

# CAN ENERGY PROJECTS BE OVER-EVALUATED?

**Sam Hampton**

Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford



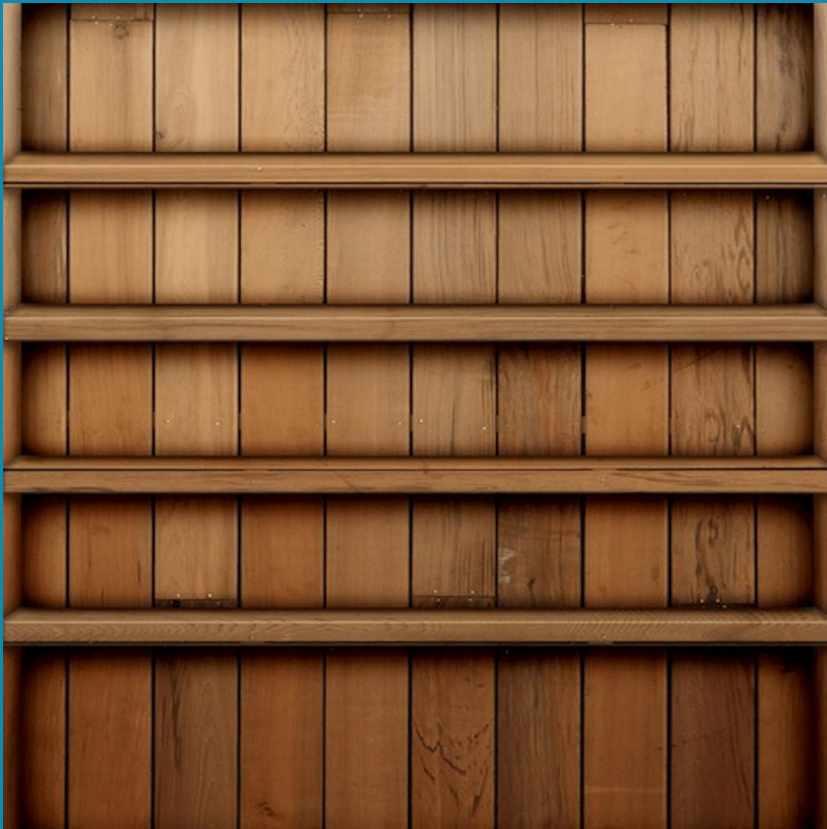
Energy Evaluation Europe  
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# OUTLINE

1. Literature Review
2. Prospering from the Energy Revolution
3. Features of Over-Evaluation
4. What to do about it

# LITERATURE REVIEW... WHAT THERE IS



1. Project reports
2. Meta-Reviews
3. Guidance and best practice

# PROSPERING FROM THE ENERGY REVOLUTION

**Demonstrators** (£40m)

**Future Designs** (£30m)

**Innovation Development** (£10m)

**EnergyREV** Research Programme

**CATAPULT** Programme Integration Services (£22m)

## EVALUATION

Innovate UK

Monitoring, Stage Gates etc

**CATAPULT**  
Energy Systems

“Synthesising knowledge within and beyond PFER”

Energy**REV**

“Helping PFER overcome barriers and create insights”

  
Ipsos MORI

“Assessing the impacts the PFER Challenge has made”

Environmental  
Change Institute

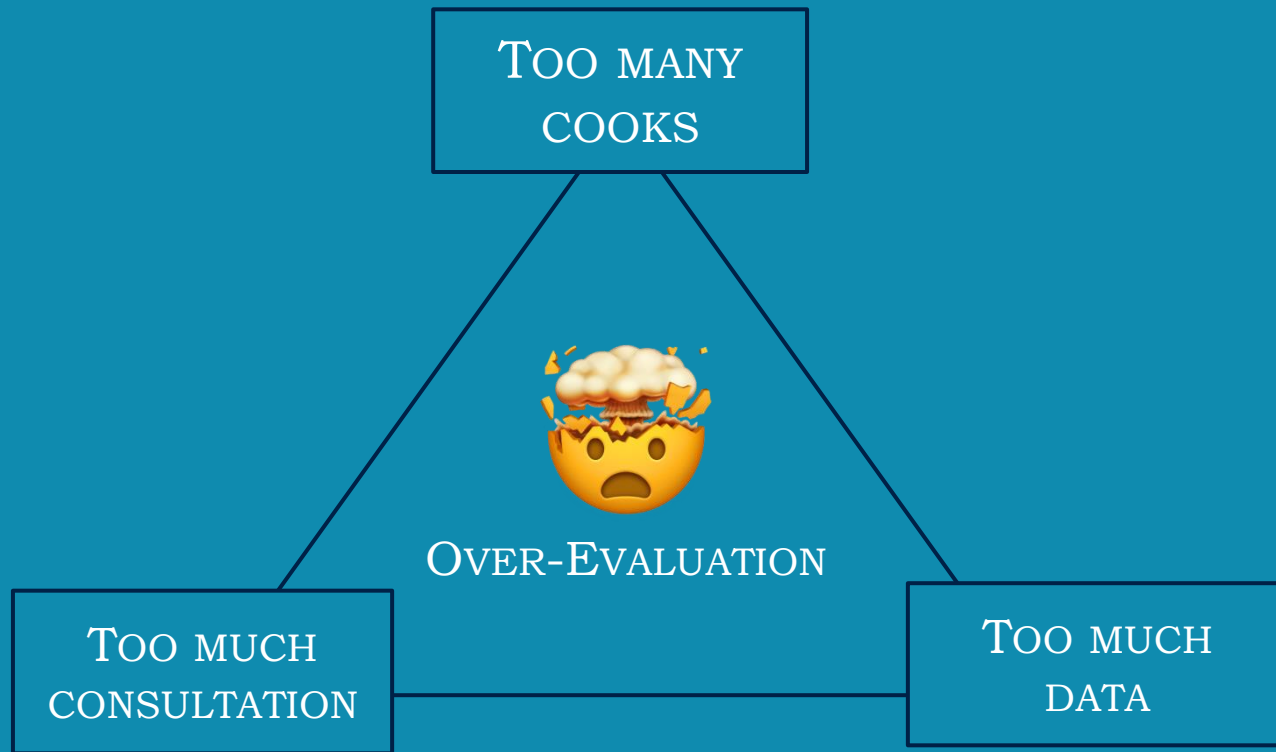


“Monitoring and reporting of social and environmental impacts”

## APPROACH AND METHODS

- Genuinely explorative, deliberately provocative
- Interviewed project partners and funders
- Caveats: early stage findings, small sample

# FEATURES OF OVER-EVALUATION



# TOO MANY COOKS



## Downsides and Risks

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- Overlapping scope
- Need for additional coordination and comms
- Misunderstandings
- Data sharing concerns and IP

## Upsides and Opportunities

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- Diverse skills, methods and approaches
- Different audiences
- Mutual scrutiny
- Agility – reflecting projects themselves



# TOO MUCH CONSULTATION



## DOWNSIDERS AND RISKS

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- Consultation fatigue

## UPSIDES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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- Potential for verification and triangulation
- Multiple approaches raises profile of project
- Multiple surveys reveal subtly different responses

# TOO MUCH DATA



## DOWNSIDERS AND RISKS

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- Unwieldy, requiring meticulous data management
- If data are not strategically valued by partners, data mgmt. will suffer and data gathering is wasted effort

## UPSIDES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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- No harm in collecting data?
- Might have future uses

# WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

1. Stick to having single evaluators?
  - But... programmes are becoming more complex, requiring diverse skills, perspectives, addressing different audiences
2. Think carefully at the outset
  - Set clear remits and goals, but allow for flexibility
3. Effective communications, transparency, data sharing
  - Not easy. Balance of enforced communications (e.g. timetabled meetings) and being agile (meetings should have value)
4. Decide what data are essential vs nice-to-have.
  - What is their purpose? Do they have strategic value?

## SUMMARY

- Under-evaluation remains a much bigger problem
  - But... the features of over-evaluation may become more commonplace
- No literature exists, but surely the phenomenon is not new
- ‘Over-evaluation’ has a number of positive implications

# THANK YOU

[samuel.hampton@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:samuel.hampton@ouce.ox.ac.uk)



[@samhampton](https://twitter.com/samhampton)