



SUMMARY NOTES

EEAP WEBINAR 12 Evaluation for Policy Making

On October 4, 2024, the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) hosted its 12th webinar focusing on the important topic of ‘Evaluation for Policy Making’. This insightful webinar featured three notable speakers:

- Jarred Metoyer, Senior Vice President, Energy Markets and Risk North America, Energy Systems, DNV
- Dr. Jean-Sébastien Broc, Consultant and Researcher at IEECP (Institute for European Energy & Climate Policy)
- Dr. Juha I. Uitto, Former Director Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Jarred Metoyer shared important lessons learned from evaluation of energy programs and policies from California and Massachusetts, who are leaders in the US. Dr. Jean-Sébastien Broc shared insights from the experience of how evaluation shapes energy policies in Europe. Dr. Juha I. Uitto presented how evaluation functions in the Global Environment Facility and how it influences energy and environmental policies.

The webinar served to emphasize how evaluators can maximize the impact of their work by having a better understanding of the policy cycle, including how policies are developed, designed, and implemented across various stages. Integrating evaluation at these stages ensures that policies are not only evidence-based but also more effective and responsive to real-world challenges. This document summarizes the key discussion points from the webinar.

Webinar Agenda

Time (PDT)	Sessions/Speakers
9:00-9:05 AM	Welcome Remarks & Context Setting <i>Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)</i>
9:05-9:50 AM	Presenters 1. Jarred Metoyer , Senior Vice President, Energy Markets and Risk North America, Energy Systems, DNV

	<p>“Evaluation Lessons Learned from California and Massachusetts – the US EE Leaders”</p> <p>2. Dr. Jean-Sébastien Broc, Consultant and Researcher at IEECP (Institute for European Energy & Climate Policy)</p> <p>“Evaluation for policy making: Insights from Europe”</p> <p>3. Dr. Juha I. Uitto, Former Director Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)</p> <p>“Evaluation for policy making: Use and utility of evaluation at the Global Environment Facility”</p>
9:50- 10:10 AM	<p>Moderated Audience Q&A</p> <p>Moderated by Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)</p>
10:15 AM	<p>Concluding Comments & Vote of thanks</p> <p>Edward Vine , Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)</p>

Introduction and Context Setting

Edward Vine, Affiliate, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)



Edward, a member of the Steering Committee for EEAP, cordially greeted the participants and speakers, introduced EEAP and provided a context of the webinar.

Introduction to Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Edward introduced EEAP to the participants. Established as a non-profit organization in 2018, modelled after IEPEC (US, since 1983) and IEPPEC (Europe, since 2010). EEAP is focused on expanding the practice of objective evaluation in the Asia Pacific region. EEAP's mission is to lead in expanding evaluation practices, building capacity, and understanding the impact of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and policies, aiming to provide a strong evidence basis for continuous improvement in these areas.

The organization fosters exchange and interaction among evaluators, NGOs, government agencies, and academics to promote the value of energy evaluation and capacity building. EEAP offers a database of resources on best practices, holds webinars on various topics, and organizes international events and conferences, particularly interested in evaluation in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

EEAP brings stakeholders together to support data-driven decision-making in the energy sector. One of its main objectives is capacity building, especially in the rapidly growing Asia Pacific region.

Edward also informed the audience about the next webinar planned for the November 12, 2024, on the topic of “AI and the Evaluation of Energy Programs and Policies: Guidance for the Asia Pacific Region”

Context of webinar topic, ‘Evaluation for Policy Making’

Edward Vine highlighted the crucial link between evaluators and policymakers. He stressed that evaluations shouldn't end once completed but must be actively used to inform policy decisions. Evaluators should present their findings in accessible formats and ensure that policymakers understand the insights. He also emphasized the importance of integrating evaluations during the design and implementation of policies, not just afterward, to improve policy effectiveness and ensure that evaluation findings drive meaningful change.

Presentation by Speakers

Evaluation Lessons Learned from California and Massachusetts – the US EE Leaders

Jarred Metoyer, Senior Vice President, Energy Markets and Risk North America, Energy Systems, DNV

Jarred Metoyer, a seasoned professional with 20 years of experience at DNV, discussed the evaluation of energy efficiency and decarbonization programs in California and Massachusetts. He emphasized the critical role of policies in shaping these evaluations, noting that effective energy efficiency programs have been driven by established funding mechanisms and rigorous evaluation frameworks. Jarred outlined key historical policies in California and Massachusetts that have fostered innovation and leadership in energy efficiency. He highlighted the ongoing evolution of these policies and their integration into broader decarbonization strategies, with an emphasis on the necessity of strong evaluation methods to demonstrate program effectiveness and inform future resource planning.



Jarred discussed the importance of rigorous evaluation in assessing energy efficiency programs, emphasizing their effects on energy use, air quality, and emissions. He highlighted California's flat per capita energy use compared to a national increase and points to resources like the CALMAC library and Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council for valuable evaluations and reports.

Jarred underscored the necessity of focusing evaluations on the most impactful programs, particularly those that contribute significantly to energy savings. He emphasized continuous data collection—both quantitative and qualitative—throughout the program cycle to inform improvements and ensure that programs are adjusted based on effectiveness. The shift in evaluation goals towards total system benefits, including greenhouse gas reductions and grid benefits, was highlighted as critical in addressing equity concerns, particularly to disadvantaged communities.

Jarred also mentioned trends in evaluation practices, advocating for mid-cycle evaluations to provide timely insights and integrate process evaluations with impact evaluations to refine program designs and influence policy.

Main Takeaways

1. **Impact of Evaluation on Energy Use:** Rigorous evaluations are essential for assessing energy, air quality, and emissions impacts.
2. **Data Collection and Continuous Improvement:** Continuous data collection (both quantitative and qualitative) during program implementation is critical for assessing program effectiveness and informing resource allocation towards successful interventions.
3. **Focus on Equity and Total System Benefits:** Evaluations should prioritize the distribution of benefits to disadvantaged communities and shift goals from energy savings to total system benefits, including greenhouse gas emissions reductions and grid benefits.

Evaluation for policy making: Insights from Europe

Dr. Jean-Sébastien Broc, Consultant and Researcher at IEECP (Institute for European Energy & Climate Policy),



Jean-Sébastien Broc from the Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy, and a board member of Energy Evaluation Europe, began by discussing the differences in energy efficiency evaluation practices between Europe and the United States. He noted that in Europe, the European Union established overarching targets for energy efficiency, which Member States implemented with flexibility. National governments played a critical role in this policy implementation, with some countries adopting energy efficiency obligation schemes similar to those in California and Massachusetts.

Jean-Sébastien focused on two primary projects: the Evaluation into Practice to Achieve Targets for Energy Efficiency (EPATEE) project and the more recent Evaluation issues in the context of the Energy Efficiency Directive (ENSMOV) project. The EPATEE project, conducted from 2017 to 2019, aimed to enhance the impact evaluations of energy efficiency policies while developing a knowledge base of evaluations, case studies, and online toolboxes to guide evaluation practices. The ENSMOV Place project built upon the findings of EPATEE.

In discussing the integration of evaluation into the policy-making process, Jean-Sébastien emphasized the necessity for mutual input from both policymakers and evaluators. He stressed that this interaction should be a two-way integration, where both parties could benefit from each other's insights. He outlined several barriers to effective integration, including budget constraints, frequent turnover among policymakers, and communication challenges arising from differing experiences and terminologies. To improve integration, Jean-Sébastien suggested clarifying expectations and objectives from the outset of evaluations to ensure a shared understanding between evaluators and policymakers. He advocated for regular communication throughout the evaluation process, rather than only at the beginning and/or end.

A key insight from Jean-Sébastien's work was that evaluations should be integrated into the policy cycle from the outset, rather than being conducted solely at the end of the implementation phase. He highlighted the importance of addressing policymakers' questions directly to ensure the relevance and utility of evaluations. Jean-Sébastien underscored the importance of capacity

building in evaluation and the need for continuous dialogue between evaluators and policymakers. Additionally, he provided a brief overview of an ongoing project focused on the Energy Efficiency Directive, which aimed to provide technical support and share experiences to enhance policy implementation and evaluation practices. Jean-Sébastien concluded by announcing the Energy Evaluation Europe 2025 Conference, scheduled from 7-9 October 2025 in Berlin and that the Call for Abstracts would be open soon.

Main Takeaways:

- The integration of evaluations into the policy cycle from the beginning is crucial, ensuring that they address policymakers' questions and remain relevant.
- Continuous communication and mutual understanding between policymakers and evaluators are essential to overcoming barriers like budget constraints and differing terminologies.

Evaluation for policy making: Use and utility of evaluation at the Global Environment Facility

Dr. Juha I. Uitto, Former Director Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)



Juha Uitto highlighted the environmental advocacy of actor Harrison Ford and his contributions to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), where Juha had previously worked before joining the Environmental Law Institute. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the utilization of evaluations to foster learning and informed decision-making, particularly within the United Nations evaluation group that encompassed over 50 units. Juha explained that the GEF, established prior to the Earth Summit in 1992, played a significant role in financing environmental projects in developing countries, mobilizing around \$1 billion annually and additional external funding. He underscored the GEF's strong evaluation function, which was independent of management influence and informed funding decisions through comprehensive evaluations every four years. Uitto discussed a particular focus on transformational change in projects, citing successful initiatives like the Uruguay Wind Energy program, which emerged from local needs for sustainable energy solutions in a country limited by its hydropower capacity.

Juha emphasized the critical role of stakeholder participation and private sector interest in fostering innovation within projects. He underscored the necessity for flexibility and adaptive management, particularly given the conservative nature of governmental donors who often feared project failures. To address these concerns, he noted that a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system was essential to capture both positive and negative outcomes effectively.

Juha recommended that the GEF articulate an acceptable level of risk and establish a dedicated funding window for higher-risk innovative projects that could be tested and piloted. This recommendation was adopted by the GEF Governing Council, leading to the creation of a specific funding window for such projects during the current four-year replenishment period. He outlined several factors that contributed to effective evaluation in the GEF context, aligning closely with the insights shared by Jean-Sébastien. Key factors included:

- **Relevance:** Evaluations needed to be timely and address pressing questions that policymakers, implementers, and project proponents face, guiding future actions.

- **Quality and Credibility:** It was vital to ensure that the evaluation was conducted with high standards of quality and credibility.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Continuous communication with stakeholders throughout the evaluation process was crucial. This engagement should not be limited to the conclusion of the evaluation but should occur from the outset, including discussions on data needs and evaluation questions.
- **Evidence-Based Recommendations:** Recommendations needed to be grounded in solid evidence. Juha noted the challenge in balancing the level of detail in recommendations—finding a middle ground between high-level suggestions and overly prescriptive guidance was critical.

He stressed the importance of selecting evaluations that resonated with stakeholders' current concerns and delivering results promptly, especially during decision-making periods. Juha concluded by mentioning a book written based on GEF evaluations, which was available for free download on the Routledge website, providing further insights into the influence of evaluations on policymaking.

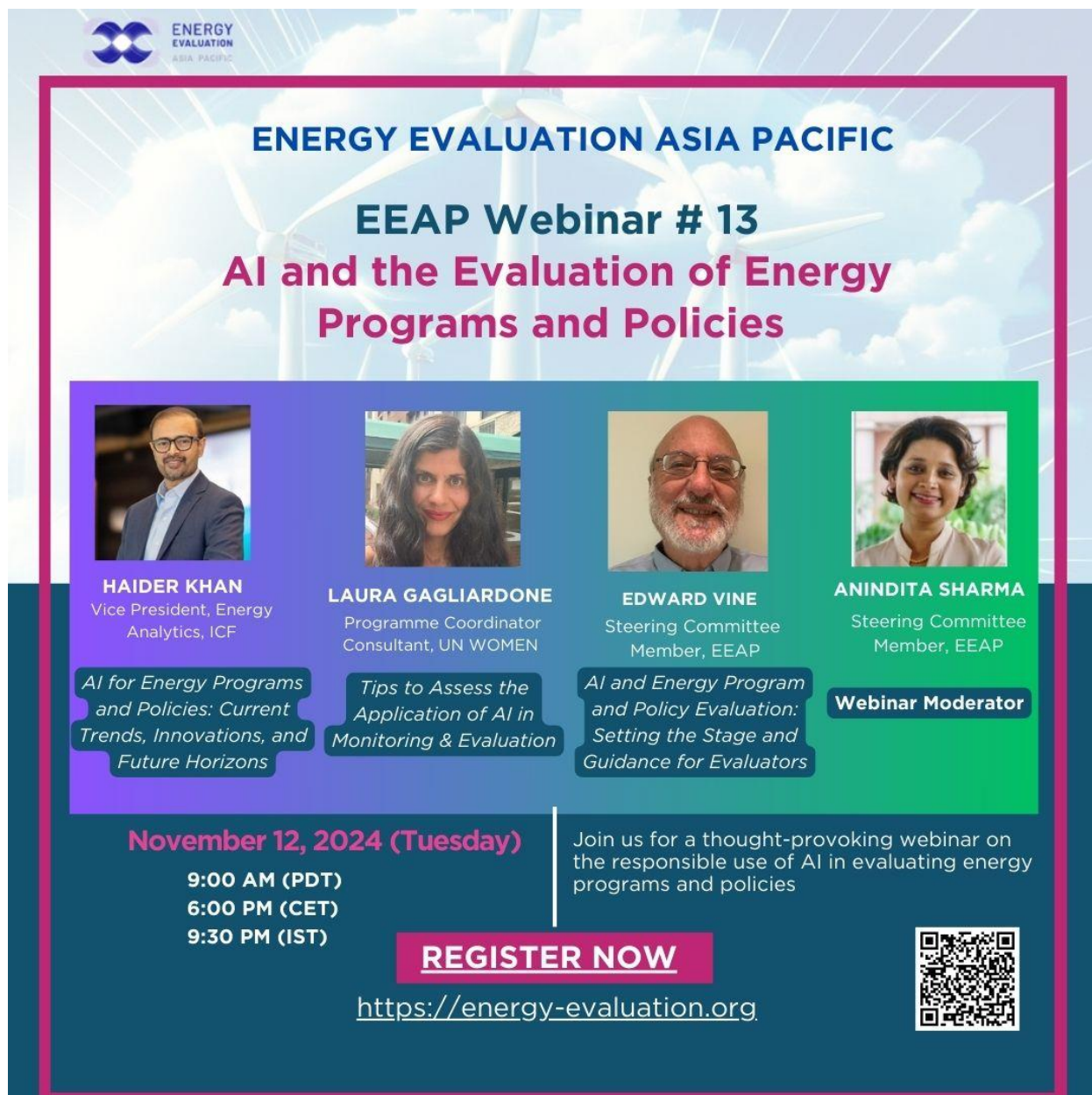
Main Takeaways:


- **Importance of Stakeholder Engagement:** Juha emphasized that effective evaluations require continuous stakeholder participation throughout the process. Engaging stakeholders from the outset ensures that the evaluations address relevant questions and data needs, fostering ownership and facilitating the implementation of recommendations.
- **Role of a Strong Monitoring and Evaluation System:** Juha highlighted the necessity of having a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to capture both positive and negative outcomes of projects. This system helps address the conservative risk perceptions of governmental donors and supports informed decision-making by providing credible and timely evidence.
- **Balancing Innovation and Risk:** The GEF approach for articulating an acceptable level of risk and creating specific funding windows for higher-risk innovative projects encouraged testing and piloting new initiatives while ensuring that evaluations remain relevant and informative for future policymaking.

UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ AI and Evaluation of Energy programs and Policies

- Date: Date: Nov 12, 2024 (Tuesday) | Time: 9 AM (PDT), 6 PM (CET), 9:30 PM (IST)
- Duration: 75 Minutes
- **Registration:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlPd-CppiojEtJ6l8ZjpX4qXy5lYrBERLdN>







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EEAP Webinar # 13

AI and the Evaluation of Energy Programs and Policies

 <p>HAIDER KHAN Vice President, Energy Analytics, ICF</p> <p><i>AI for Energy Programs and Policies: Current Trends, Innovations, and Future Horizons</i></p>	 <p>LAURA GAGLIARDONE Programme Coordinator Consultant, UN WOMEN</p> <p><i>Tips to Assess the Application of AI in Monitoring & Evaluation</i></p>	 <p>EDWARD VINE Steering Committee Member, EEAP</p> <p><i>AI and Energy Program and Policy Evaluation: Setting the Stage and Guidance for Evaluators</i></p>	 <p>ANINDITA SHARMA Steering Committee Member, EEAP</p> <p>Webinar Moderator</p>
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November 12, 2024 (Tuesday)

9:00 AM (PDT)
6:00 PM (CET)
9:30 PM (IST)

Join us for a thought-provoking webinar on the responsible use of AI in evaluating energy programs and policies

REGISTER NOW

<https://energy-evaluation.org>



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