

Abstract for the 11th Annual IAS-STS Conference  
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**Household vulnerability and energy conservation behaviour**

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**Abstract**

It seems that times of cheap energy are behind us. Under this new environment, increases of energy prices will particularly affect low-income households who often spend large shares of their incomes for energy. Understanding the energy consumption and conservation behaviours of these households is all the more important that they are particularly at risk of becoming fuel poor.

As highlighted by the literature on energy saving behaviours, households do not necessarily try to save energy. Even when they are facing tight budget constraints. The sociological literature highlights the fact that many people do not seem to know how to use their energy consuming equipments in an efficient way. While, in the same time, most of them seem to know very well how to use a cell phone or Internet.

However, from a policy perspective, saving energy is one important potential tool for reducing the energy burdens of households. At least as important as measures like social tariffs, if we consider the economic gains that can be achieved.

We investigate the determinants of households' energy conservation behaviours using data from a survey we realized in 2009 in a deprived area of Paris. These behaviours are analysed through a set of simple actions to reduce energy consumption, actions which do not require any investment and can therefore be adopted by all households. We estimate the determinants of these behaviours, focusing on two main types of variables: economic motives and information.

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