

FCN Working Paper No. 16/2018

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December 2018
Revised December 2019

**Institute for Future Energy Consumer
Needs and Behavior (FCN)**

School of Business and Economics / E.ON ERC

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This FCN Working Paper has also been published as CAWM Discussion Paper 106.

Publisher: Prof. Dr. Reinhard Madlener
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The Rebound Effect representation in Climate and Energy models

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December 2018, revised December 2019

In this paper, we review the state-of-the-art and common practice of energy and climate modeling vis-à-vis the rebound literature. In particular, we study how energy system and economy wide models include and quantify rebound effects - the gap between actual and expected saving or the behavioral adjustment in response to an energy efficiency improvement, in terms of energy or greenhouse gas emissions. First, we explain the interaction between drivers of energy efficiency improvements, energy-efficiency policies and the rebound effect to provide a framework for a general theoretical revision along the aggregation level (from micro- to macro-economic levels). Using this classification, we analyze rebound effect representations in empirical models by four dimensions: actors (industry or the production side, and private households or the consumption side), the aggregation level, income level (developed or developing countries), and time (short and long-run). Furthermore, we focus on rebound effects in models of costless energy efficiency improvement that hold other attributes constant (zero-cost breakthrough), and energy-efficiency policies that may be bundled with other product attributes that affect energy use (policy-induced efficiency improvement) [Gillingham et al., 2016]. We find that a clear representation of one or simultaneous drivers of energy efficiency improvements is crucial to target the goals of energy savings, greenhouse gas mitigation, and welfare gains. Under this broader view, the rebound effect is one additional phenomenon to take into consideration. This perspective provokes and provides additional policy implications. Reporting rebound effects as a stand-alone percentage is not sufficiently informative for policy considerations and the distinction of the aggregation level is important to assess the scalability of energy efficiency policies. Finally, we give some ideas and motivations for future research.

JEL Classification: E13, Q410, Q430, Q48, Q540, R13

Keywords: Rebound effect, Macro-economic models, Energy efficiency, Energy policy;

Andreas Löschel acknowledges support from the 111 Project [grant number B18014] by the Chinese Ministry of Education and the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs. Gloria Colmenares acknowledges support from the Katholischer Akademischer Ausländer-Dienst (KAAD). We thank three anonymous reviewers for providing helpful comments on earlier drafts of the manuscript.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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1 Introduction

Under the umbrella of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations [UN, 2015], goals such as sustainable economic growth, responsible production and consumption, affordable clean energy and climate action, etc., have promoted the implementation of a cluster of energy and climate policies as part of the global agenda. Some examples include the promotion of energy efficiency standards, energy savings, sufficiency strategies, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or renewable energy targets. In particular, due to the existence of the energy efficiency gap as a result of market failures [Jaffe and Stavins, 1994], [Gillingham and Palmer, 2014], energy efficiency policies are often being implemented worldwide as seemingly win-win cost-effective policies. However, the goals of these policies imply a complex web of nonlinear interactions that are not yet well understood [Jenkins et al., 2011]. Borenstein [2013] and Schmitz and Madlener argue that a reduction in energy consumption is not the end goal, but reducing fossil fuel and GHG emissions is, while Freire-González [2017b] proposes that either one or both, might be ultimate goals. Van den Bergh [2011] concludes that energy efficiency improvement should not be a stand-alone policy, and Azevedo [2014] and Pollitt [2017] introduce a multi-objective trade-off perspective between goals.

Energy efficiency improvements are desired results of an energy efficiency policy. Much of the controversy has focused around what level of efficiency is feasible to obtain with energy efficiency policies, given the existence of rebound effects, as illustrated in [Gillingham et al., 2016], “*buy a more fuel-efficient car, drive more*”. Thus, backfire, or the possibility that consumption increases by more than the expected savings, would undermine the effectiveness of energy efficiency policies. However, very often the goal of an energy efficiency policy is not limited to reducing energy consumption, but more generally to producing less greenhouse gas [Borenstein, 2013]. Moreover, its effects on individual and social welfare are of utmost importance [Gillingham et al., 2016]. Hence, although the rebound effect impacts energy consumption and thereby energy savings, it would hold implications for emissions reduction and welfare gains as well.

The ambiguity around the context and heterogeneity of energy efficiency improvements make it difficult to assess the effectiveness of energy efficiency policies. At the micro-economic level Borenstein [2013] states backfire is unlikely, while Saunders [1992] and Saunders [2013]¹ find theoretical and historical empirical evidence on backfire. Nonetheless, Gillingham et al. [2013] calls into question the methodological validity of the previous two studies. Likewise, at the macro-economic level, Gillingham et al. [2013] states that the rebound effect has been overplayed because even at this level, it is highly probable that energy efficiency policies will not backfire. However, [Lemoine, 2018], [Rausch and Schwerin, 2016] and [Brockway et al., 2017] find theoretical and empirical evidence of backfire. Gillingham et al. [2013] tries to resolve the ambiguity by looking at welfare effects. We consider that this view would still miss the important interaction with the goal of greenhouse gases. This review gives a more comprehensive perspective.

In response to the observed gaps between the micro- and macro-economic levels in the literature, we conduct a review to describe how drivers of energy efficiency improvements shape the representation of rebound effects by level of aggregation. We define the level of aggregation as the aggregation of consumers or firms going from energy systems to economy-wide or macro-economic scales². Furthermore, we identify essential pieces necessary to build a rebound effect model and describe methodologies found in the literature. We present findings in energy and climate models by four dimensions: actors, level of aggregation, income level, and time, taking into account heterogeneity (i.e. households, firms, energy services, goods, products, attributes). This allows us to discuss possible directions to extend the understanding of the energy and the so-called “GHG rebound” effect³. To this end, we report on three important trade-offs between possible benefits and costs associated with drivers of energy effi-

¹See Cullenward and Koomey [2016] and Saunders [2017] for additional discussions.

²See Madlener and Turner [2016] for a distinction between economy-wide and macro-economic scales.

³The conversion of the energy rebound in terms of CO_2 emissions, see Birol and Keppler [2000] and Chitnis et al. [2014].

ciency improvements: greenhouse gas reduction, welfare gains, and energy reduction. Other types of collateral impacts, such as energy security, health, labour, and other social impacts [Pollitt, 2017], are outside the scope of this review. We find that but no empirical rebound effect study has yet examined the interaction between energy consumption reduction, welfare impact, and greenhouse gas emission reduction. A main take-away is that depending on which energy efficiency driver is represented in models, including the study of environmental and welfare effects to the study of the energy rebound effect (a specific phenomena of energy consumption reduction) results in a broader and different extent of policy implications. Therefore, reporting rebound effects as a stand-alone percentage is not sufficiently informative for policy considerations. Additionally, it is important to perform a cost-benefit analysis to understand the effectiveness of legislations within the context of the introduction of energy efficiency policies.

The article follows this structure. First, we define drivers and effects of energy efficiency improvements and provide an extended taxonomy of rebound effects arising from energy efficiency improvements, to present the most reliable formulations of the rebound effect in the literature. With these concepts at hand we aim to guide the understanding and comparison of empirical studies. Second, we proceed to explain the methodologies and summarize common results of empirical studies categorized by actor, level of aggregation, income level and time. We conclude with a discussion on energy and climate modeling for policy decision making, future research directions and perceived research needs.

2 Energy efficiency improvements, energy efficiency policies and the rebound effect

The first crucial step towards the representation and calculation of the rebound effect and its components is to clearly identify the driver that might potentially be causing the planned or observed energy efficiency improvement. An energy efficiency improvement can be driven by a change in relative prices such as an energy tax; technical change from technological advances; and non-price market based instruments i.e lifestyle changes such as vegetarianism. An additional distinction of energy efficiency improvements is that they could be either zero-cost breakthrough, price- and non-price market based instruments, or other introduced by an energy efficiency policy⁴. A less studied driver of energy efficiency comes from induced technical change, where a change in relative prices also produces technical change (which becomes endogenous). Though we isolate a driver or possible cause of an energy efficiency improvement; its causal relationship can be tested only on rare occasions. A second step is to choose the dimension to study an energy efficiency improvement. Throughout our paper, we distinguish four dimensions for the study of an energy efficiency improvement: the effect on actors, producers and consumers; the level of aggregation (of each actor separately or jointly); income level e.g. developing and developed countries; and time, short- and long-run effects. After making these distinctions, we can compare actual to expected savings of an energy efficiency improvement, which results in the estimation of the rebound effect.

The way we think about energy efficiency improvements is at the core of the energy rebound effect representation. After identifying the drivers of energy efficiency improvements, we now ask ourselves what kind of energy improvement representation would make our quantitative studies more reliable?

The easiest representations of energy efficiency improvements conceptualize the change as deriving exclusively from energy supply and use [Biroi and Kepler, 2000].

An explicit representation of energy efficiency improvements⁵ at the micro-economic level defines

⁴A zero-cost breakthrough energy efficiency improvement is a costless exogenous increase in energy efficiency holding other product attributes constant. Whereas a policy-induced change in energy efficiency is typically costly, a result of an energy efficiency policy, and bundled with changes in other product attributes (or including heterogeneity), see Gillingham et al. [2016].

⁵Energy efficiency improvements could also be measured as a difference [Ang et al., 2010].

efficiency as the ratio of useful energy outputs to energy inputs of an energy system, or as units of the energy service (ES) produced per unit of the energy source (E) used [Hunt et al., 2014]:

$$\varepsilon = ES/E; \tag{1}$$

the term energy service⁶ in eq. (1) is sometimes taken as a physical indicator (e.g. vehicle kilometers in transportation), or an explicit thermodynamic measure where heat content is represented (e.g. joules of heat in water heating inside a closed energy system). More recently energy service has been defined as exergy, the usable energy to perform physical work, or the effective energy available for end-use consumption [Brockway et al., 2017]. Fell [2017] finds 27 definitions of energy service. A clear definition of this term is important if we aim to make our studies more reliable. Moreover, depending on the type of study, an energy efficiency improvement formulation might be influenced also by a utility or production function, which represents the choice made by the consumer or producer.

According to Hunt et al. [2014], energy efficiency improvements should be explicitly modeled to avoid bias, but Frondel and Vance [2018] find similar results (though with high standard errors) when comparing an explicit representation of energy efficiency improvement with an implicit representation in their own study.

Along these lines, we recommend to avoid the following two representations of energy efficiency improvements; they would entangle increases in energy efficiency with other factors (e.g capital), and therefore be upward-biased:

1. Implicit representation of energy efficiency, not using eq. (1). In these cases, the own-price elasticity of energy demand is taken as a proxy for the rebound effect (i.e. historical studies of fuel consumption), see eq. (7).
2. Energy intensity as an equivalent measure to energy efficiency (e.g. total energy consumption/GDP). This might be true for one unit of production under unbiased technical change, but not when the level of aggregation is scaled up [Biol and Keppler, 2000].
3. Considering energy efficiency improvements as the ratio of the price of an energy service to energy as equal or lineal to the ratio of the demand for energy services to energy consumption.

More realistic representations such as in Adeyemi et al. [2010] model historical trends of increases and decreases in price⁷. Other studies use energy efficiency improvement indexes, where a past maximum price is followed by price recoveries and decreases (using price decomposition methods) [Ang et al., 2010]. In order to better identify drivers of energy efficiency improvements to model rebound effects, we explain the main three drivers; policy-induced, non-market based and zero-cost breakthrough (shown above in Figure 1).

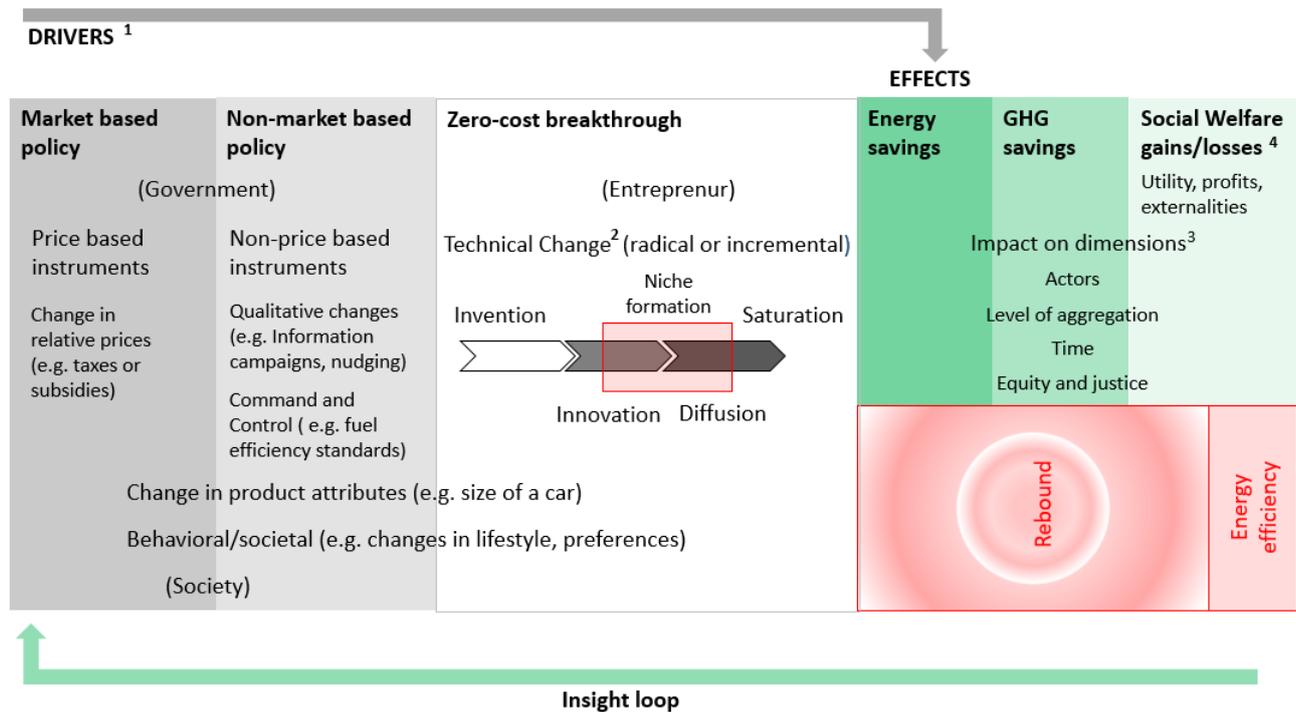
Figure 1⁸ illustrates the dynamics of an energy efficiency improvement from drivers to effects. Next, we proceed to explain the terms used in this representation.

⁶We thank an anonymous referee for drawing our attention to the ambiguity of this concept.

⁷Also referred to as asymmetric price responses on the demand side [Dargay and Gately, 1997], [Frondel and Vance, 2013]. Though they use this method for energy demand, it could be used for energy services.

⁸We thank K. Gillingham for comments on this representation.

Figure 1: Possible drivers (or causes) and effects of an energy efficiency improvement



¹ Drivers of energy efficiency improvements might cause different magnitudes of rebound effects in time. In the case of a zero-cost breakthrough driver, this is reflected as the niche formation period between the innovation and diffusion phases of technical changes.

² Technical change could also be exogenous or endogenous (or induced); also it might be radical (new) or incremental (as improvement of the existing technology); and neutral or non-neutral (also referred as factor-augmenting). Moreover, in time technical change could also take different shapes for different technologies (e.g. constant, diminishing, or increasing returns of scale, sigmoid).

³ Disentangling the possible effects into different dimensions might be helpful to understand the link between the causes and impacts driving energy efficiency improvements; in general, the emphasis might be placed on the causes but not on the identification of results. This would imply using abductive reasoning to double check if models are a fair representation of reality.

⁴ The effects on welfare due to an energy efficiency improvement might be ambiguous and involve trade-offs (e.g. an energy efficiency policy in transportation could bring utility (for individuals) or profit (for firms) with respect to less use of fuel; but it could generate externalities such as congestion and pollution due to an increase in travel distances).

A market based policy driver of an energy efficiency improvement might come as a change in relative prices, a change in product attributes or a behavioral/societal change.

Price-based instruments. These are instruments that produce a change in relative prices, such as taxes or subsidies for households or/and industries. Taxes imposed on the production side include energy and carbon taxes, whereas on the consumption side, they include taxes on energy-intensive goods (e.g. private transport fuels). Subsidies for the production side could come in the form of R&D investment to foster low-emission technologies, utility-sponsored rebate programs, etc., while for the consumption side these might include subsidies for adoption of low-pollutant emission devices, e.g. rooftop solar technologies, light bulbs, electric cars. To the best of our knowledge, policy-induced energy efficiency improvements including bundles of attributes have not been modeled yet on the production side.

In particular, when a change in relative prices is introduced by a tax to promote energy savings, a rebound is no longer a possible effect of concern within the energy domain; however, a tax could still be a cause of rebound with respect to GHG savings and welfare gains or losses.

Change in product attributes. When we represent a policy-induced energy efficiency improvement, most often the energy service that a unit of energy provides is not only a function of useful work derived from a more energy-efficient device but is also a function of its attributes other than energy conversion efficiency. An attribute is a non-energy efficiency improvement in a characteristic of a product (or energy service) such as, size (e.g. computer), comfort, reliability, speed, or acceleration [Sorrell and Dimitropoulos, 2008]. Examining a household vehicle portfolio, Archsmith et al. [2017]

found that complementarity and substitution effects between energy and non-energy inputs are not the only causes of lost energy savings; they found that bundles of attributes may also interact in a way that reduces energy savings, eroding as much as 60% of fuel savings from an increase in fuel efficiency, thus compromising the cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency policies. In another study, Galvin [2017] examined how average increases in the vehicle-speed attribute (acceleration) can be incorporated into calculations of energy rebounds, showing that the relationship between energy services and energy consumption levels might be nonlinear. The main insight was that it is possible to completely expunge energy efficiency increases by interactions between both speed and acceleration. Studies in computing services, such as in Galvin and Gubernat [2016], also reveal the importance of representing attribute parameters in models.

Behavioral/societal. Lifestyle and consumer change of preferences in time, or reprogramming of preference orderings to change a determined habitual behavior (i.e. shift to public transport, healthier diets) could also play a complementary role in meeting energy reduction and climate change targets. A change in consumer patterns might arise from self- or externally (i.e. commonly attained by policies) imposed rules. In this scenario, a change in preferences is not seen as a potential source of undesirable outcomes [Elster, 2000], but is consciously placed in order to achieve desired better outcomes and consistency in time. Using a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model, Duarte et al. [2016] found that promoting public transport was a successful economic and environmental policy for Spain. Moreover, Bjelle et al. [2018] examined a set of 34 possible behavioral actions to be undertaken in Norwegian households; they found that people could potentially reduce their carbon footprint by 58%. In Sweden, Grabs [2015] calculated that switching to a vegetarian diet can save 16% of energy use and lower greenhouse gas emissions by 20% related to their dietary consumption, with corresponding energy RE of 96% and GHG rebounds of 49%. However, this study only focused on income effects. Finally, Chitnis and Sorrell [2015] recommend including a lagged variable in studies to capture inertia in energy prices (habit formation), which can help to mitigate correlation problems and at the same time better reflect behavioral change/consumer behavior.

A second potential driver of energy efficiency improvements are non-market based instruments which could arise as qualitative changes, Command and Control instruments, change in product attributes, or behavioral/societal changes (the last two as explained previously, without government intervention). It is important to notice that some types of energy efficiency improvements could arise from market based policies, non-market based policies, or zero-cost breakthroughs.

Qualitative changes. Without the use of a change in prices, the government could intervene by increasing quality or accessibility to information. Moreover, softer interventions include the use of nudges.

Command and Control (CaC) instruments. For the production side, these might include technology mandates (i.e. fixed input-output ratios restricting production flexibility) [Landis and Böhringer, 2019], and performance standards on both the producer and consumer side (e.g. minimum energy efficiency standards, caps on residential energy use or residential energy intensity [Bye et al., 2018]).

As a third driver, we explore how energy efficiency improvements are studied as technical change.

Technical change. In general terms, an exogenous zero-cost breakthrough technical change can be modeled as neutral (also referred as biased, i.e. equal reduction of all inputs), or non-neutral (also called non-biased, whereby some inputs are reduced more than others) [Broadstock et al., 2007], where an energy efficiency improvement is given at a specific point in time, or as factor-augmenting (assuming a rate of growth of EEI over time). A clear distinction between a neutral technical change or a relative effect on inputs; total factor productivity; or the effect on outputs, might reduce bias in estimations [Du and Lin, 2015]. Outputs might cause structural changes in the economy (e.g. growth of the share of services in the economy) via substitution of products between energy-intensive sectors and non-energy-intensive sectors [Bibas et al., 2015]. In Frieling and Madlener [2016], Frieling and

Madlener [2017a], and Frieling and Madlener [2017b] technical change is represented as an exogenous constant or linear time trend, while Schmitz and Madlener explores a quadratic trend. Technical change can be represented using a latent variable approach (policy-induced or zero-cost breakthrough energy efficiency improvement), depending on past energy prices [Hunt et al., 2014]. Moreover, it can be represented as energy source prices, relative prices, real prices, growth rates, or reduction in discount rates. It is represented also as a reduction in the costs of technologies or price-diminishing (e.g. labeling and perceived costs) [Löschel, 2002], [Löschel and Schymura, 2013].

Representing energy improvements as induced or endogenous technical change might produce a more accurate representation of the overall rebound effect [Löschel, 2002], [Witajewski-Baltvilks et al., 2017]. Endogenous technical change has been far less studied in energy system models [Gillingham et al., 2016], but it is more often considered in economy-wide studies and Integrated Assessment models. Otto et al. [2007], Otto et al. [2008] and Löschel and Otto [2009] develop and apply an endogenous model of energy-biased technical change with knowledge capital stocks and technology externalities in innovation and production. Therefore, an induced technical change as an energy efficiency improvement might be more accurate for the representation of rebound effects on the producer side.

The increasing interest in climate policies leads to a more detailed analysis of energy rebound effects in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, whereby the rebound effect triggered by an increase in energy efficiency is converted into greenhouse gas emission units (the so-called GHG rebound). However, due to the lack of intrinsic value of carbon consumption, the incentive to increase the demand for carbon is quite weak. Thus, strictly speaking as discussed in Birol and Keppler [2000], there exists to date no rebound effect driven by a reduction of carbon consumption.

2.1 Rebound effect theory: Taxonomy and Typology

After gaining a general view about drivers of energy efficiency improvements and its representations, we present the types of rebound effect channels derived from these drivers along the aggregation level. To this aim, it is useful to systematically de-construct these effects into known components available in the literature. Further motivations to parse the rebound effect involve linking the theoretical point of view to empirical calculations, and exploring causal effects whenever possible. Hence, tables 2 to 5 combine the typology and taxonomy of the rebound effect, from two consumers' perspectives: that of (1) a producer of energy services, and (2) an end-use consumer; and similarly from producer's perspectives, along the aggregation level. This table has been elaborated with the contributions in the literature about the underpinnings of the rebound effect, traditionally from Khazzoom [1980], Saunders [1992], Greening et al. [2000], Berkhout et al. [2000], and Birol and Keppler [2000] to more recent contributions from Van den Bergh [2011], Saunders [2013], Borenstein [2013], Azevedo [2014], Gillingham et al. [2016], Madlener and Turner [2016], and Santarius [2016].

Table 1: Rebound typology representation along the level of aggregation, as partial equil. (PE), part I

	Rebound typology¹	Decomposition channel	Taxonomy	Other names
PE Consumer side	(1) Direct rebound effect ²	1.1 Substitution effect (+)	Own/price elasticity of demand, substitution to consume more of good 0 due to price reduction.	Price effect
		1.2 Income effect ³ (+)	Free income used to consume more of good 0 due to price reduction.	
	(2) Compensating cross-elasticities ²	Fixed income (-)	Expenditure on good 0 takes away expenditure on other goods with energy content.	
	(3) Indirect rebound effect	3.1. Substitution effect (-)	Cross-price elasticity of demand of other goods, substitution to consume less of other goods due to more consumption of good 0.	Analogous to the variation of energy intensity in the economy as a whole.
		3.2 Income effect ² (+)	Consuming more of other goods due to savings on good 0.	Re-spending effect
		3.3 Embodied energy (+)	Energy or emissions associated with the life cycle of an energy service.	
		3.4 Behavioral effect (+)	Indirect rebounds not caused by EE improvement, but by changes in consumption behaviors.	
	(4) Time savings	3.5 Time effect ⁴	Available time that individuals have to spend on other activities that use energy.	

¹ There also exists the less studied “transformational” rebound effects [Greening et al., 2000], “motivational psychological” rebound effects [Santarius, 2016].

² Terms (1) and (2) are called the “net direct rebound effect” [Borenstein, 2013].

³ Both income effects (1.2 and 3.2) can be grouped into the “income effect rebound” [Borenstein, 2013].

⁴ Introduced by Binswanger [2001], new studies such as Mizobuchi et al. [2018] present theory and evidence of small time rebound effects of 1.4%, while long Shao and Rodriguez-Labajos [2016] find evidence of time rebound effects in developed countries, in which a decrease in working time might lead to an increase in energy-intensive leisure activities with high carbon footprints.

Table 2: Rebound typology representation along the level of aggregation, as partial equil. (PE), part II

	Rebound typology*	Decomposition channel	Taxonomy	Other names
Producer side and Meso-level (sectoral)	(5) Direct rebound effect	4.1 Factor substitution (+)	Substitution to use more energy input 0 due to cost reduction (e.g. automation).	Analogous to the substitution effect on the consumer side.
		4.2 Output effect (+)	Free expenditure (savings) to use more energy input 0 due to cost reduction resulting in increased production.	Analogous to the income effect on the consumer side.
	(6) Indirect rebound effect	5.1 Factor substitution (-)	Substitution to use less of other inputs due to cost reduction.	
		5.2 Output effect (+)	Free expenditure (savings) to use more of other inputs due to cost reduction resulting in increased production.	Re-investment effect
		5.3 Embodied energy effect (+)	Investments in energy efficiency technologies increase demand for energy.	Grey energy
	(7) Complementary rebound effect	Redesign effect (+)	Ex-ante expected cost savings for consumers lead producers to invest in redesigning of the original product.	

* Less studied are the technological innovation and diffusion effects [Van den Bergh, 2011].

Table 3: Rebound typology representation along the level of aggregation, as general equil. (GE), part I

	Rebound typology	Decomposition channel	Taxonomy	Other names
GE Producer and Consumer interaction*	(8) Interactive rebound effect	7.1 Market price effect (+)	Increased aggregate energy demand due to reduction in the market price of energy services, leading to a decrease in the demand for a particular fuel. Reinforcing effect from market price on the consumer side income effect. Interplay from a firm, sector or numerous individual households up to the level of a sector or market.	
		7.2 Disinvestment effect (-)	Direct and derived demands are not sufficiently elastic to prevent falling market prices of energy, leading to decline in revenue, profitability and return on capital in domestic energy supply sectors.	
		7.3 Composition effect (+)	Reduction in market price favors energy-intensive sectors of the economy, reducing the price of energy-intensive goods and services causing the increase of their demand, altering the composition of the economy's portfolio of goods.	
		7.4 Effect of economies scale (+)	Income and market effects causing increase in demand for energy services or goods, leading to firm expansion that reinforces falling prices, whose impact reduces along the level of production.	
		7.5 Rising labor income effect (+)	Firms using additional income from energy efficiency of production process to raise worker's wages.	

* More recent cases include the use of purchase of heavy units or units with more functions/services and consequently using more energy (e.g. proof of work in block-chain for microgrids [Hittinger and Jaramillo, 2019]).

Table 4: Rebound typology representation along the level of aggregation, as general equil. (GE), part II

	Rebound typology*	Decomposition Channel	Taxonomy	Other names
GE	(9) Macro-economic rebound	8.1 Price effect	The adjustment of consumers and producers following a shift to the left of the market demand curve.	Economy-wide. Analogous to consumer price effect.
		8.2 Growth effect: Sectoral allocation	Change in efficiency of energy inputs in an energy-intensive sector may lead to this sector's growth relative to others.	Equal to the composition effect but causing economic growth.
		8.3 Growth effect: Induced innovation	Spillover effects of an energy improvement in one sector, attributable to improvement in another one.	
		8.4 Growth effect: Fiscal multiplier	Freed money previously spent on energy used in new economic activity that utilizes previously idle resources. Long-term debt associated with fiscal stimulus.	Multiplier effect.
		8.5 Labor supply (-)**	Consumers adjust their labor supply to the extent that EE has an impact on real wages. It depends on the elasticity of substitution between leisure and consumption.	

* Further, [Saunders \[2013\]](#) includes a so-called “frontier effects”, enabling new product applications or services. In the short term, rebound effect models include changes in energy service demands while holding capital or investments constant; in the long term, they can incorporate laws of motion for capital costs, savings, scrappage, crowding effects, and/or increasing market saturation of appliances [[Thomas and Azevedo, 2013b](#)] in order to capture consumer responses to price changes [[Gillingham et al., 2016](#)].

** At the macro-economic level, rebound effects are more ambiguous than at the micro-economic level. However, [Böhringer and Rivers \[2018\]](#) found that the elasticity of substitution between leisure and consumption is directly related to the labor supply elasticity, which is low across the economy as a whole, thus it is likely that the RE due to this channel is (-). It is closely related to the rising labor income effect (7.5) in table 4.

2.2 Rebound effect formulations

Conceptual clarity leads to more accurate formulations. After showing how possible causes of energy efficiency improvements might translate into rebound effect components, we now revise available rebound effect formulations in the literature. Thus, formulations that are less prone to bias include:

the direct energy rebound effect (*DRE*) [[Berkhout et al., 2000](#)],

$$DRE = \eta_\varepsilon(ES) - 1; \quad (2)$$

where $\eta_\varepsilon(ES)$ is the energy services elasticity of demand with respect to its energy efficiency. But data to calculate the DRE in this form is scant, thus an alternative formulation is;

$$R = 1 - \frac{AES}{PES}; \quad (3)$$

where *AES* is actual energy savings and *PES* is potential or expected energy savings in the absence of rebound effects, holding prices constant [[Berkhout et al., 2000](#)].

Indirect rebound effects (IREs) can be computed using cross-price elasticities, income elasticities, and expenditure elasticities between energy and other goods or energy inputs or non-energy inputs ($\eta_{PEG,NEG}$ or $\eta_{PEI,NEI}$, respectively). IREs can also arise from behavioral changes, not just energy

efficiency improvements [Druckman et al., 2010].

In the case of a macro-economic rebound calculation, a household productivity shock is usually applied to the model to calculate the difference between AES and PES corresponding to general equilibrium measures [Guerra and Sancho, 2010]. Notice that for economic growth models, it is also common practice to obtain two scenarios, one assuming engineering savings, and the other represented with a law of motion of capital, to quantify the rebound effect, as in [Turner et al., 2009]:

$$RE = \left[1 + \frac{\dot{E}}{\alpha\gamma} \right] 100; \quad (4)$$

where γ is the efficiency elasticity of energy, usually represented as an autonomous (or exogenous zero-cost breakthrough) energy efficiency improvement, and $\alpha=1$ for economy-wide rebound, or takes the value of $\alpha = E_i/E$, modeled for the production or consumption side (sector) of country i , and E is the value of energy in physical or economic units (value share).

The rebound effect can also be expressed in terms of greenhouse gas emissions:

$$R = 1 - \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta H}; \quad (5)$$

where ΔQ is the net change in greenhouse gas emissions and ΔH is the change in emissions without behavioral response Chitnis and Sorrell [2015].

At the economy-wide level, when using a theoretical welfare maximization CGE model, as in Wei [2010], the rebound effect can be expressed as:

$$R^s = \frac{1 + 1/\sigma^s}{1/\sigma^s - 1/\sigma^d}; \quad (6)$$

where R^s is global rebound in the short term, and

$$R^l = \frac{1 + 1/\sigma^s}{1/\sigma^s - \sigma_e^e - \theta}; \quad (7)$$

where R^l is global rebound in the long term. σ^s is the price elasticity of energy supply, σ_e^e is the energy own elasticity of marginal product with respect to energy input in the welfare function, σ^d is the price elasticity of demand, and θ is the own-price elasticity of capital supply and demand, as cross-price elasticity of marginal product with respect to capital and energy inputs in the production of welfare. This theoretical framework is simplified to account for only one non-energy good, and the analysis of elasticities are only for comparison purposes between the micro- and macro-economic levels. [Lemoine, 2018] gives a word of caution about the reliability on magnitudes of elasticities of substitution to guide the likelihood of backfire at the macro-economic level, due to the existence of sectoral interactions that need to be taken into account.

We use the mathematical representations described above, to summarize and classify the existing rebound effect types in the literature, according to its magnitude. This is important in order to quantify the rebound effect within the aggregation level and time. Table 1 shows five types of rebound effects and their respective elasticity domains.

Table 5: Rebound cases from micro to macro, adapted.

	Super efficiency $R < 0$	Engineering rebound $R = 0$	Partial rebound $0 < R < 1$	Full rebound $R = 1$	Backfire $R > 1$
Micro					
Short-term	$\eta_\varepsilon(ES) < -1^a$	$\eta_\varepsilon(ES) = 1$	$-1 < \eta_\varepsilon(ES) < 0$	$\eta_\varepsilon(ES) = 0$	$\eta_\varepsilon(ES) > 0$
Macro					
Short-term	$-^a$	$\sigma_e^e \rightarrow -\infty$ or $\sigma^d \rightarrow 0$ and $\sigma^s \rightarrow 0$	$\sigma_e^e < -1$ or $-1 < \sigma^d < 0$	$\sigma_e^e = -1$ or $-1 < \sigma^d = -1$	$-1 < \sigma_e^e < 0$ or $\sigma^d < -1$
Long-term	$1/\sigma^s - \theta < \sigma_e^e < 0$	$\sigma_e^e < -\infty$ and/or $\theta \rightarrow \infty$	$\sigma_e^e < -1 - \theta$	$\sigma_e^e = -1 - \theta$	$-1 - \theta < \sigma_e^e < \min\{0, 1/\sigma^s - \theta\}$

^a Although in zero-cost breakthrough studies it is impossible for this condition to happen in the case of partial equilibrium [Lemoine, 2018], it is theoretically possible for it to occur when large externalities are modeled (e.g. in studies that model policy-induced improvements). Moreover, depending on the functional form of the production function, this can cause a “disinvestment effect” in the long-run [Turner et al., 2009].

In contrast to formulations (2) to (8), the following might lead to upward-biased estimates. These relate to the representations of energy efficiency that we recommend to avoid, explained in section 2.1. Though these conceptions were helpful to study the rebound effect initially, we do not recommend them for future studies, because they do not disentangle changes in relative prices due to an energy efficiency policy from exogenous technical change:

$$DRE = \eta_\varepsilon(E) - 1; \quad (8)$$

where $\eta_\varepsilon(E)$ is the energy elasticity of demand (of energy output for the consumer side, or input for the producer side e.g. fuel) with respect to efficiency;

$$DRE = -\eta_{P_E}(E); \quad (9)$$

where $\eta_{P_E}(E)$ is the own-price elasticity of energy demand for the relevant energy service (of energy commodities on the consumer side, or fuel on the producer side). This only holds when the price of energy (in physical units) remains constant, so that any change in energy efficiency is reflected in the effective price of energy [Guerra and Sancho, 2010] (meaning that efficiency is not influenced by other changes in energy prices), and when the reaction to a price decrease equals the reaction to an energy efficiency improvement [Madlener and Hauertmann, 2011]. Moreover, rebound effects can arise from marginal and non-marginal pricing [Borenstein, 2013]; and:

$$DRE = -\eta_{P_{ES}}(ES); \quad (10)$$

where $\eta_{P_{ES}}(ES)$ is the own-price elasticity of the energy service. However, this formulation is also subject to bias unless an explicit formulation of efficiency improvement is introduced in the definition of the energy service, in demand or supply functions (or choices), since this approximation also assumes that one source of energy is exclusively used in the production of one energy service [Hunt et al., 2014].

3 Modeling the rebound effect

In a similar vein as in Varian [2016], in sections 1 and 2 we identified some essential pieces necessary to build a rebound effect model. From possible causes or drivers of energy efficiency to existing rebound formulations, in this section we now turn to describe common methodologies found in the literature, used to model the rebound effect.

In general, modelers seek to get a closer look at how energy is being consumed in real settings by collecting data to use in models, and/or studying treatment effects (i.e. of energy efficiency policies). They decide on (1) the representation of an energy efficiency improvement, (2) a mathematical representation of the rebound effect, and in most cases, (3) the economic theory, assuming a choice faced by a representative consumer (utility maximization), by a producer (profit maximization), or a consumer-producer (“prosumer”, household-factory) that integrates production and consumption (a household produces energy services minimizing costs in order to maximize utility derived from those energy services) [Becker, 1965] [Scott, 1980], and (4) to include a degree of heterogeneity of actors (households or firms), energy services, goods, products, or attributes.

Our review has grouped energy and economy wide studies under the following categories: Structural models, Econometric studies, Simulation studies and Integrated Assessment models. We present general assumptions for each type of model⁹, report on energy efficiency improvements as drivers for rebound effect representations, and show results of empirical studies between 2016 and 2018. In tables, we categorize the energy efficiency driver (EE) or rebound effect channel (RE channel) according to the discussion in chapter 2.

3.1 Structural models of neoclassical economic growth

Structural models have been the most common means to calculate direct rebound effects as represented in equations (1) to (3). They include preferences and technology, using observed past behavior (characteristic of ex-post, often econometric studies) to calculate fundamental parameters.

3.1.1 Energy system structural models

The approach with these types of models is to adopt an industrial (or household) production functional form of first- or second-order of approximation or, alternatively, a derived cost function, such as, Leontief, generalized Leontief, Cobb-Douglas, CES (Solow), nested CES (Solow), generalized Barnett, generalized McFadden, Gallant, Fourier function [Saunders, 2008], [Saunders, 2015], the Rotterdam model, or the translog function [Saunders, 2013], [Mishra, 2011], [Frieling and Madlener, 2016], [Frieling and Madlener, 2017a], and [Frieling and Madlener, 2017b]. To identify the substitution (output) effect and the income effect for consumption (production), it is common to use decomposition methods, such as the implicit function theorem, for calculating elasticities.

Other sets of structural models represent household demand, and allow to compute direct and indirect rebound effects. Some examples include, almost ideal demands (AIDs) [Deaton and Muellbauer, 1980] or linearized AIDs with multi-stage budgets [Thomas and Azevedo, 2013a], [Schmitz and Madlener], linear expenditure systems (LES) [Lin and Liu, 2015], direct addilog (DA), indirect addilog (IA) [Thomas, 2012], double-log (DL) system [Freire-González, 2017a], etc. Parameters are obtained using linear or non-linear econometric methodologies (i.e. ordinary least squares, dynamic ordinary least squares, feasible generalized least squares, nonlinear least squares, etc.). Usual inputs are energy (or energy commodities, services), capital, labor, and materials.

Recent studies have focused on the meso-economic rebound effect to study production-side sectoral, and interactive rebound effects (e.g. market effects) [Santarius, 2016].

Table 5, 6 and 7 show a review of selected structural models from the production and consumption sides, and their respective RE magnitudes as percentage figures (%):

⁹There might be some overlap between structural models and econometric studies, however, our criteria for categorization is based on the degree of flexibility allowed by each type.

Table 6: Selected review of production-side direct rebound effect studies

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
Yang and [2017]	Beijing China	Production Electricity	(7)RE Translog cost ZCB	AEEI implicit $\eta_e(P_E) = 0$ RE: $-\eta_{P_E}(E)$ Data 1985 - 2010	SR - LR 12% fossil fuel Rejects H_0 ¹	NA	NA	Pricing reform (coal) reduced RE effect.
Li and [2017]	China	Production Industry Heavy Light	(4)DRE Cobb Douglas ZCB/PI	Augmented TLD RE: $\eta_e(E)$ Data 1994 - 2012	SR - LR HE 334% LR LI 190% Does not reject H_0	NA	NA	Output component accounts for 85% of the rebound effect.
Zhang et al. [2017b]	China	Production	(4)DRE ZCB	EE as resource-specific, LMDI, LVA-Z RE: <i>AES/PES</i> Data 1995 - 2012	SR - LRI 39% av. LRM 28% av. Rejects H_0	NA	NA	Structural shift between sectors has less effect on reduction of energy consumption. DRE shows a decreasing trend in time in both sectors.
Frieling and [2016]	Germany	Production	ZCB	ETT constant, CES, fixed σ_{KL} Data 1991 - 2013	nested MR $\sigma_{(KL)E}=0.18$	NA	NA	(KL) complement of E, E is a strong constraint on economic growth.
Frieling and [2017a]	USA	Production	ZCB	ETT linear, nested fixed σ_{KL} Data 1929 - 2015	CES, LR $\sigma_{(KL)E}=0.6-0.7$	NA	NA	(KL) complement of E, labor augmenting (at same time labor saving).
Frieling and [2017b]	UK	Production	ZCB	ETT linear, nested fixed σ_{KL} Data 1855 - 2015	CES, LR $\sigma_{(KL)E}=0.5-0.8$	NA	NA	(KL) complement of E, except in times of economic stress, evidence of substitution.

¹ H_0 : Backfire exists. EE representation: AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement. TLD: Technology learning (remembering/forgetting). LVA-Z: Latent variable approach, zero-cost breakthrough. ETT: Exogenous time trend.

Table 7: Selected review of consumption-side direct rebound effect studies

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare rebound	GHG rebound	Insights
Schmitz and Madlener	Germany	Household Fuels Electricity	(1)DRE (3)IRE LAIDS ZCB	ETT, past-price dependent DRE: $-\eta_{P_E}(E)$ IRE: $\eta_{P_{E,I,NEI}}$ Data 1970 - 2014	NA	NA	SR - LR Gas -161%av. Liq f -86%av. Other f -0.1%av. Veh f 78%. SR Elc -99% Does not reject H_0	When EEI is not considered explicitly, RE is overestimated. Income effects are smaller in magnitude than substitution effects $IRE > DRE$ mag.
Zhang et al. [2017a]	China Regional	Household Private transport	(1)DRE, (3)IRE AIDS ZCB	AEEI implicit DRE: $-\eta_{P_{ES}}(ES)$ IRE: $1 - \Delta Q / \Delta H$ Data 2001 - 2012	NA	NA	SR - LR -30 to 35% av. Does not reject H_0	$IRE > DRE$ mag. for expenditure, conversely for pop. density. Underdeveloped regions backfire, high regional fluctuation.
[Heesen and Madlener, 2018]¹	Germany	Household Heating tenants	Household-factory ZCB	AEEI, Heat Energy consumption model (HEC) DRE: $-\eta_{P_{ES}}(ES)$ Field experiment data 2010 - 2014 (60 houses)	SR- MR -22% HEC ¹	NA	NA	Income effects are less sensitive to model specifications compared to substitution effects IRE larger in magnitude than DRE 1-year frame consumer price responsiveness. Habits are not influenced by economic signals in the SR.

EE representation: ETT: exogenous time trend. AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement

¹ This study does not estimate the RE; we assume price elasticity of demand as a proxy for RE (upper bound estimate).

3.1.2 Economy-wide structural models

Aggregated production functions (APFs) using Solow’s residual can also be used to approximate total energy and GHG rebound effects at national levels, as represented in eqs. (4) to (5). These models assume that parameters remain unchanged, to predict the responses to possible economic system changes, including those that have never happened before. Therefore, they can conveniently be used to conduct welfare calculations [Nevo and Whinston, 2010]. Nonetheless, the major concern is that the use of an “elaborate superstructure” will provide results driven by the model rather than the data [Angrist and Pischke, 2010]. Table 8 shows a review of selected structural models.

3.2 Econometric studies

To avoid restrictions imposed by ex-post structural forms as in section 3.1, empirical modelers usually turn to reduced-form statistical ex-post estimations. Additionally, Nevo and Whinston [2010] argue that welfare calculations using this methodology would be less credible, due to the variety of economic environmental change estimations that could be possible to be estimated.

Econometric studies represent the rebound effect in two broad categories, which vary according to the aggregation level of study. The first category includes energy systems that compute the direct rebound effect, whereas the second category contains economy-wide contexts to calculate a total national or sectoral rebound effect. However, Acemoglu [2010] and [Lemoine, 2018] argue that reduced-form models should not be used as stand-alone tools to evaluate the development of policies.

3.2.1 Energy system econometric estimations

Models in this section are categorized as ex-post estimations and calculated using regression analysis, (e.g. at the less-studied meso-economic level; [Wang et al., 2016], e.g. uses a double-logarithmic model to study factors affecting electricity consumption), generalized linear models, ARIMA, vector autoregression, and cointegration models. Data used to solve these models include time-series data, cross-section analysis, panel data, and stochastic frontier functions. Less common are panel instrumental variable (IV) estimators, difference-in-difference estimators, and field quasi-experimental methods. More recently, machine learning (artificial intelligence algorithms) is being used in econometric estimations as well, see table 9.

The advantage of these types of studies is that they might demonstrate causality and derive more robust results, but exogenous variables should be carefully controlled. Reducing the scope of the model to focus on a specific energy service could provide significant insights. Though Jacobsen and Van Benthem [2015] investigate the Gruenspecht effect, this study is a good example of the direction that rebound effect studies might take. This is due to several reasons: they demonstrate causality using an IV estimator to calculate a scrap elasticity (i.e. using gasoline prices and vehicle prices), study the change in prices due to a fuel policy, and consider heterogeneity. Finally, quasi-experimental ex-post studies could provide more realistic insights about specific energy efficiency program performance and effectiveness.

Table 8: Review of selected national production-side rebound effect studies

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
Brockway et al. [2017]	UK US China	Production	(1)DRE (3)IRE APF CES Solow's residual ZCB	AEEI explicit DRE: M1: <i>AES/PES</i> M2: Exergy $\eta_r(E)$ Data 1980/81 - 2010	SR - LR ¹ ; UK 34%av. US 22%av. China 104%av.	NA	NA	Producer side and developing economies exhibit larger RE. High substitution between KL and E produce high RE. RE is a key component of energy growth.
[Zhang and Lawell, 2017]	China	Production	(8) Price/growth effect APF nested CES ZCB	AEEI Decomposed $\eta_r(E)$ DRE: $1 + \eta_r(E)$	Does not reject H_0 in China SR high variation LR Price 14% av. Growth E 0% Does not reject H_0	NA	NA	High variation of RE in time and by location.

EE representation: AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement.

¹ Averages taken from methods 1 and 2.

Table 9: Review selected of consumption side RE econometric studies

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
[Fronzel and Vance, 2018]	Germany	Households Private Trans- port single-vehicle	(1)DRE IV estimator PI	EE: LVA-P (tax rate/100 SR cm^3) DRE: $\eta_c(ES)$ Data 1997 - 2015	SR 67% ¹ Rejects H_0	NA	NA	Using IV estimator results in RE 30% points > fuel $\eta_{PE}(E)$. Higher fuel efficiency offsets the effectiveness of fuel taxation by at least the same degree. CaC (fuel efficiency standard) negatively affects welfare.
[Fowlie et al., 2018]	US Michigan	Low income Households Heating Infiltration	(1) DRE PI	EEl: policy b/w treated and non-treated houses RE: AES/PES Field experiment data 2011 - 2014 (899/28,888 houses)	10 - 20% monthly energy consumption ²	in less than 1% energy expenditure savings	SCC en- \$38/ton ³ at r=3%	Negative rates of return on EEI investments would suggest there is no energy efficiency gap, and EE investments are not a cost-effective approach to mitigate climate change. Projected engineering savings overvalued by more than three times the actual savings.
[Burlig et al., 2017]	US California	Buildings K-12 Schools HVAC ⁴ Lighting	(1) DRE Panel Data Machine learning PI	EEl policy before/after reduced-form vs. RE: AEI/PES , non-treated projections vs. real data (after EEI). Field experiment data 2008 - 2014 (2,094 schools)	SR 54/76% ⁵ Rejects RE=0 3.7% reduced energy consumption	NA	NA	Even targeting policies might be challenging due to heterogeneity found in the results.

EE representation: LVA-P: Latent variable approach, policy-induced. EEI: Energy efficiency improvement.

¹ Other results for the US obtain lower estimates, see Small et al. [2007].

² This study did not find a significant increase in temperature, and it found a small RE.

³ r: Discount rate.

⁴ Heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

⁵ This result is likely driven by overly optimistic ex ante predictions or rebound.

3.2.2 Macro-econometric models

Despite the difficulties in attaining a good degree of identification with reality, these post-Keynesian ex-ante models might perform useful forecasting and policy analysis (when an effective existing rule prevails) [Sims, 1980].

After Barker et al. [2009], macro-econometric and non-equilibrium models, such as the global dynamic E3ME (or E3MG variant) and NEMESIS, have been used to assess co-benefits and trade-offs of policy scenarios in European economies using multiple sets of computable econometric equations. In the E3ME model, the rebound effect is modeled in two parts: the direct rebound effect (eq. (2) in section 2.1) is taken from the PRIMES bottom-up model (an energy system model), and this is then used to calculate the endogenous indirect rebound effect and the economy-wide rebound effect using eq. (4), derived from the input-output structure of the model [Pollitt, 2017]. Inputs of the model are shared with other models such as the PROMETHEUS (fossil fuels and import prices) and GEM-E3 (macro-economic and sectoral projections) [E3MLab and IIASA, 2016]. The main assumption with regard to energy efficiency is that rising fuel prices will stimulate technological innovation and boost growth of the world economy, thus the endogenous representation of technological change also has implications for the calculation of the rebound effect. The model allows varying returns of scale and nonlinear substitution, and it avoids the representative agent assumption. Nonetheless, it does not allow substitution between cheaper energy services and other inputs within production and embodied energy representation.

Following our description in section 2.5, the E3ME has focused on representing, from the macro-economic point of view, the price and growth effect (sectoral allocation channel). Overall, taking into account partial and general effects, the RE has been computed as follows [Barker et al., 2009], [Pollitt, 2017]:

1. Macro-economic RE \equiv ‘indirect rebound effect’ + ‘economy-wide rebound effect’¹⁰
2. Total rebound effect \equiv ‘macro-economic rebound effect’ + ‘direct rebound effect’
3. Gross energy savings from IEA energy efficiency policies \equiv ‘net energy savings (taken as exogenous in E3MG)’ + ‘direct rebound energy use’
4. Change in macro-economic energy use from energy efficiency policies from E3MG \equiv ‘energy use simulated from E3MG after the imposed exogenous net energy savings’ - ‘energy use simulated from E3MG before the imposed exogenous net energy savings’
5. Total rebound effect as % \equiv 100 times the ‘change in macro-economic energy use from energy efficiency policies from E3MG’/‘gross energy savings from IEA energy-efficiency policies’
6. Direct rebound effect as % \equiv 100 times ‘direct rebound energy use’/‘gross energy savings from IEA energy-efficiency policies’
7. Macro-economic rebound effect as % \equiv ‘total rebound effect as %’ - ‘direct rebound effect as %’

Main results highlight the importance of capital formation modeling to account for crowding out effects [Pollitt, 2016].

¹⁰Although Sorrell [2007] defines the economy-wide rebound effect as the sum of the direct and indirect rebound effect components. See Madlener and Turner [2016] on the distinction between economy-wide and macro-economic rebound effect.

Table 10: Review selected of macro-econometric studies

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insight
[Pollitt, 2016]	EU	Household Buildings	(1)DRE input (8)TRE output ZCB/PI	Potential savings as input Investment in EEI as KNK	energy SR - LR 50% Rejects H_0	0.1 - 0.6%	SR - LR red. -0.5% / - 7.8%	Quantification of main co-benefits identified by IEA ¹ . Policies should target poor households.
[Pollitt, 2017]	EU	Household Sectors	(1)DRE input (8)TRE output ZCB/PI	Potential savings as input Investment in EEI as KNK	energy SR - LR econ 67% Rejects H_0	0.4 - 4.1%	SR - LR -44% av. 2030	Competitiveness and economic benefits might be maximized if EE equipment and materials are manufactured domestically, because EE policies increase consumption of materials. Crowding out effects are important in more ambitious scenarios.

EE representation: KNK: Kaldor's neo-Keynesian.

¹ International Energy Agency [IEA, 2014].

3.3 Simulation models

3.3.1 Energy system simulation models

Input-output (IO) models and environmentally-extended input-output models (EEIO)

The most comprehensive studies applying this methodology use estimates of direct rebound effects as inputs. These ex-post static models allow the calculation of indirect rebound effects as cross-price elasticities for n goods (or n services). Following this estimation, total rebound effects are computed as represented in eq. (4). Most studies have focused on studying indirect rebound effects on the consumption side. These models assume that constant returns to scale, sectors producing homogeneous goods and services, and outputs are created with constant and fixed proportions of inputs (linear representation) [Miller and Blair, 2009]. Moreover, cross-price elasticities of other goods are modeled as constant, and re-spending to be proportional in each good and service. Widely used data inputs include Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Eora data, EXIOBASE, the Global Trade and Analysis Project (GTAP), and the World Input-Output Database (WIOD), see Table 11.

Modeling RE with an EEIO model, Thomas and Azevedo [2013b] found that IREs are inversely proportional to DREs and are bounded by consumers' budget constraints. Freire-González [2017b] developed risk and vulnerability indicators for rebound effects.

Table 11 shows a review on selected consumption-side studies.

Table 11: Review of selected simulation studies

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
[Thomas and Azevedo, 2013b]	US	Household Electricity Gasoline	(1)DRE 10% (3)IRE output ZCB	input AEEI, fixed K DRE: $-\eta_{P_E S}(ES)$ IRE: Cross-price elasticities of demand for other goods with respect to energy services Survey data 2004 IRE: Energy intensity of spending on other goods	SR E48% av. G20% av. Rejects H_0	NA	NA	RE changes with time and location and GHG type.
[Chitnis and Sorrell, 2015]	UK	Household Gas Electricity Vehicle fuel	(1)DRE estimate E41%, V56% (3)IRE output ZCB	AEEI DRE: $-\eta_{P_E S}(ES)$ IRE: Cross-price elasticities of demand for other goods with respect to energy services IRE: Energy intensity of spending on other goods	LR G 41% av. E 48% av. VF 78% av. Does not reject H_0	NA	NA	Studies that neglect in-direct substitution effects may underestimate the RE.
[Wang et al., 2016]	China Beijing	Household Residential electricity	(1)DRE estimate 28% av. (3)IRE output ZCB	AEEI DRE: $-\eta_{P_E}(E)$ IRE: Energy intensity of other goods spending Data 1990-2013	SR DRE 31% LR TRE 51% Rejects H_0 e	NA	NA	
[Freire-González, 2017b]	EU 27C	Household Residential energy end-uses	(1)DRE 30% and 50% (3)IRE output ZCB	input AEEI, fixed K DRE: $-\eta_{P_E S}(ES)$ IRE: Cross-price elasticities of demand for other goods with respect to energy services IRE: Energy intensity of spending on other goods Data 2007	SR 77% av. Does not reject H_0	NA	NA	High variation of RE between countries.

EE representation: AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement.

3.3.2 Macro-economic simulation models

Computable general equilibrium models (CGE)

[Böhringer and Löffel, 2006], [Allan et al., 2007] and [Turner and Figus, 2016] provide comprehensive reviews on these ex-ante “what-if” neo-classical models and their applicability to model energy-economy-environment inter-dependencies for exploring trade-offs and co-benefits. Known models used to parse the RE include GTAP-E, WARM, SCREEN, MSG-6, ENVI-UK, ORANI-G, REMES, SNOW-NO, CEPE, WIOD-CGE, and climate models such as GRACE which could potentially be used for rebound studies [Aaheim et al., 2018]. Energy efficiency improvements in this review are modeled as exogenous autonomous energy efficiency improvement and energy-augmenting, or endogenous technical change as a latent variable approach of policy-induced type (taxes or subsidies on production or consumption). However, induced technical change as in Witajewski-Baltvilks et al. [2017] and Lemoine [2018], and the implications of diffusion effects remain to be further studied. RE is calculated using eqs. (7) and (8). Advances in the analysis of RE tractability have also been applied, namely the decomposition of energy and GHG rebound effects from partial to general equilibrium, as described in section 2.5. To parse the rebound effect in direct and indirect partial equilibrium components, as described in tables 2 to 5 (i.e. substitution and income effects), modelers set all prices fixed except for the energy sector or service in analysis. To calculate the general equilibrium component, common used channels are: price, growth (sectoral allocation), labor supply [Böhringer and Rivers, 2018], [Chang et al., 2018], and growth (fiscal stimulus) [Figus et al., 2019]. Finally the total rebound effect is obtained summing the partial equilibrium components and general equilibrium component (or the economy-wide component, as discussed in section 3.2.2). Sensitivity analyses are more common, thus providing robust estimations mainly on the upper bound of the spectrum. Moreover, studies have investigated the influence of RE on macro-economic parameters such as GDP, employment, etc. [Madlener and Turner, 2016] and on welfare [Gillingham et al., 2016].

Birol and Keppler [2000] discuss the importance of modeling real world energy markets which are far from perfect competition; bridging the gap of theoretical and actual energy efficiency levels. Along these lines, we checked the adaptation and tailoring of models for relevant interactions (e.g. imperfect markets, substitution effects, reversibility or dynamic frameworks) that might potentially impact on calculations of energy and GHG rebounds [Turner and Figus, 2016]: (1) balance of trade (imports/exports), (2) technological change vs. economic expansion, (3) imperfect competition, (4) unemployment (labor market representation), (5) capital formation, (6) dynamic adjustment of long-time frames, (7) detailed treatment of energy supply and (8) energy consumption. For each aspect, we find that (1) Armington’s CES imperfect substitution was able to include an energy efficiency improvement representation. (2) Most models do not integrate adjustment of capital/labor growth (or decline) with regard to energy efficiency improvement. (3) Revised models assumed perfect competition, except Figus et al. [2017], Figus et al. [2018]. For (4) and (5), mobile representation of capital between national sectors, investments, and labor increase gradually. (6) Recent models are not only dynamic, but also they capture consumer’s responsiveness [Figus et al., 2017],[Figus et al., 2018], [Chang et al., 2018], [Bye et al., 2018], [Duarte et al., 2018], including consumer response to price changes in time, but are also regional-specific (or spatial CGE models) [Helgesen et al., 2018]. (7) To represent energy and non-energy goods, CES or Cobb Douglas functions are commonly used and inputs in the energy sector are modeled as Leontief composites, with no possibility of substitution. (8) While energy efficiency improvement in total factor productivity has not commonly been modeled, it has been included from one consumer aggregate with no possibility of substitution or CES/Klein-Rubin utility preferences, to bottom-up representations that capture consumer heterogeneity and distributional impacts [Bye et al., 2018], [Landis and Böhringer, 2019].

Tables 12-16 show recent studies for production and consumption.

Table 12: Review of selected CGE models focused on production

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
Koesler et al. [2016]	Germany & International	Industry and Manufacturing	(8.1) ZCB	AEEI Exogenous prod. shock, one, all sectors, RE Energy in economic units aggregate Eq. (8) $\Delta\varepsilon = 10\%$ 5ys. Data 2009, WIOD CGE, 8 sectors, 3 regions	51% global, 47% Germany $\sigma_x = 0.234$ $\sigma^d = 0$	0.13 – 0.51%	NA	Domestic RE is overestimated without considering spillover effects.
[Lu et al., 2017]	China	Coal Crude oil/nat. gas Ref. petrol. Electricity/steam Gas supply	(4), (8.1) ZCB	AEEI Exogenous energy augmenting, specific prod. shock, RE Eq. (8) $\Delta\varepsilon = 5\%$ Data 2007, ORANI-G, 140 regions. Allows inter-fuel substitution	Rejects H_0 SR/LR C 23/21% $\Delta\varepsilon = \text{COG,RP } 32/36\%$ av. E 31/ – 0.1% GS $\sigma_E ng = 0.5$, Leontief non-energy Rejects H_0 , $RE < 0$	0.02 – 0.9%	NA	Policy focus of RE in the LR, allowing inter-fuel substitutability, increases RE magnitude.
[Pui and Othman, 2017]	Malaysia National Sectoral	Transport	(8.1) ZCB/PI	AEEI Energy-augmenting, prod. shock one sector, R&D investment from environmental tax, RE energy in resource-specific (gasoline and diesel) $\Delta\varepsilon = 5\%$ 1y. Data 2010, ORANI-G, 124 sectors, 56 regions	exogenous scenarios AEEI/PI SR 98/98% av., LR 0.04/0.05% SR 98/97% av. $\sigma_E = 0.5$, LR Leontief E/NE, CES 0.07/–0.05% Does not reject H_0		GHG red. $\varepsilon > 0$ could produce a double-dividend effect –0.1/ – 0.11% LR 0.19%	
[Zhou et al., 2018]	China	Coal Crude oil and nat. gas Ref. petrol. Electricity Gas supply	(4), (8.1) ZCB	AEEI exogenous energy-augmenting and -specific productivity shocks, RE energy in economic units $\Delta\varepsilon = 5\%$ Data 2007, ORANI-G, 140 sectors, 56 regions	SR C 22% OG,PR,E 32% av. GS Data 52% $\sigma_E = 0.5$, Leontief E, NE, CES energy. Rejects H_0	0.02 – 0.9%	NA	Decomposition of RE in production and consumption contributors.

EE representation: AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement.

¹ Reported only inter-fuel substitution scenario.

Table 13: Review of selected CGE models focused on production

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
[Lemoine, 2018]	Theory	Production	(4), (5), (8.1) ZCB	AE/EI Exogenous productivity shock $\Delta\epsilon = 1\%$ Theoretical	Does not reject H_0	NA	NA	Gen. eq. channels are likely to be significant when EE improvements occur in sectors with a large value share of energy.
[Böhlinger and Rivers, 2018]	Theory US China EU	Production	(4), (5), (8.1) Decomposition ZCB	RE AE/EI, aggregate $\Delta\epsilon = 1\%$ Data SR US, China, EU NA 2011, model [Böhlinger et al., 2016] $\sigma_x = 0.5$, Leontief fossil fuels Does not reject H_0	NA	NA	Partial eq. $RE > Gen.$ Eq. component, $-\eta_{PE}(E)$ as major driver of Total RE in sector with $\Delta\epsilon > 0$, higher sector energy intensity and small sizes increase RE. Composition, growth and energy channels are relevant, and not the labor channel.	
[Chang et al., 2018]	Theory	Production Consumption	8.1,2,3, RE composition PI	De-Demand-side subsidy/tax clean goods supply-side subsidy/tax clean technology, RE Energy in GHG emission reduction units, aggregate $\Delta\epsilon = 10\%$ Data 2009, Own model, 2- sectors clean/dirty goods	NA	0.13 – 0.51%	LR 90% with initial subsidy of 30%, 53% when $\sigma_{C,D} = 0.5$ and equal level of promotion C/D of much importance. Does not reject H_0	Steady-state pollution stock (Environmental Kuznets Curve) shows a U-shaped relationship with production and consumption promotions, status quo at time of intervention is of much importance.
[Helgesen et al., 2018]	Norway	Production Transport	8.1 PI	L/K shock, energy input coefficients (not in energy production) adjusted to TIMES quantities, AE/EI productivity shock input from TIMES. Data 2010, REMES CGE and TIMES BU, hard/full-link, full-form integration, Multi-sectors, -regions	NA	NA	NA	50% GHG reduction is possible by 2030 with technology investments, amounting to -6.5% income. Energy intensity is constant in projections, adaptable.

Table 14: Review of selected CGE models focused on consumption

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
Figus et al. [2017]	Scotland	Household	8.1 ZCB	AEEI prod. shock. in economic units (8). $\Delta\varepsilon = 5\%$ (devolved taxes). analysis of CPI and migration (with respect to ε). ENVI CGE dynamic model, perfect competition, Leontief	RE Energy SR 46% av. LR with fiscal stimulus, without 50%, considering migration and CPI levels up to 79%, for a period of 50 years. Rejects H_0 Data 2009.	SR 0.1%av. LR 0.3%av.	NA	Trade-off between regional economic activity/GHG reduction and levels of CPI / Migration. Drivers of RE are also the drivers of economic stimulus. $\Delta\varepsilon$ reduces energy use. Household RE < Economy-wide RE.
Figus et al. [2018]	UK	Household Transport private	Theory Simulation ZCB	Endogenous vehicle-augmenting, physical units (fuel/miles). $\Delta\varepsilon = 10\%$. Part. Eq. Consumption of multiple goods. Sensitivity analysis of wage parameter. AMOS ENVI CGE dynamic model, imperfect competition. Leontief private transport/ other goods. Data 2010, no new data generation.	NA	NA	NA	Might boost productivity-led expansion, employment and household income depending on key substitution elasticities.

EE representation: AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement.

Table 15: Review of selected CGE models focused on consumption

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
[Landis and Böhlinger, 2019]	Switzerland	Household Heterogeneity	ZCB/PI	AEEI, technological change in power sector $\Delta\epsilon = 20\%$, Thermal, motor fuels and electricity taxes on Industry and Households. Subsidies on building programs, competitive bidding. Data 2008, 38 sectors, 3 final demands, CEPE TD-BU (Household survey) model, ES modeled as durable goods in combination with energy commodities.	NA	NA	NA	Energy taxes are 5 times more cost effective than promoting energy savings. 36% of the households gain under tax-based regulation, upper-bound estimates. Does not consider environmental benefits.
[Bye et al., 2018]	Norway	Households Electricity	8.1 PI	Endogenous EE from BU model costs inc., caps on residential energy use and intensity, investments in housing. 27%. Data 2011, dynamic recursive model BU (TIMES, EE and energy-savings potential), 41 prod. sectors, cross border interactions, small open economy.	SR 31% $\sigma_{D,E} = 0.3$ in- $\sigma^d = 0$ IRE > DRE Rejects H_0	-1%	GHG inc. 2.4%	High economic costs of EE policies increase if they interact with carbon pricing.

EE representation: AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement.

Table 16: Review of selected CGE models focused on consumption

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
[Duarte et al., 2018]	Spain	Household Electricity Transport	8.1 ZCB	EEI Diffusion: Logistic schedule captures gradual real evolution. Part. Eq. Consumption of multiple goods. Sensitivity analysis of wage parameter. Spanish dynamic recursive model, Imperfect competition. CES functions, Leontief private transport/ other goods. Data 2005, Proj. 2030.	SR/LR from 12%/51% to 26%/52% E+T 59%/75%	E NA	NA	Changes in consumer patterns should take place gradually.
Wei and Liu [2017]	Global	Households	8.1 ZCB	AEEI $\Delta\epsilon = 10\%$. Endogenous regional GDP generation. K,L mobile. Data 1995-2009, Proj. 2040.	70% av. energy use and GHG in 2040.	on NA	NA	Leads to increase on K,L. Regional and global LR RE >SR. EEIs are more efficient in energy-intensive sectors (e.g. Transport, Cement). $\eta_{PEI,NEI}$ for production is a stronger determinant of RE than $\eta_{PEG,NEG}$ for consumption. Inelastic $\eta_{PEG,NEG}$ produce small RE.

EE representation: AEEI: autonomous energy efficiency improvement.

3.4 Integrated assessment models

There are two main types of ex-ante Integrated Assessment models (IAMs) for climate policy analysis. In a broad sense, these can be classified as detailed process (DP) IAMs and benefit-cost (BC) IAMs¹¹. The main difference is the way they model climate change impacts, DP IAMs are more disaggregated models that use economic valuation or physical projections to provide forecasts of climate change impacts at detailed sectoral or regional levels. On the other hand, BC IAMs represent sectoral (or regional) aggregation functions and climate change mitigation costs into a single economic metric, whose main goal is to analyze potentially optimal climate policies. For a detailed overview of IAMs and their applications, see [Weyant \[2017\]](#). Widely used models include DICE, RICE, FUND, PAGE, IWG (which has focused on energy efficiency), MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM, IMACLIM-R, IMAGE, AIM, GCAM4, REMIND-MAGPIE, WITCH, etc. Allowing flexibility about the achievement of GHG emission reductions results in lower mitigation costs across all economic assumptions; however, too much flexibility can also be detrimental to models [[Pindyck, 2017](#)]. Moreover, delays in implementing mitigation policies would result in increases in total discounted costs of meeting particular global GHG concentrations. DP IAMs identify and directly measure impacts on sectors, regions and ecosystems in more detail, providing insights of trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation strategies on global scales, which is useful for international negotiators, and national and/or regional decision makers. Aggregated BC IAMs might help to understand the cost-effectiveness of climate policies considering mitigation and adaptation strategies. These models highlight critical cost issues (i.e. including discount rates, risks, damages, social cost curve calculations), while incorporating new scientific findings into projections [[Weyant, 2017](#)]. Controversy around the use of physical or economic units is also found in these types of studies.

Contrasting the current state of IAM models, [Pindyck \[2017\]](#) finds that these models are at an early stage of development, add much noise, and would require sensitivity analysis on key parameters. Moreover, considering the time pressure exerted by climate change, he concluded that simple models to calculate upper bounds would also be useful. Moreover, [Riahi et al. \[2015\]](#) and [Rogelj et al. \[2018\]](#) suggest that the proportion of successful IAM scenarios could be used as an indicator of infeasibility risk.

Studies included in this overview, and summarized in tables 17 and 18, have included drivers of energy efficiency improvements as zero-cost breakthrough, policy-induced, non-price marked based instruments, or a combination of the previous ones. These drivers are represented as exogenous or endogenous shocks, through equations and (or) parameters that calibrate IAMs. After selecting drivers to study, models include channels that result in rebound effects (e.g. substitution, income, price effects, etc.). However, these studies do not show what would the impact of the rebound effect channel's representation be (i.e. potentially how much energy consumption reduction will not be feasible due to these impacts). Though some studies have found increasing evidence of demand saturation in activity levels [[Grubler et al., 2018](#)], rebound effect magnitudes might also be used as parameters to run sensitivity scenario cases.

¹¹There are other types of classification of IAMs in the literature which we do not cover here.

Table 17: Review of selected CGE models focused on production

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
[Van Bergh, 2017]	International Global	RE and Climate Change	ZCB PI	Technology Consumer patterns	NA	NA	NA	Cap-and-trade is possibly the best approach to tackle energy and GHG rebound effects, but it requires an international climate treaty.
[Grubler et al., 2018]	Global	Consumption	ZCB	Change in consumption patterns and technology improvements (LEDs), aggregate industrial process $\Delta\varepsilon = 20\%$, improved physical capital stock, 2-sector model, MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM model, bottom-up changes in activity levels, energy intensities and final energy demand	Energy red. 43%	N/S av. NA	NA	End-user LED scenario under electricity and hydrogen sourced energy could lead to +1.5° without relying on negative emission technologies; however, RE intervention would need to be added into the model.
[Rogelj et al., 2018]	Global	Production consumption	ZCB PI	Shared socio-economic pathways (SSPs), on consumer side: energy intensity red. rates of 2 – 4% per year from 2020 to 2050, on supply side: renewable energy technologies, CO ₂ removal, 6 IAMS, World induced technical change hybrid model	NA	NA	GHG red. %per year in 2050	To reach to the +1.5° goal in 2100, rapid shifts from fossil fuel towards large-scale renewables, reduced energy use and CO ₂ removal are required. If SSPs are characterized by strong inequality, fossil fuel consumption or non-stringent climate policy, the goal is not reached.

Table 18: Review of selected CGE models focused on production

Author (year)	Spatial focus	Sectoral focus	Typology	EE / RE channel	RE magnitude	Welfare	GHG red.	Insights
[Méjean et al., 2018]	Global	Electricity Industry Transportation Residential Consumer patterns	ZCB PI	Economic growth, costs of electricity and transport decrease through LBD, parameter growth of motorization rate as EEI in transport, in residential sector EEI is the income elasticity of the building stock growth, in industry sector AEEI, in other sectors endogenous EEI through energy prices. Inertia of sectors is modeled by inflexible vintage capital. Data 2010-2016, hybrid dynamic CGE model, IMACLIM-R model, bottom-up changes in activity levels, uniform carbon price.	NA	NA	NA	+1.5°C objective it not possible to attain if emissions peaks are delayed until 2030, and EEI policies in Industry and transport sectors are of most relevance to reach the goal. Thus, it does not imply a proportional effect on all sectors. Demand patterns contribute to achieve the +1.5°C goal.
³² [van Vuuren et al., 2018]	Global	Consumption	ZCB PI	EEIs in transport, industry, buildings and materials. AEEI $\Delta\epsilon = 25\%$, 46% renewable share in electricity in 2050, lifestyle changes low-meat diet, transport habits, less cooling and heating, low population, uniform carbon tax, IMAGE-3 model and MAGNET CGE land-use model.	NA	NA	GHG 50%av. in 2050	red. Alternatives such as life style change and rapid electrification of energy demand based on renewable energy to reach +1.5°C help diversify strategies, and a rapid transformation in energy consumption and land use is needed, however RE would need to be added to the model. High reliance on CO ₂ removal is still required, but can be reduced.

EE representation: LBD: Learning by doing.

4 Synthesis and motivation for future research

As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality. (A. Einstein)

4.1 Model identification: a trade-off between theory and reality

Overall, the diverse nature of empirical models reviewed in this study contribute to the understanding of the rebound effect from the production and consumption side. Moreover, given the tension between theory and reality, to reach a ‘reasonable’ level of identification, we think it is good practice to have a clear picture about the motivation behind modeling, similar to what Blanchard [2018] presented. We can think of single models or combined models that cover theory without much emphasis on reality; policy (or zero-cost breakthrough) with emphasis in reality; toy models to add pedagogical insights; and forecasting models with emphasis on advanced statistical tools to reduce errors in projections. Other good practices include reporting standard deviation and robustness of results and performing sensitivity analyses on key parameters.

We carried out an extensive review of 118 studies on the rebound effect along different aggregation levels, out of which 61 were empirical studies from years 2016-2018 and the rest theoretical papers to build chapters 1 and 2. From this review, 25 studies computed and reported energy or GHG rebound effect magnitudes which we summarize in table 19. From this sample of studies we can see that choosing a structural model might increase the uncertainty of rebound effect calculations. Furthermore, there are fewer studies examining the rebound effect on the production side. An important caveat to consider when looking at this table, is the diverse nature of energy services under study.

Combining previous, recent, and future studies on rebound effect magnitudes could provide more data to increase the analytic power of rebound effect estimates. A future meta-analysis study of the rebound effect or the use of crowdsourcing data analysis strategies as in Silberzahn et al. [2018] could reveal further insights.

Table 19: Rebound effect magnitudes per methodology along the level of aggregation and actor

Methodology	Level of aggregation	Actor	Rebound effect	
			μ (mean)	σ (SE)
Structural models	Energy systems	Producer	120.6	139.1
		Consumer	-22 / -37.6 ¹	- / 83.1
	Economy wide	Producer	43.5	41.2
		Consumer	-	-
Econometric studies	Energy systems	Producer	-	-
		Consumer	44	1.4
	Economy wide	Producer	-	-
		Consumer	58.5	12
Simulation studies	Energy systems	Producer	-	-
		Consumer	51.9	20.3
	Economy wide	Producer	42.5	25.9
		Consumer	56.5	15.6

¹ Magnitudes to the right are estimates of for GHG rebound effects.

We highlight the equal importance and complementarity of ex-ante and ex-post studies given the observed symmetry between models and computation of rebound effects, which requires the calculation of expected and realized energy savings.

Ex-post studies

Both on energy systems and economy-wide levels, we find that structural functions are the most often used methodology on the production side. Although there are clearly several limitations imposed by structural forms and assumptions [Gillingham et al., 2016], and these types of models have been criticized for ignoring heterogenous capital at aggregate levels [Burmeister, 2000], Saunders [2008] recommends the use of Gallant (Fourier) or the generalized Leontief/Symmetric generalized Barnett cost functions due to their flexibility to model rebound effects. Moreover, on the consumption side, Schmitz and Madlener similarly found that the magnitude of the rebound effect is sensitive to model specification, and they recommend modeling energy services as an alternative to energy commodity models. The distinction between consumption and production direct rebound effects is relevant, as the latter captures two thirds of total energy consumption [Santarius, 2016].

While recent econometric models on energy systems (section 3.2.1) have evolved to include data from field experiments, use randomized controlled trials, and study causality effects on the consumption side, there have been fewer studies on the production side (i.e. exploring technology choices and R&D investment) using these up-to-date methodologies. Although the aforementioned studies are computationally expensive, and their results are difficult to scale up due to their specific nature, they provide valuable insights on the effectiveness of energy efficiency policies and on the rebound effect. Wang et al. [2016] recommends studying final energy consumption habits across a plethora of household appliances.

Ex-post studies that put emphasis on reality depiction (policy and/or zero-cost breakthrough) are of high importance in providing empirical evidence, they serve as an input for ex-ante studies, in order to feed accurate parameters to ex-ante studies.

Figure 2 and 3 shows that ex-post studies in our review estimate either energy or GHG rebound effect separately, while welfare effects are not computed. From 26 rebound effect calculations performed in studies shown in previous tables, the magnitudes of the energy rebound effect have a median of 31%, with a maximum of 334% and a minimum of -22%. GHG rebound effects have an median of -30%, with a maximum of 78% and minimum of -161%.

Ex-ante studies

Similar to ex-post studies, ex-ante studies also rely on structural forms or econometric estimates for the representation of consumer or producer choices. On the production side, Koesler et al. [2016] and Brockway et al. [2017] propose to revise the adequacy of CES functions to represent the nested production function, and to better match the energy-augmenting technical progress paradigm. With regard to the elasticity parameter at macro-economic levels, Lemoine [2018] finds that backfire can occur even for small elasticities between energy and non-energy goods occurring at the least efficient (or energy-intensive) sectors. Nonetheless, there is need for ex-post empirical evidence on fossil fuel supply elasticities at the micro-economic level [Böhringer and Rivers, 2018]. Moreover, Böhringer and Rivers [2018] also find that a large elasticity of substitution between capital and labor would reduce the energy rebound effect magnitude. In addition, the larger size of the other sectors not affected by energy efficiency improvements could also increase the rebound effect magnitude [Böhringer and Rivers, 2018], and the substitution effect would govern [Zhou et al., 2018]. Another topic to examine more closely is the impact of energy efficiency improvements on primary energy, which could benefit expansion of energy services (intermediate energy) [Lu et al., 2017]. With regard to growth expansion, Ryan et al. [2017] recommend examining trade-offs between economic expansion and energy efficiency improvement. Finally, investigating rebound effect behavior over time is of importance, as it is theoretically possible that long-run elasticities are lower than short-run elasticities, [Wei, 2010], while on empirical grounds, [Turner et al., 2009] finds super-conservation and Lu et al. [2017] finds a diminishing long-run energy rebound effect.

On the consumption side, studies find that large elasticity of substitution between energy and non-

energy goods determines a larger partial equilibrium component [Gillingham et al., 2016] which dominates the general equilibrium component [Böhringer and Rivers, 2018]. On the other hand, if the aforementioned parameter tends to have a low elasticity of substitution, it would result in low magnitudes of energy rebound effect due to consumer price unresponsiveness. More recently, heterogeneity has played an important role in studies, disaggregating specific energy-intensive and less energy-intensive energy services (e.g. public vs. private transport or fossil fuel- vs. renewable-sourced heating), and including the representation of durable goods/investments within energy service sectors could provide more precise policy advice [Ryan et al., 2017], [Figus et al., 2018].

Figure 2 shows energy rebound effect magnitudes obtained from the ex-ante studies examined in this review. Joint estimations of energy rebound and welfare effects have been carried out, while the GHG rebound effect has not been computed, see figure 3. From 19 rebound effect calculations performed in studies shown in previous tables, the magnitudes of the energy rebound effect have a median of 51%, with a maximum of 98% and a minimum of -0.1%. Welfare effects have a median of 0.4% of GDP, with a maximum of 2.25% and a minimum of -1%. Jointly, there can be high energy rebound effects associated with high positive welfare effects (2.25%) but also low ones (0.05%). In our overview, rebound effects from ex-ante studies show both lower median values.

Figure 2: Results from ex-post (P) and ex-ante (A) studies, energy rebound effect

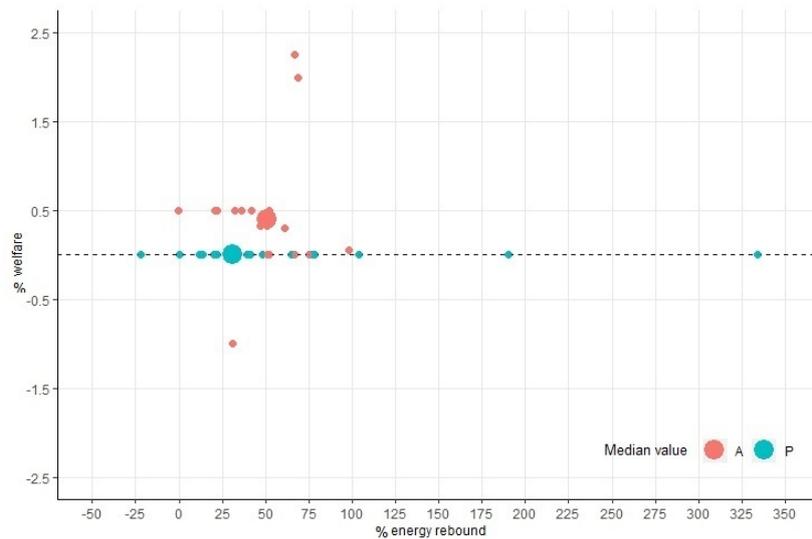
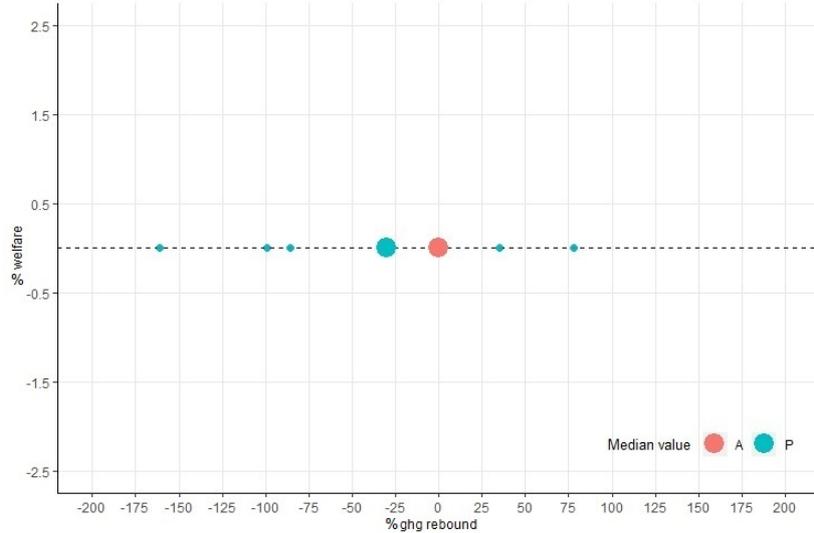


Figure 3: Results from ex-post (P) and ex-ante (A) studies, GHG rebound effect



From 22 developed country studies along the level of aggregation, shown in previous tables, the magnitudes of the energy rebound effect have a median of 50%. Welfare effects have a median of 0.0% of GDP. Jointly, there can be high energy rebound effects associated with high welfare effects (2.25%) but also moderate ones (0.32%). There is no clear link between the magnitude of rebound and welfare effects. For 16 developing country studies along the level of aggregation, joint estimations of energy rebound and welfare effects have been carried out, while the GHG rebound effect has not been computed. The magnitudes of the energy rebound effect have a median of 34%. Welfare effects have a median of 0% of GDP. Jointly, there can be high energy rebound effects associated with moderate welfare effects (0.5%) but also low ones (0.05%). Similar to studies on developed countries, there is no clear link between the magnitude of rebound and welfare effects. In our review, rebound effect studies (along the level of aggregation) from developed countries show both lower median magnitudes than studies from developing countries. Welfare effects from developed country studies show lower median magnitudes.

Combined insights

Taking both sides into account, studies validating elasticities with historical data and the use of more sophisticated methods (i.e. causality identification) and sensitivity analyses would improve the reliability of studies [Saunders, 2013], [Wei and Liu, 2017], [Saunders, 2017]. Explicit and endogenous representations of energy efficiency improvements could also reduce bias in estimates [Hunt et al., 2014], [Witajewski-Baltvilks et al., 2017]. Looking at the general equilibrium component, supply and demand effects should be considered [Wei, 2010], as should the interaction of energy efficiency improvements on both sides. For example, some studies found that an inelastic supply combined with an elastic demand may induce a higher energy rebound effect [Gillingham et al., 2016], [Ghoddusi and Roy, 2017]. The status quo of the data (year) should be checked against assumptions of the year when technical energy efficiency improvement is introduced, to take into account not only innovation phases but also diffusion and approximation to saturation. If policies are already in place, this should be modeled because high initial levels of energy efficiency improvements in place could result in higher GHG rebounds. Furthermore, the dynamics of the incorporating of energy efficiency improvements in primary and/or secondary energy would provide further insights [Zhou et al., 2018]. Another branch of the RE study includes the calculation of rebound effects in terms of GHG emissions (e.g. pollution effects). Chang et al. [2018] found that ignoring calculation in terms of GHG emissions (considering only energy rebound effects) could result in underestimation of the energy rebound effect magnitude, though bringing positive welfare effects.

In general, models could include locational aspects (e.g. multi-area), temporal aspects (i.e. different

consumption or production patterns in summer and winter; Wang et al. [2016]), and group targeting (low/high income households, owners/tenants [Madlener and Hauertmann, 2011], high/light energy intensive and/or high/low GHG emission industries) (Madlener and Turner [2016], Wang et al. [2016]) to check distributional effects when price is endogenous [Ghoddusi and Roy, 2017]. Furthermore, we consider that the analysis of cyclical fluctuations in the energy industry for specific energy services or resources could improve the understanding of energy efficiency improvement adoption and rebound effect in time, both using ex-post and ex-ante studies. Overall, the potential effect of energy efficiency improvements and rebound effects on the economy would be higher on industry than households; however, we find mixed results. Finally, ex-ante studies can also be used to monitor rebound effects in the economy, not just for forecasting (e.g. using now-casting or back-casting methods in CGE models).

Finally, all figures imply that welfare is a function that depends on GHG reductions and energy savings. Furthermore, given that the calculation of rebound effects has two components one expected (or-ex-ante), and another real (or ex-post), we suggest that GHG reductions and energy savings would be better indicators for policy assessment, due to the possibly high variability of the expected component, in addition to welfare considerations.

4.2 Motivations and scope for future research

Energy efficiency improvements on consumption and production. Studies included in this review have shed light on the inclusion of EEIs as technical change and preferences on energy systems more often than on economy-wide models. Few IAM studies have been found to consider energy efficiency improvements simultaneously on both sides. In particular, less common so far are studies that study the rebound effect as described in section 2.5, complementary RE (6), composition rebound effects (7.3), effect of scale of economies (7.4). Transformational rebound effect studies have not yet been found. For heterodox studies about the rebound effect, see Santarius [2016].

Heterogeneity. On the production side, and considering the GHG emissions reduction goal, [Lemoine, 2018] indicates that energy efficiency improvement policies should target energy efficient sectors with low elasticity of substitution between energy and non-energy inputs and less energy-intensive sectors; however, this study does not include the representation of inter-fuel substitution, long-run effects or impacts of heterogeneity on the consumption side. Likewise, in Norway, Helgesen et al. [2018] found that a 50% reduction on GHG emissions through technology investments are achievable by 2030 but at a cost of 6.3% reduction of GDP; however, this study assumes that energy intensity remains constant. Moreover, in developing countries such as China, policies on the supply side should encourage resource-specific technological progress in energy-intensive sectors (e.g. industry and manufacturing) [Zhang et al., 2017b].

On the consumption side, similar to on the production side, Ryan et al. [2017] suggests that the policy focus should expand to consider not only improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive sectors, but also how these improvements interact with less energy-intensive sectors. In China, Wang et al. [2016] found that in residential electricity consumption, investment should be promoted in energy-saving technologies. Moreover, while it is common to consider heterogeneity in energy services, attributes, etc. In energy system approaches, Bye et al. [2018] found that modeling energy efficiency improvement in a specific sector (i.e. the electricity sector), instead of considering energy

efficiency improvements on all energy uses in an economy, could result in economic distortions that may lead to welfare loss, though the electricity supply in Norway is mainly produced from renewable sources. Thus, the question here would be to what degree and for what cases is heterogeneity relevant for policy analysis.

Long-run vs short-run. A clearer distinction of estimates in ex-post and ex-ante studies between the results obtained in the short and long-run would improve the insights of the models. For example, Brockway et al. [2017] concluded for China that the deployment of renewable energy sources should

occur more rapidly than planned. However, [Herring and Roy \[2007\]](#) state that this would make little difference in the long term in order to reduce carbon emissions. [Pui and Othman \[2017\]](#) found that a double dividend in GHG emission reductions and welfare maximization is gained in the short-run with autonomous energy efficiency improvements, but EEI policies should be accompanied by taxes to control and level-up price reductions. On the other hand, [Lu et al. \[2017\]](#) found that policies should target the efficiency of energy efficiency improvement policies in the long-run, where REs diminish. In that vein, [Frieling and Madlener \[2017b\]](#) concluded from a comparison of production factor-augmenting structural partial equilibrium models for Germany, the USA and the UK, that energy consumption is relatively immutable in the short-run. It remains to be further analyzed how the rebound effect affects the emissions, in a peak time-frame.

Uncertainty due to expectations and the counterfactual. Engineering estimates on energy savings found in actual energy-efficiency policy programs are reported to be much higher than actual savings. Thus improving modeling on both sides, using ex-post and ex-ante studies (e.g. using machine learning to compute counterfactual scenarios), could help to reduce uncertainty in calculations. Furthermore, [Frondel and Vance \[2018\]](#) use an IV estimator to resolve endogeneity between energy efficiency and energy services thereby recovering causality. By using this method they find higher upper-bound RE estimates compared to estimations in studies that assume a linear relationship of efficiency between energy and energy services. [Ghoddusi and Roy \[2017\]](#) found that modeling stochastic demand and supply could also increase control for uncertainty in energy rebound effect estimates.

Energy efficiency up-front costs. More policy-induced studies including energy-efficiency investment costs such as [\[Burlig et al., 2017\]](#) and [\[Fowlie et al., 2018\]](#), at the micro-economic level and [\[Bye et al., 2018\]](#) at the macro-economic level, could give a more complete picture regarding the cost-effectiveness of energy-efficiency policies. With respect to CGE and IAM models on the producer side, it would be useful to track down how managers' behavior might impact the balance between investments and savings in the long-run (the closing rule) and how this mirrors on their inter-temporal decisions (e.g. sunk costs, adjusted cost functions, etc). On the consumer side, CGE and IAM models that represent consumer behavior towards their investment in durables and non-durables and how this could impact different generations, considering their death probabilities, could also help to understand the reasons behind a particular result regarding the effectiveness of energy efficiency and climate policies [\[Conrad, 2001\]](#).

Imperfect markets, externalities and imperfect regulations. For the production side in China, [Yang and Li \[2017\]](#) arrive at the conclusion that in power generation, ad valorem taxation on energy input prices (i.e. fossil fuels) could help to better reflect fossil fuel scarcity and environmental costs. Furthermore, they recommend a parallel lift of feed-in tariffs to promote clean energy. Meanwhile, in developed countries like Switzerland, [Landis and Böhlinger \[2019\]](#) found that the economic costs of energy-efficiency CaC policies (Promotion) are five times more expensive than the use of taxes (Steering) combined with per capita rebates. Moreover, there exist trade-offs between cost-effectiveness and distributional impacts of policies. However, this study did not take into account environmental benefits or externalities (which could reduce the gap between both instruments) resulting in an upper-bound estimate. On the consumption side, [Bye et al. \[2018\]](#) found that EEI policies for dwellings (i.e. a cap on residential use and energy intensity) are highly costly even including CO₂ taxes; therefore, these policies would be inefficient to abate CO₂ emissions. Whereas [Pollitt \[2017\]](#) found that EEIs for buildings in Europe would yield all 3 co-benefits: GHG reductions, welfare increase and energy savings on climate change models, [Van den Bergh \[2017\]](#) found cap-and-trade to be the best approach to manage global and international energy and more importantly the GHG rebound effect. Furthermore, energy saving policies are usually modeled in Integrated Assessment models, as the common strategy in mitigation scenarios, but transition pathways that can meet such targets are less commonly studied. From 6 IAMs and 5 shared socio-economic pathways, [Rogelj et al. \[2018\]](#) found that scenarios characterized by a rapid shift away from fossil fuels toward large-scale low-carbon energy supplies, reduced energy use and carbon removal successfully reached the target of temperature rise below +1.5°C by 2100; while scenarios with scattered short term climate policy, strong inequalities

in socio-economic pathways, and high baseline fossil fuel use, did not. [Gidden et al. \[2018\]](#) analysed 13 scenarios with open-access and reproducible higher gridding spatial resolution (aneris), comparing SSPs to representative concentration pathways (RCPs), and recommended that the assessment of the role of uncertainty is carried not only between scenarios, but also between model results for a certain scenario, such as fluorinated gases trajectories. Additionally, as carbon dioxide and methane gases are well-known climate forcers that have a higher impact from a political rather than physical perspective, adding spatial detail would provide more meaningful insights for policy analysis.

Targeting and distributional concerns. For the case of the transport sector, studying the interaction between carbon taxes, equity effects and investments in infrastructure (i.e. public transport) could shed light on fuel efficiency policies. IAMs find mitigation efforts on the transportation, industry and buildings sectors of particular importance [[Méjean et al., 2018](#)], [[Rogelj et al., 2018](#)]. Taking into account heterogeneity of attributes is also relevant for policies targeting the transport sector, as described in [Galvin \[2017\]](#), the interaction between speed and acceleration becomes crucial to investigate the efficiency of electric vehicles.

Understanding consumer preferences and changes. Another branch of research to inform policy development includes changes in behavior and lifestyle [[Herring and Roy, 2007](#)], as well as field experiments and surveys to better approximate in a more realistic manner, end-user discount rates and preferences. Understanding how to move from bad habits to good habits, in accordance to consumer's preferences, could contribute to reduce energy consumption in the short or medium run. We find that more studies that include heterogeneity of actors (household or firm) would help to shed light on the distributional impacts of energy efficiency policies.

Interactions between energy consumption, GHG emissions reductions and welfare. [Chang et al. \[2018\]](#) found for the production side that pollution-minimizing policies are less costly than welfare-maximizing increases in energy efficiency improvements on green technologies, describing a U-shaped environmental Kuznets curve. In general terms, to reduce global emissions and energy use in the long term, EEI policies on both, the demand and supply side, could help illustrate existing trade-offs/co-benefits between economic growth, social welfare, reduction of GHG emissions, and total energy use [[Wei and Liu, 2017](#)]. [Brockway et al. \[2017\]](#) conclude that because energy efficiency and rebound may act as engines of economic growth [[Ayres, 2010](#)], there might be a potential trade-off between climate and economic growth policies. Although carbon taxes would be better than command and control policies to reduce rebound while allowing for economic growth, distributional impacts have to be considered carefully and to account for energy poverty and energy climate justice in order to take into account the social acceptance of policies. Thus, interactions between energy consumption, energy saving, GHG emissions and economic growth would require further analyses on macro-economic levels in order to find adequate policy strategies for different aggregation levels.

Policies that encourage energy-efficiency improvements should be clear about what are the focus and extension of the most pressing issues to solve: securing economic growth, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and (or) increasing fossil fuel energy savings. Within the study of these interactions, the rebound effect is only one aspect to consider. Furthermore, benefit-cost analysis would be equally necessary to foster well-informed decisions. Future large shifts in policy will require answers and solutions to many open questions regarding complex interactions, to understand how energy efficiency and energy saving interacts with low-carbon economies, sustainability, socio-technical [[Geels et al., 2018](#)] and psychological aspects. Moreover, better knowledge of social transitions is required [[van Vuuren et al., 2018](#)], [[Rogelj et al., 2018](#)]. Although policy strategies must be targeted differently between actors, sectoral, regional, and national levels, they should find common ground at global level. Studies on spillover effects and strategic alliances between regions could also shed light on feasible futures. A proper understanding and consideration of the RE from both theoretical and empirical grounds, to reach national or sectoral policy objectives, is required to better guide policy decisions in the future.

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