

Nudging and domestic energy use Its potential for the EPC

Research Group ARCK
Faculty of Architecture and Arts

Hasselt University, Belgium

Advisor Griet Verbeeck

PhD candidate

Victoria Taranu

victoria.taranu@uhasselt.be

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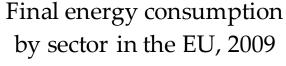
- Residential energy demand
- Nudging and domestic energy use
 - Existing approaches and classification
 - Nudges vs. mandates
- Energy Performance Certificate EPC as a nudging tool
 - The purpose of the EPC
 - Changes to the Flemish EPC under the lenses of behavioural insights

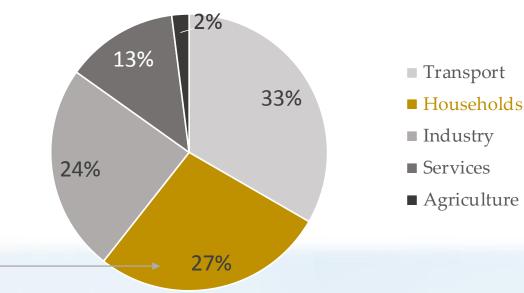




Residential energy demand

• Households are responsible for 27% of the total energy consumption in the EU BPIE 2011





Europe's buildings under the microscope BPIE 2011



Residential energy use

Energy related behavioural change



Everyday energy use

- Habit
- Social practices



Energy efficiency renovation measures

One off decisions regarding:

- Insulation (wall, floor, roof insulation, energy efficient windows)
- Energy efficient systems (heating, cooling, ventilation)
- Systems on renewable energy (PV, solar thermal, geothermal, biomass)

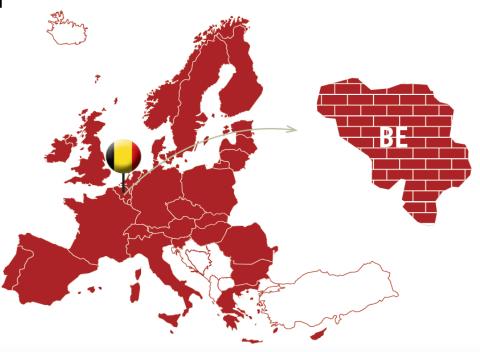
In Belgium more than 70% of the residential buildings are owner-occupied BPIE 2011



Energy renovation

The greatest energy saving potential

- The useful floor space in the EU could be concentrated in a land area equivalent to that of Belgium (25 billion m²)
- Minimum energy savings in buildings can generate a reduction of 60-80 Mtoe/a in final energy consumption by 2020 EU Energy Efficiency Plan 2011



Europe's buildings under the microscope BPIE 2011

75% of EU total building stock is residential BPIE 2011



Nudges Energy renovation

- Intention-action gap
- Awareness of the importance of energy efficiency VEA 2013, VITO 2006
- Economic affordability GWO 2013
- Punctual interventions rather than deep energy renovation GWO 2013

Behavioural change

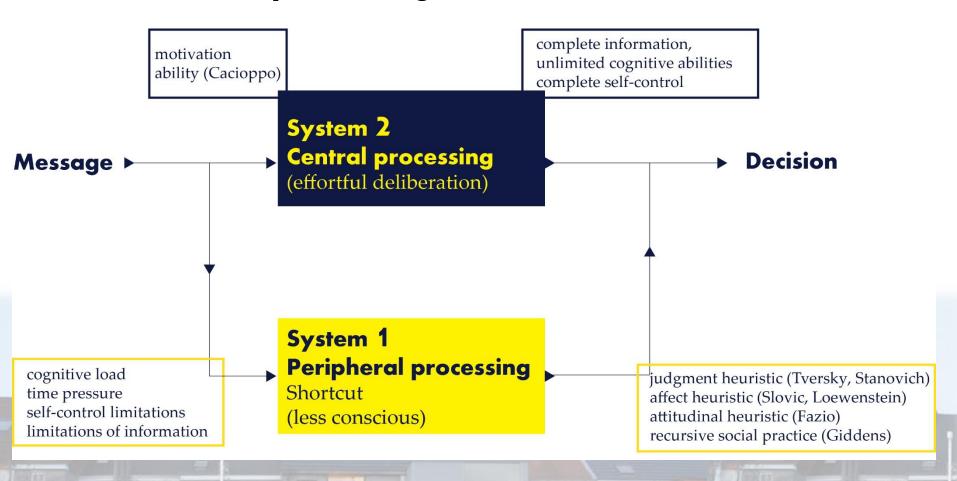
- Limitations of Expected Utility and Information Deficit models
- Scientific evidence of dual process models



Necessity to apply new methods in energy related behavioural change



Dual processing of information





Heuristics and biases

- Representativeness Tversky, Kahnemann
- Availability Tversky, Kahnemann
- Adjustment and anchoring Tversky, Kahnemann
- Affect heuristic Slovic

- Social norms
- Status quo bias
- Loss aversion
- Discount the future
- Endowment effect
- Anticipated regret aversion
- Mental accounting
- Sunk cost fallacy
- Diagnosis bias



What

- Any aspect of the choice architecture that alters people's behaviour in a predictable way without forbidding any options or significantly changing their economic incentives. Thaler, Sunstein
- A slight change in choice architecture that affects heuristic thinking or the balance between system 1 / system 2 thinking

When

- Heuristic thinking is unavoidable, it occurs when individuals face:
 - Heavy cognitive load
 - Time pressure
 - Problems of self-control

Why

- Any message has a content, no message is completely neutral
- Nudges do not exploit the irrationality of the individuals
 - Certain nudges have the purpose to avoid unintended misinterpretations and heuristics



Classification Baldwin 2014

System 1 heuristic thinking System 2 rational thinking

Type 1 nudge

- avoid the existing heuristic
- system 1



- system 2
- reminders; public commitments; easy and salient messages; use of figures against availability heuristic

Type 2 nudge

- push in the right direction an existing heuristic
- system 1



default settings of public programmes; default settings of heating systems and appliances; Ikea effect of DIY renovation

Type 3 nudge

- create a new heuristic
- system 2



system 1

 image to associate with something positive or negative; energy bill with comparative values



Nudges in energy use

- Message framing
 - defaults options of the forms, public programs
 - anchoring
 - social norm (Opower energy bill with comparative values)
- Soft measure nudges
 - clean the attic (Green Deal)
- Architectural and product design nudges
 - stairs, not elevator next to the entrance
 - default settings of the systems, appliances





nudges vs mandates

Libertarian paternalism

Nudges

- Correct individual choice failure
- Lack of transparency and debate
 - Need for disclosure
- Preserve freedom of choice
 - In order to be implemented, nudge is compulsory for certain economic agents (e.g. for the energy supplier in billing nudge)

• EPC

Command and control

Mandates

- Correct market failure
- Transparency and debate of the political process
- No opt-out option
 - Public officials have limited information
 - Cases in which public welfare is in risk
- EPBD, Renovation Pact Flanders
- EPC

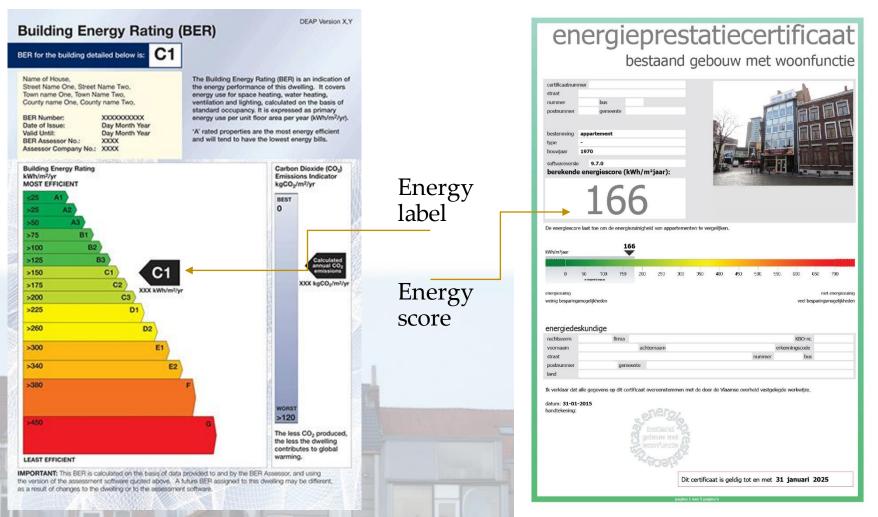
Nudges are not alternatives to mandates but must go along and act as their catalyzers

No examples of significant change in the behaviour achieved by non-regulatory measures alone, a range of policy tools, of both kinds, would be needed to bring about change effectively (House of Lords Science and Technology Committee UK 2011)



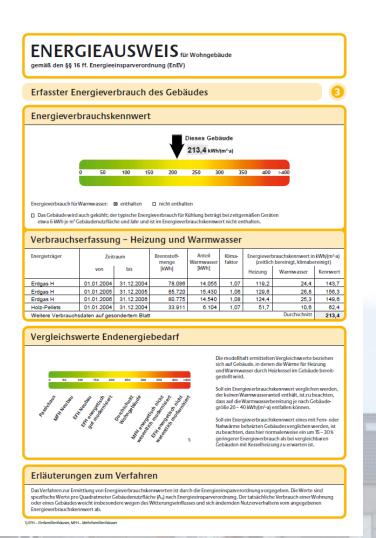
BER Ireland Building Energy Rating

EPC Flanders Energy Performance Certificate

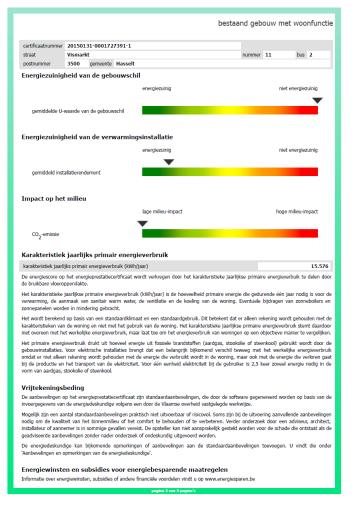




EPC Germany page 3/7



EPC Flanders page 2/5



- Complex technical information
- Aimed for private dwellers, not architects
- Risk of heuristic interpretation



Energy Performance Certificate

- Calculated for standard occupancy pattern
- Assesses the energy performance of the
 - Building envelope
 - Heating system
 - Ventilation
 - Cooling
 - (Lighting)
- Energy label or energy score for the comparison between dwellings
- Recommendations for increasing the energy efficiency
 - Compare the impact of renovation measures
 - Show the potential of the dwelling and the need for energy renovation







EPC Flanders

- Compulsory for selling and renting since 2008 and 2009
- 650 932 valid EPCs by 2013
- No influence on market price
 - Accessibility of the information
 - Credibility of the information

Average energy scores:

Apartments

495 kWh/m2 year

Apartments > 2005

Houses > 2005

162 kWh/m2 year

194 kWh/m2 year



Purpose of the proposed changes

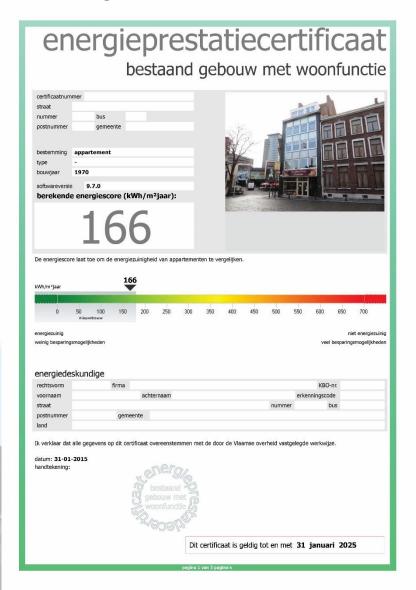
- Translate difficult concepts in key, simple messages
- Credibility of the information
 - Relate actions -> energy consumption
 - Consumption of energy and water is simply invisible Shove
- Reflect the need for renovation
 - Relate high consumption -> advices on how to improve energy efficiency

Method

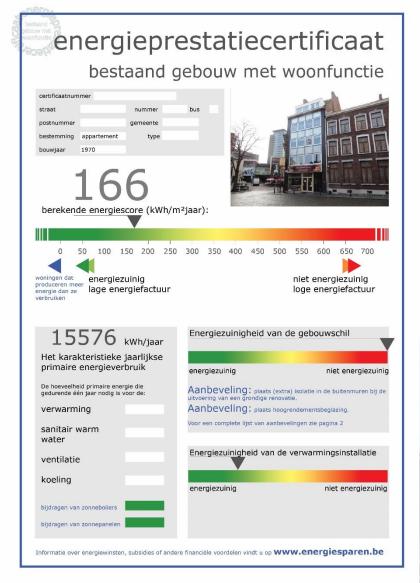
- Apply behavioural insights (elaborate nudges)
- Simple messages
- Salient messages
- Units
 - CO2 and kWh/m² per year are abstract
 - Avoid monetary units
 - Comparative values



Existing EPC Flanders



New version





New version EPC Flanders

Comparative values
Stress the importance
of the size of the
dwelling

 kWh/year besides kWh/m2 year

Relate actions -> energy consumption

• Credibility of the information



Relate high consumption -> advices on how to improve energy efficiency

 Reflect the need for renovation



New version EPC Flanders

Type 1 nudge

- 2 versions:
 - paper for owners
 - online for energy experts, architects
- Simple information
 - Avoid term such as U-value
- Salient information

Type 2 nudge

- Anchor: values relative to nZEB
- Default enrolment in informational programs

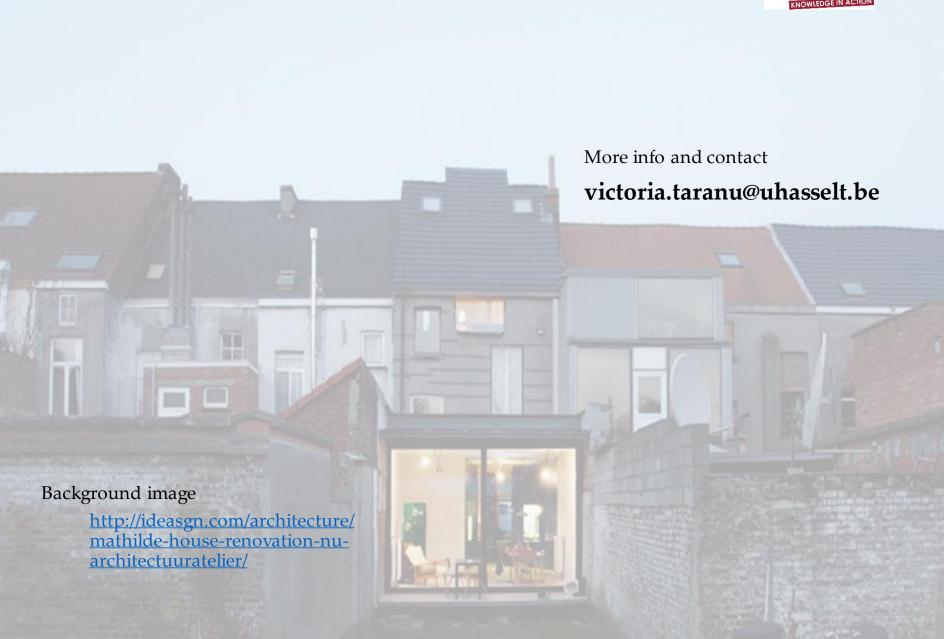




Nudges Critique

- Proportionality of the nudge
 - Intrusiveness, restriction of freedom; some choices that are tagged as irrational, are choices that have to be respected
 - Only rare, difficult choices are good candidates for nudge
 - Energy use of the buildings affect energy security and environmental pollution, it is not solely a personal issue
- Lasting effects
 - Short term gains vs long term losses
 - Infantilisation of citizens
 - Renovation: loop intention-action-intention, by living in a renovated house the technologies will be internalized
- Opt-out options
 - Consequences of a failure to opt-out is not uniform across populations: discriminate against vulnerable parties
 - 3rd degree nudge opt-out is taken out of play
 - Assumes levels of competence, rationality and volitional control that contradicts the assumptions of behavioural economy
 - Nudge should be easy and cheap to avoid







Dual process models

Values, beliefs, attitudes

ELABORATION LIKELIHOOD MODEL ELM by Petty R.E., Cacioppo J.

'70

MODE MODEL by Fazio R.H. 1986

Balance between system 1/ system 2

- Need for cognition
- Need for closure
- Need for affect

Behavioural economics

CONCEPT OF BOUNDED RATIONALITY Herbert Simon 1955 THEORY OF JUDGMENT HEURISTIC Tversky A., Kahneman D. 1974 SYSTEM 1/ SYSTEM 2 COGNITION Stanovich K.E., West R.F. 2000

Emotions

AFFECT HEURISTIC by Slovic 2000

RISK AS FEELINGS MODEL by Loewenstein G.F. 2001

4 Habit and routine

THEORY OF
INTERPERSONAL
BEHAVIOUR
TIB
by Triandis H.
1977

PROTOTYPE/ WILLINGNESS MODEL by Gibbons F.X., Gerrard M. 2003

Higher scale societal factors

STRUCTURATION THEORY by Giddens A. 1984