This document is one of four non-technical summaries prepared in the context of an analysis of the multiples benefits of measures to improve energy efficiency. The document has been written by Cecilie Larsen, on the basis of a technical report entitled "Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures on Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction", prepared by ECN, a research institution. All reports are available for download from http://www.unepdtu.org/

# **Impacts of Energy Efficiency Measures on Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction**

# **Introduction**

Mitigating climate change requires a shift from traditional carbon-intensive energy transformation towards a lower-carbon energy system. One option to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to provide energy services at reduced fossil fuel intensity by using technology with improved energy conversion efficiency and by implementing energy saving measures. Limited knowledge exists about the role that energy efficiency improvements can play in a future carbon-constrained world. There is growing demand among interest groups for quantitative assessment of the scope for, and impacts associated with, energy efficiency gains. This study aims to address that need with a dedicated analysis of climate policy induced greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions resulting from energy efficiency improvements. This is done on a global level and for G20 member countries in particular.

For this analysis a model-based approach has been chosen by using three global energy models, namely TIAM-ECN (run by the Energy research Centre of the Netherlands, ECN), POLES (run by ENERDATA) and the energy-econometric model E3ME (run by Cambridge Econometric). In this report the TIAM-ECN model has been used for a multiple scenario analysis in which three carbon tax scenarios are assessed against a business as usual scenario.

# **The TIAM-ECN model**

For the purpose of this project we apply TIAM-ECN which is the TIMES Integrated Assessment Model of the Energy research Centre of the Netherlands, used for long-term energy systems and climate policy analysis. TIAM-ECN has a global scope with a world energy system disaggregated in 20 distinct regions with 10 of the G20 members being represented as separate regions in the model.

TIAM-ECN is a linear economic optimisation model, based on energy system cost minimisation with perfect foresight until 2100. It simulates the development of the global energy economy over time, from resource extraction to consumption of final energy, to satisfy demand for useful energy. As any energy systems model, TIAM-ECN can analyse greenhouse gas reduction pathways over the entire energy supply chain, up to end-use energy demand. In this way, horizontal and vertical interdependencies and substitution effects of the energy supply can be incorporated in the analysis. Besides this integrated approach, TIAM-ECN features peculiarities of energy extraction, conversion and demand, like available fossil and renewable resources, potentials of storage of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and region specific demand developments.

TIAM-ECN is operated with a comprehensive technology database that includes many possible fuel transformation and energy supply pathways, and encompasses technologies based on fossil, nuclear and renewable energy resources. Both currently applied technologies and future advanced technologies are available in the model's technology portfolio. With regard to climate change mitigation measures, the model covers reduction options for the three main greenhouse gases, namely carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), for both energy and nonenergy related emission sources. TIAM-ECN also covers emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry.

# **Methodology**

### **Energy efficiency measures in the TIAM-ECN model**

The model structure of TIAM-ECN includes several measures and technologies that effectively represent reductions in the energy intensity of fuel transformation (including both the supply and demand sides). These include more efficient technologies for transport, for energy conversion (in the residential and commercial sectors), for industrial applications and for power plants. The model also takes into account energy savings in the demand sectors.

Due to the bottom-up model approach, energy efficiency measures are represented as separate processes in the model, with different fuel conversion efficiencies and corresponding costs.

Energy efficiency measures for *road transport* are divided into technologies for private motor vehicles and for diesel trucks. Specifically, the model contains five steps for energy efficiency improvements for gasoline cars and diesel trucks and six steps for diesel cars.

For the *residential and commercial sector* TIAM-ECN distinguishes among different types of end-use energy – in other words, to satisfy end-use demand the model can choose between different technologies, including different levels of energy intensity and different fuels. Also considered in the model is a reduction in end-use demand.

In TIAM-ECN, the *industry sector* consists of seven sub-sectors, namely iron and steel, chemicals, non-metallic minerals, non-ferrous metals, pulp and paper, other industries, and energy consumption for non-energy use (mainly feedstock for chemical industry). The model's technology database contains both standard technologies to cover the industrial demand but also advanced technologies with higher fuel conversion efficiencies (and also including carbon dioxide capture and storage, CCS).

For electricity generation, TIAM-ECN's technology repository contains several power plant technologies for renewable, fossil and nuclear energy conversion. For instance, with regards to coalbased power production, the model distinguishes among technologies with atmospheric circulating fluidised-bed combustion (standard and advanced technology), pressurised fluidised-bed combustion, oxygen-blown combustion and integrated gasification combined cycle. These technologies are characterised by different power plant parameters, including different net efficiencies. Also for natural gas, fuel oil, waste and biomass, technologies with different energy conversion efficiencies are implemented in the model. In addition to pure electricity generation technology, the model contains the option of cogeneration of electricity and heat for public and industrial purposes. Co-generation units typically operate at higher net efficiencies compared to the separated production of heat and electricity and, hence, represent an energy efficiency improvement option for public utilities and industry.

#### **Scenario definitions and related assumptions**

In this project four scenarios have been analysed: a business as usual (BAU) scenario and three carbon tax scenarios (40, 70 and 100 US\$/tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030). For 2020 the carbon tax is assumed to be one third of the tax in 2030 and for the periods past 2030 the tax is assumed to remain at the level of 2030. The carbon tax is applied to all GHG emissions, independent of their origin (combustion, land-use, industrial processes). Apart from the carbon tax no further climate change mitigation policies or support schemes for low-carbon technologies are assumed for the future, unless they were in place before 2010.

Key parameters, such as global GDP development, population, power plant parameters and assumptions of biomass availability, have been harmonised with the other energy systems model used in this study (POLES). Regional and sector-specific data on fuel consumption, GHG emissions, investments and prices of major fuels and emission certificates has been harmonised with the third model used in this study (E3ME).

With regards to storage capacity of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ , the TIAM-ECN model assumes a limit at 1660 GtCO<sub>2</sub>. Approximately half of the storage potential is available in the Middle East and in the transition economies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, which results from their large hydrocarbon fields. Europe is expected to provide the largest biomass potentials with about 20 % of the global potential, followed by Africa with 17 % and China with around 13 %. (The reader is referred to Appendix 1 for more information on model input data.)

# **Results of the model-based analysis**

In this analysis we use TIAM-ECN to project GHG emission reductions for each of the scenarios above, with the objective of understanding the potential impact of energy efficiency measures. Finally, we present a regional perspective of GHG emission reductions resulting from energy efficiency improvements.

# **Global GHG emissions by scenario**

In the BAU scenario global GHG emissions increase to 60 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030, and further to 72 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e and 94 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2050 and 2100, respectively (Figure 1). These trends are driven by assumed growth in population, steady economic activity, and dominance of hydrocarbons in the fuel mix. A tax on GHG emissions reduces cumulative GHG emissions through the century by 20 % in the 40 \$ carbon tax scenario, by 30 % in the 70 \$ tax scenario and by 36 % in the 100 \$ carbon tax scenario (Figure 1).





Compared to the cumulative reductions until 2100, carbon taxes are less effective in the short to medium-term (2020-2030) than in the longer term (2050), with worldwide relative reductions towards the BAU scenario between 13 % (in the 40 US\$/tCO<sub>2</sub>e scenario) and 26 % (in the 100 US\$/tCO<sub>2</sub>e scenario) in 2030. This corresponds to absolute GHG emission reductions from the BAU scenario between 8 and 16 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030 and 15 and 31 GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2050, with the electricity sector being responsible for about 60 % of the emission reductions. Besides the electricity sector, industry and upstream fuel supply contribute between 2030 and 2050 with 10 to 20 % each to the total GHG emission reduction when carbon taxes are introduced. The transport sector makes up for about 5-10 % of the total emission reductions in the period to 2050. Compared to emission reductions from energy supply and in the industry and transport sectors, contributions from the residential and commercial sector appear very limited.

### **Sector specific impacts from energy efficiency measures**

Energy efficiency measures are responsible for 15-25 % of the total global GHG emission reductions until 2050, with a tendency to have a higher contribution in the near- and mid-terms (2020-2030) than in the long-run (2050). In the 40 \$ carbon tax scenario 22 % of the total GHG emission reductions in 2030 are realised via energy efficiency measures. With increasing tax levels this share declines to about 20 % under the 70 \$ and 100 \$ carbon tax levels. By 2030, and compared to the BAU scenario, improvements in energy efficiency could offset about 2 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e for a price of carbon of 40 \$ per ton of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and up to 3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e under a 100 \$ carbon tax scheme. By 2030 emission reductions attributable to energy efficiency resulting from a 40 \$ carbon tax are limited until 2050, whereas under a 100 \$ carbon tax regime emission reductions due to energy efficiency increase from 2030 by 80 %, to reach more than 5 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2050 (Figure 2). Most of the GHG emission reduction potential attributable to energy efficiency occurs in the electricity, industry and transport sectors.





Until 2030 the electricity sector has the largest potential, with about 8-9 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in all carbon tax scenarios, which corresponds to roughly 1 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e avoided worldwide in 2030.

In the period from 2015 to 2030, and compared to a baseline, cumulative GHG emission reductions in the industry sector attributable to energy efficiency measures amount to about 5 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in the 40 \$ carbon tax scenario and almost 9 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in the 100 \$ carbon tax scenario. Iron and steel and nonmetallic minerals (mainly, cement production) account for the bulk of these reductions.

In the period from 2015 to 2030, and compared to the BAU scenario, cumulative GHG emission reductions in the transport sector attributable to energy efficiency measures amount to about 3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e under a 40 \$ carbon tax scenario and up to 8 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e under a 100 \$ carbon tax. Improvements of the energy efficiency of road transport technology (mainly, buses and trucks) show the highest sensitivity to carbon taxes.

## **Regional impacts of measures to improve energy efficiency**

China, India and the USA offer prime opportunities for GHG emission reductions resulting from improvements in energy efficiency. The potential is largest in China, with around 25-35 % of the cumulative global reduction potential until 2050, followed by India, the USA and Europe, with 10- 16 % each. A comparison of a measure of the potential by region across the three carbon tax scenarios reveals that emerging economies, such as China and India, offer a highest energy efficiency-based mitigation potential under low carbon price policy (Figure 3). A key reason for this are the good opportunities in emerging countries to replace energy intensive fossil-fuel-based technologies with advanced technologies, in particular in the electricity and industry sectors.

**Figure 3: Cumulative regional GHG emission reductions in the carbon tax scenarios (ct40, ct70, ct100) compared to the BAU scenario between 2010 and 2050 due to energy efficiency measures**



The regional share of global emissions reductions (compared to a baseline) attributable to energy efficiency improvements changes across carbon tax scenarios (Table 1). In most regions this share is in the range of between 10 and 20 %, and none of the regions displayed in the table exceed 30 %. The shares of China and India are highest under a 40 \$ carbon tax scheme and decrease with the increasing carbon tax (as a result of accelerating deployment of other GHG abatement options, such as renewable energy and CCS). For Europe and the USA the opposite trend can be observed, because in these regions renewable energy technologies are already competitive at lower carbon taxes (due to a higher electricity price level in these countries, compared to China and India). Because of this, and compared to renewable energy, energy efficiency improvements gain importance in European and the USA under increasing carbon taxes.

**Table 1: Breakdown of regions according to the contribution of energy efficiency measures to total cumulative GHG emission reductions, by carbon tax scenario**



N. B.: Ref. Econ. refers to Reforming Economies

## **Core findings**

A general finding from the TIAM-ECN model, which is also supported by POLES, is that some energy efficiency measures, in particular in the energy demand sectors, result in net cost savings even in the absence of a carbon tax policy (because of the resulting fuel savings). Indeed, model results suggest that, even in the absence of a carbon tax, the overall energy intensity decreases significantly over time. This is because certain new (more efficient) technologies can be price competitive. Consequently, for these technologies, carbon taxes are a comparably weak driver for the realisation of energy efficiency measures.

In addition, the results from the TIAM-ECN model conclude that energy efficiency improvements in the energy supply sector contribute significantly to GHG emission reductions, specifically with regards to electricity and heat production. The industry sector offers additional substantial emission reduction opportunities through energy efficiency, notably in the cement sector.

# **Limitations of the analysis**

TIAM-ECN might underestimate possible future GHG emission reductions associated with improvements in energy efficiency. This is partly due to the difficulty of separating the contribution of energy efficiency to emission reductions, compared to changes in the fuel mix or CCS. Increased technology detail in the model would reduce this shortcoming.

As a result, TIAM-ECN estimates of emission reduction potentials are lower than other estimates in the scientific literature. The difference is also due to TIAM-ECN projecting about 3 GtCO<sub>2</sub> of emission reductions to be economical without increased carbon prices (that is, these emission reductions are part of the baselines scenario in TIAM-ECN).

In TIAM-ECN the industry sector is broken down in seven sub-sectors, containing different technology and fuel groups. While this allows for a reasonably detailed analysis of energy efficiency impacts, industry branches are often so heterogeneous that a finer breakdown would provide a more accurate description of the impact of energy efficiency measures in the industrial sector. Similarly, additional detail on the building sector would provide more accurate descriptions for the commercial and residential sectors.

# **Appendix 1: Input data for the TIAM-ECN model**

# **Socio-economic development**

On a global level a quadrupling of gross domestic product (GDP) from 67 tln US\$ in 2010 to 295 tln US\$ in 2050 and a further increase to 853 tln US\$ in 2100 is assumed (Table 2).

World population is expected to grow rapidly in the first half of the century, to reach 9 bln persons in 2050, and to remain at this level until the end of the century (table 4). This population development mimics the medium fertility projections of the United Nations (UN-DESA 2013), and is characterised by the strong population growth in three of the main economies, namely Africa to 2.1 bln persons in 2050, India to 1.7 bln persons in 2050 and Other Asia to 1.4 bln persons in 2050. China's population is supposed to peak around 2025 with 1.4 bln persons and to decline afterwards down to 0.9 bln persons in 2100. The underlying population development of most of the countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is rather stable with a total average increase of 0.1%/yr. for the period 2010 to 2100.

In comparison to population growth, the increase of the number of households is more pronounced, as a result of changing living patterns towards smaller household sizes. The total number of households amounts to almost 4 bln in 2050 and 4.4 bln in 2100 (table 6).



#### **Table 2: Assumptions on the development of the GDP**

Based on IEA (2012), World Bank (2013) and Kejun (2014)

#### **Table 3: Average annual GDP growth**



#### **Table 4: Assumptions on the development of the population**



Based on UNPD (2013)

#### **Table 5: Average annual population growth**





#### **Table 6: Assumptions on the development of the number of households**

#### **Table 7: Average annual growth of the number of households**



# **Technology development**

Key parameters for selected electricity generation technologies are displayed in table 8 (renewable energy-fuelled generation) and table 9 (fossil- and nuclear energy-fuelled generation). The values used are based on IEA (2014) and ECN's own assessments. The values given in the tables correspond to average European circumstances. The corresponding values for other model regions are not shown.



#### **Table 8: Parameters of selected power plant technologies based on renewable energy**



#### **Table 9: Parameter of selected power plant technologies for fossil and nuclear fuels**

# **Regional input data**

TIAM-ECN limits the total storage capacity of captured  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  to 1660 GtCO<sub>2</sub> (Hendriks *et al.* 2004), with about half of the storage potential coming from the Middle East and in transition economies in Eastern Europe. We assume significant shares of these formations to be available for CO<sub>2</sub> storage in future, either by applying enhanced oil and gas recovery technology or  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  storage in depleted oil and gas fields. In the model we also assume an inter-regional transport of liquid  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ , which means that  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  can be stored not only in the region where it is captured, but also in regions where storage potential may be more abundant.

The global potential of various types of biomass amounts to about 110 EJ in 2050 and 150 EJ in 2100, which reflects our judgement that limited biomass may be available when sustainability criteria are accounted for, and food price concerns are taken into account (Hoogwijk *et al.* 2009, IIASA 2012). Eastern and Western Europe is expected to provide the largest biomass potentials, with about 20 % share of the global total, followed by Africa, with 17 %, and China, with around 13 %. The model allows for trade of biomass among regions, which refers to both solid biomass and biofuels.

# **■** Europe 121 **North America** 366 **Z** Latin America 131 **Ⅲ** Africa Middle East  $\Sigma$  = 1663 GtCO<sub>2</sub> **N** China **N** Other Asia **D** India **Pacific OECD** 449 **E** Reforming Economies

#### **Figure 4: CO2 storage potential by World regions**

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