

Enough is as good as a feast - sufficiency as policy

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A word from ECEEE

The EU 'needs to look beyond technical energy efficiency measures and address the challenging issue of curbing consumer demand for energy services in a politically acceptable fashion'

- ECEEE response to EU
Efficiency Green Paper

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A few definitions

- [Energy] efficiency = inputs/outputs - always a ratio, never an absolute
- Energy (consumption) sufficiency = energy security of supply
- Climate/carbon sufficiency = estimated safe limit on carbon emissions
- *Energy service sufficiency = energy to meet demands for quality of life and equity*
- Energy-ecological sufficiency = balancing energy demand with ability of planet to support healthy ecosystems

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Energy service sufficiency - minimum and maximum

energy to meet demands for quality of life

- how much is too much?
- choice editing
- meeting demand through 'capability'

energy service equity

- *how much is enough? Minimum standards (and aspirations) for health, comfort and participation*

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Efficiency and sufficiency for three energy services

Energy service	Energy efficiency considerations	Energy sufficiency considerations
Road transport	Miles per gallon / litres per km	Whether to travel; how much to travel; mode of travel
Indoor space heating	kWh delivered energy / m ² of floor area	Quantity of living space; acceptable temperatures and how to attain them
Food chilling	kWh delivered energy / m ³ of chilled space	Whether mechanical chilling is needed; volume of chilled space

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Energy service sufficiency - qualitative as well as quantitative



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Towards sufficiency policy: (1) Use of time

Learning/relearning the practices that make life enjoyable/tolerable at low energy intensities.
Giving ourselves (and ecosystems) a rest, eg

- fallow / setaside
- siestas
- rest days, public holidays, local festivals

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(2) Livelihoods

Changing the nature of the work we do and how it is rewarded.

Only acceptable if it involves fuller employment, satisfaction with working conditions and realistic expectations for young people

Involves rethinking much received wisdom on competition and markets, manufacture vs refurbishment and repair, training and skills

Greatest opportunity and greatest challenge?

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(3) Credibility

Seeing as much as possible of the whole picture for energy services:

- where they come from
- How they are used
- What the impacts are
- How the impacts are managed

Requires a solid, widely-trusted evidence base and a 'common language', user-friendly

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USING

WE DO IT
EVERYDAY

ENERGY

e	c	e	s	e
e	c	e	s	e
e	c	e	s	e
e	c	e	s	e
e	c	e	s	e

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