

# The Effect of Energy Efficiency Obligations on Residential Energy Use: Empirical Evidence from France

VERY PRELIMINARY

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**Abstract:** Energy Efficiency Obligations (EEOs) are widespread instruments to attain policy energy efficiency goals. They require energy suppliers to deliver a set amount of energy savings. The obligated parties then comply by offering subsidies for energy-efficient investments to energy users. We use a new dataset covering over 2.7 million energy retrofit projects from 2017 to 2019 to assess the impact of the French EEOs on residential electricity and gas use. We find that the official reporting on the program's outcome significantly overstates the energy savings by a minimum of 46%. Consequently, the implied marginal abatement cost exceeds EUR 260 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>.

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