INITIATIVE FOR
Climate Action
Transparency

NewClimate Institute, Verra

Buildings Efficiency Guidance

Guidance for assessing the greenhouse gas impacts of buildings policies

May 2018

List of key recommendations

This document lists all of the key recommendations related to assessing GHG impacts of policies and actions contained in the ICAT *Buildings Efficiency Guidance*. Chapter 11 of the guidance lists all key recommendations related to reporting, which are not duplicated here.

Key recommendations are intended to assist users in producing credible impact assessments that pursue high quality and are based on the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy.

The ICAT *Introductory Guide* provides further description on how and why key recommendations are used within the ICAT guidance documents, as well as more information about following either the "flexible approach" or the "key recommendations" approach when using the guidance.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 2: Objectives of assessing the GHG impacts of buildings policies

- Determine the objectives of the assessment at the beginning of the impact assessment process

Chapter 4: Using the guidance

- Base the assessment on the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy

Chapter 5: Describing the policy

- Clearly describe the policy (or package of policies) that is being assessed

Chapter 6: Identifying impacts: How buildings policies reduce GHG emissions

- Identify the intermediate effects of the policy
- Identify all potential GHG impacts of the policy and all associated GHG source categories
- Develop a causal chain
- Include all significant GHG impacts in the GHG assessment boundary
- Define the assessment period

Chapter 7: Estimating the baseline scenario and emissions

- Identify key drivers that affect the baseline scenario and to determine the baseline scenario that represents the conditions most likely to occur in the absence of the policy
- Determine which building use(s) and building stock type(s) to include in the baseline emissions estimation
- Calculate baseline emissions for each year of the assessment period based on the estimated parameter values (using Equation 7.1)

Chapter 8: Estimating GHG impacts ex-ante

- Estimate the effect of policy design characteristics on each of the estimation parameters for each year of the assessment period
- Identify barriers not addressed by the policy and account for their effect on the relevant estimation parameters for each year of the assessment period
- Estimate the GHG emissions for each year of the assessment period using the ex-ante values for each estimation parameter
- Where the user's objective is to estimate GHG emission reductions expected to be achieved by the policy, estimate the GHG impacts of the policy by subtracting baseline emissions from policy scenario emissions

Chapter 9: Estimating GHG impacts ex-post

- Estimate the GHG impacts of the policy for each year of the assessment period

Chapter 10: Monitoring performance over time

- Identify the key performance indicators that will be used to track performance of the policy over time and define the parameters necessary to estimate GHG emissions ex-post
- Create a plan for monitoring key performance indicators and parameters
- Monitor each of the indicators and parameters over time, in accordance with the monitoring plan

Chapter 11: Reporting

- Report information about the assessment process and the GHG impacts resulting from the policy (including the information listed in Section 11.1)