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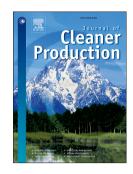
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A study of the comparability of energy audit program evaluations

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Abstract

There is a large untapped potential for improved energy efficiency in various sectors of the Economy.

Governmental industrial energy audit programs subsidizing the companies to do an energy audit is the

most common policy in trying to overcome the energy efficiency gap. Evaluation studies have been

carried out in order to gain knowledge about the success of a completed energy audit policy program. The

evaluations were made in different ways as well as focusing on different performance indicators and

using different ways of categorizing data. In this article, a literature review of five evaluation studies from

different energy audit programs has been made, where the problems of the existing incomparability

between programs due to differences are discussed. The policy implication of this paper is that new

energy audit policy programs must distinguish a harmonized way of categorizing data, both regarding

energy efficiency measures and energy end-use. Further, a proposition for standard on how to evaluate

energy audit policy programs is suggested. Conclusions made in this study are that important elements,

such as the free-rider effect and harmonized energy end-use data, should be defined and included in

evaluation studies. A harmonized standard on how to evaluate audit programs is not the least needed

within the EU where Member States are obliged to launch audit programs for large enterprises, and

preferably also for small and medium sized enterprises. This paper serves as an important contribution for

the development of such a standard in further research.

Keywords: Energy efficiency, Energy audit policy evaluations, Industrial energy audit policy programs

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