In SEARCH Of Invisible Energy Policy
What is Invisible Energy Policy?

Energy systems are affected by "non energy" policies and decisions.

These effects are often unseen and ignored.
How can non-energy policies affect energy?
Air pollution control: win-win for efficiency and health

Planning policy: siting of facilities and travel demand

Heritage policy: limits to efficiency improvement

CAP: intensification, farming energy use

Defence policy: military energy use and R&D benefits

Digitalisation: IT energy use, mobility impacts?
The impacts of non-energy policies on the energy system: a scoping paper

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And welfare, work, population, health, trade, localisation/centralisation...
Case study
Higher Education in England

"Marketisation"

Tuition fees, not state grants

Luxurious new facilities, long opening hours...

"Student experience" agenda

Increasing energy demand
How can we identify Invisible Energy Policy?
We often look at how energy policies affect health, the economy, clean air etc.

We should look at the other direction too.

And both “win-wins” and unintended bad consequences.
We can look for causation with...

- Models to estimate/predict effects
- Qualitative methods e.g. stakeholder accounts
- Comparisons of places/times
- Interpretive approaches: logic and chronology
Can we do anything about it?

- Non-negotiable priorities
- Windows of opportunity
- Win-wins
Where next?
The DEMAND centre is keen to work with new partners to build knowledge and inform changes in policy and practice.

- Does your organisation make decisions that might have unintended effects on energy?
- Do you influence policy and practice in these areas?
- Would you like to know more about our work?

Get in touch!
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