were conducted. Based on this identification of relevant drivers of rebound effects, conclusions by analogy were drawn for areas with insufficient empirical evidence. The procedure, results and conclusions were discussed in an expert workshop in order to develop a guideline for stakeholders to support decisions about policy measures. In our presentation, findings and conclusions of our study will be outlined and discussed in detail.

### REFERENCES

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- Sorrell, Steve (2007): The Rebound Effect: an assessment of the evidence for economy-wide energy savings from improved energy efficiency. UK Energy Research Centre.
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