



DYNAMIX

Decoupling growth from resource use
and its environmental impacts

Dynamix Webinar, 28/10/2015: Results from the resource efficiency policy mix assessment: grand challenges for implementation

The DYNAMIX approach of assessing the
economic, environmental and social impact of
proposed policy mixes – Martin Nesbit, IEEP

QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF POLICY MIXES

- Four aspects to our qualitative assessment:
 - Economic
 - Environmental
 - Social
 - Governance, encompassing:
 - Legal issues
 - Public acceptability

CURRENT STAGE OF OUR ANALYSIS

- Initial drafts of the four assessments are mostly complete;
- Now synthesising the lessons;
- Short opportunity for iteration with the policy mix author teams.

STRENGTHS OF THIS APPROACH:

- Brings a variety of academic disciplines to bear on the question of impact of the policy mixes;
- Some key questions emerge from a number of the analyses.

But there are also some weaknesses:

- Reveals differences in interpretation and understanding of starting point and design for each policy (or is this a strength?);
- It is technically difficult to look just at legal, or just at economic aspects – so all of the assessments cover the other areas of expertise to some extent, with risks of inconsistency (but how much does this matter?)

SOME ISSUES FOR THE SUMMARY REPORT

- The interplay between public attitudes, political acceptability, and the success of behavioural measures is vital.
- We need a clear policy framework and overall targets; but within that, adjustment is likely to be needed in response to the lessons from policy experimentation, and in response to future development of public attitudes.
- Internalising external costs, including through tax measures, is important, but is unlikely to be sufficient.
- Design of tax policies needs to be coherent, avoiding overlap between economic instruments.
- We need a consistent approach to imports and exports, and a good understanding of the risks of leakage, and how those risks may change.
- Important to ensure coherence of policies in policy mixes, and between them.
- Reliable data is needed.
- Social costs are potentially significant, and need to be managed.