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Studies on rebound effects in China

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China's energy system v.s. World system

China's share of the projected net global increase for selected indicators



Source: IEA World Energy Outlook 2010

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Energy Efficiency Policies & the Rebound Effect



12th Five Year Plan (2011-2015)

- Main theme: increasing disposable income & living standards
- Increasing consumption
 - increase household disposable income by an annual rate of 7 percent
 - raising minimum wages
 - personal income tax reform
 - improved rural land distribution
 - Increasing the rate of urbanization (47.5% \rightarrow 51.5%)



12th Five Year Plan

- Promoting environmental protection and energy efficiency initiatives
 - Further developing low-carbon industries, such as electric vehicles, wind turbines and solar panels
 - Control of total energy use: the equivalent of 4 billion tons of coal by 2015
- Mandatory targets:
 - Energy consumption per unit of GDP, reduction of pollution emissions, and forest coverage...



Policy targets

- increase non-fossil fuels energy consumption to 11.4 %
 - ▶ I Ith five year plan: 8.3%



China's Estimated Energy Consumption

Target for energy efficiency

- I6 % reduction of energy consumption per unit of GDP
 - Unit: 10 000 tons of SCE/100 million yuan



Policy promoting energy conservation

- Demand-Side Management (DSM) Implementation Measures
 - Issued on November 4, 2010; in effect on 1 Jan. 2011
 - Purpose: improving energy use efficiency

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- While increasing power supply, DSM measures should be considered and given priority
- Authorities at different levels in charge of pricing shall improve peakvalley pricing and encourage power storage at valley
- Users are encouraged to adopt highly efficient power-using equipments and advanced technical measures
 - frequency converting, heat pump, cool storage, heat storage, etc.

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Studies on rebound effects



Chinese Studies on Rebound Effects

| Author/year | Data | Method | Rebound effect (%) | Trend |
|--------------|----------------|---|---------------------------|------------|
| Zhou and Lin | National wide | Direct measuring | 30-80 | descending |
| (2007) | 1978-2004 | 004 Technological effect (1979-2004: 4 (1979-1989: | | |
| | | | (1979-2001:66.46) | |
| | | | (1990-2001:55.13) | |
| Wang and | National wide | Direct measuring | 1981-2004: 62.8 | descending |
| Zhou | 1981-2004 | Technological effect and | (1981-1985:100.9) | |
| (2008) | | Structural effect | (1986-1990:75.6) | |
| | | | (1991-1995:43.4) | |
| | | | (1996-2001:38.7) | |
| Liu and Liu | Provincial par | Direct measuring | 53.68 | descending |
| (2008) | 1985-2005 | Neoclassical production | Significant difference | |
| | | function | between east, central and | |
| | | | west region | |

Energy Efficiency Policies & the Rebound Effect

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Chinese Studies on Rebound Effects

| Author/year | Data | Method | Rebound effect (%) | Trend |
|------------------------|---|---|--|-------------|
| Liang et al. (2009) | Social accounting matrix (SAM) base on 2002 | CGE | Rebound effect exists, but sectoral specific | N/A |
| Yang et al. (2010) | Zhejiang Province 1990-2008 (18 years) | Multiple periods model of IPAT function | 9 years: backfire effect 2 years: complete rebound effect 5 years: partial rebound effect 2 years: zero rebound effect | fluctuating |
| Zha and zhou (2010) | SAM based on 2002 | CGE | Coal : 32.17 Oil : 33.06 Electricity : 32.28 | N/A |
| Chen (2011) | Hubei Province 1980-2007 | Direct measuring | 123.7 (1981-1989: 301.6) (1990-1999:56.2) | descending |
| | | | (2000-2007:53.7) | |

Energy Efficiency Policies & the Rebound Effect



Yang et al. (2010)



Comparison of Chinese studies and others

Chinese studies

- New research field
- Macro-level
- Technological and institutional/structural change
- Pricing system:
 - Central planning →dual-track pricing
- Salient regional/sectoral differences

Western studies

- Developed since the 1970s
- Many focusing on micro-level

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Technological improvement

Economic models, social models, and integration

Economic dimensions

- Validating models
 - Cross-national comparisons
 - Data availability & comparability
- In Chinese context:
 - Income effects versus regional differences

Social dimensions

- Consumer preferences and behaviors
 - Value of time
 - E.g., favoring faster modes of transportation
 - Leisure versus saving propensity

- Different types of consumers
 - Government, household, firms...

Single well-defined production system



Discussion & Question



Future research direction

- Rebound effects are both economic and social phenomenon
 - Behavioral and systems responses to cost reductions of energy services
- Measuring the rebound effects versus identifying underlying mechanisms
- Interaction between macro- and micro-levels



Interactions among multiple policy dimensions

| Policy dimensions | Emphasis | Impact on energy consumption |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Energy technological improvement | Energy efficiency Non-fossil fuel energy | - |
| Change of industrial structure | New energy | - |
| Social warfare | Urbanization Improving living standard | |
| Mode of economic growth | Consumption | + |
| Energy conservation | Demand side management | - |

