

REAP Germany - Developing a Software Tool for Informing Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies and its Application to the Field of Energy

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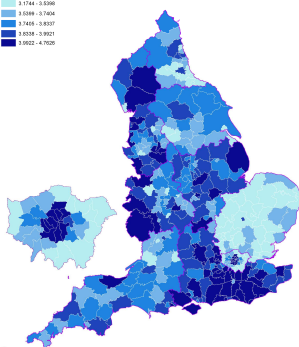
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Extended Abstract:

The Resource and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) is a unique environmental-economic model and software tool that helps policy makers to understand and measure the environmental pressures associated with human consumption (see also www.sei.se/reap). Designed by SEI in a project with CURE and WWF, REAP can be used in the assessment, development and appraisal stages of the policy process. This comprises the monitoring of trends in environmental pressures from a consumption perspective as well as the evaluation of alternative futures in scenarios in terms of the effectiveness of different sets of environmental policies in key areas such as transport or housing. The novelty of REAP is its spatial sensitivity down to a local authority level, where many important environmental decisions are taken and where there are no other tools available, which provide comparable estimates and strategic decision support.

Legend
Total Housing Footprint
tonnes per capita



Since its launch in the UK in 2006, REAP has been used by policy makers as a strategic evidence base for informing Sustainable Consumption and Production policies on the local, regional and national level. REAP data on energy-related carbon emissions has been accessed by more than 70% of local authorities, more than 300 decision-makers have been trained in the use of REAP and REAP data has become part of official national statistics in the UK. The figure below, for example, shows the energy related carbon footprint from housing in England for all approximately 400 local authorities. Due to this success and demand Stockholm Environment Institute has started developing REAP for other countries like Germany and Sweden and a proposal is under way to develop a version for all EU-27 countries.

In this paper we provide an outline of REAP. The comprehensive database combining information from GTAP, MOSAIC, national and environmental accounts as well as other specific data sources will be introduced and discussed. We provide an overview of the various accounting and scenario functions associated with energy production and use, highlight some new developments and discuss some of the current shortcomings and how they might be overcome.

We will close the paper by providing some examples for how REAP has been used to inform policies for reducing energy related carbon emissions. We will focus on work with various local, regional and national decision makers mainly in the areas of transport and housing as well as the integration of the two in a more holistic policy approach. We will also cover current work for DEFRA, which includes the assessment of the contribution of the EU emission trading scheme to achieving climate change targets in the UK.

