



Analysis on energy savings in the Danish government administration

EUROSAI Seminar on auditing Climate Change, workshop 3 - Auditing energy sector issues from a climate change perspective, 23. and 24. of March 2010





Purpose with the analysis

- In connection to the COP 15 meeting we found it relevant to examine what the Danish ministries and underlying institutions have done to save energy - whether they in accordance with the EU directive: Energy efficiency in the end use perform good practice





Problems encountered

- The examined ministries have done little so far to save energy
- Problems with establishing a baseline due to poor data quality on energy consumption that has not been thoroughly monitored
- Poor data quality from the energy labelling, which makes it difficult to establish knowledge on the potential to save energy



Criteria in the analysis

- The Danish Government administration must be one step ahead in energy savings due to the EU directive on energy efficiency in the end-use
- The Government administration ensure energy saving behavior
- The Government administration ensure governmental buying agreements for energy saving products
- The Government administration ensure energy savings in government buildings



Method

- Use of external experts- we contacted national public research institutions to examine the potential for saving energy in the government administration and how to pick the low hanging fruits
- Use of bottom up approach sending qualitative questionnaire to the state institutions to reveal good practice
- Analysis of a common database system with registrations on energy consumption from state institutions
- Almost daily contact with the responsible authority



Key findings

- Poor data quality for energy consumption
- Large potential for saving electricity and heat
- Lack of energy saving behavior
- Room for improvement in setting minimum standards in governmental buying agreements for energy saving products
- Lack of energy savings in government buildings



Lessons learned

- Important to share knowledge with the examined institutions to improve the administration in the area already in the process
- Use of focus groups with experts and practitioners would have made it easier to establish and prioritize recommendations
- Difficult to measure the climate effect even with the help of experts- because the energy are produced anyway and is not possible to store



Communication to the audited institutions

- Letter with a list of recommendations to the ministries
- The analysis will be used in our planning of future audits in the area



Issues/ Questions for discussion

- Is it possible for the audit institution to address good initiatives/ make recommendations?
 - How do we share knowledge on good practice in EUROSAI WGEA?

- How do we secure data quality when we enter an area?