

Measurement methods to inform SCP policy-making



**What measurement methods does
the Government currently use?**

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**Department for Environment,
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**Sustainable Development Research Network workshop: Royal
Society of Arts, 4 December 2006**

Existing quantitative data sources

- ★ **Statistical surveys**

 - Expenditure and Food Survey, National Travel Survey, International Passenger Survey, Public Attitudes Survey, Prodcom, Annual Business Inquiry

- ★ **Research**

 - Life Cycle Analysis, reports by consumer groups

- ★ **Administrative sources**

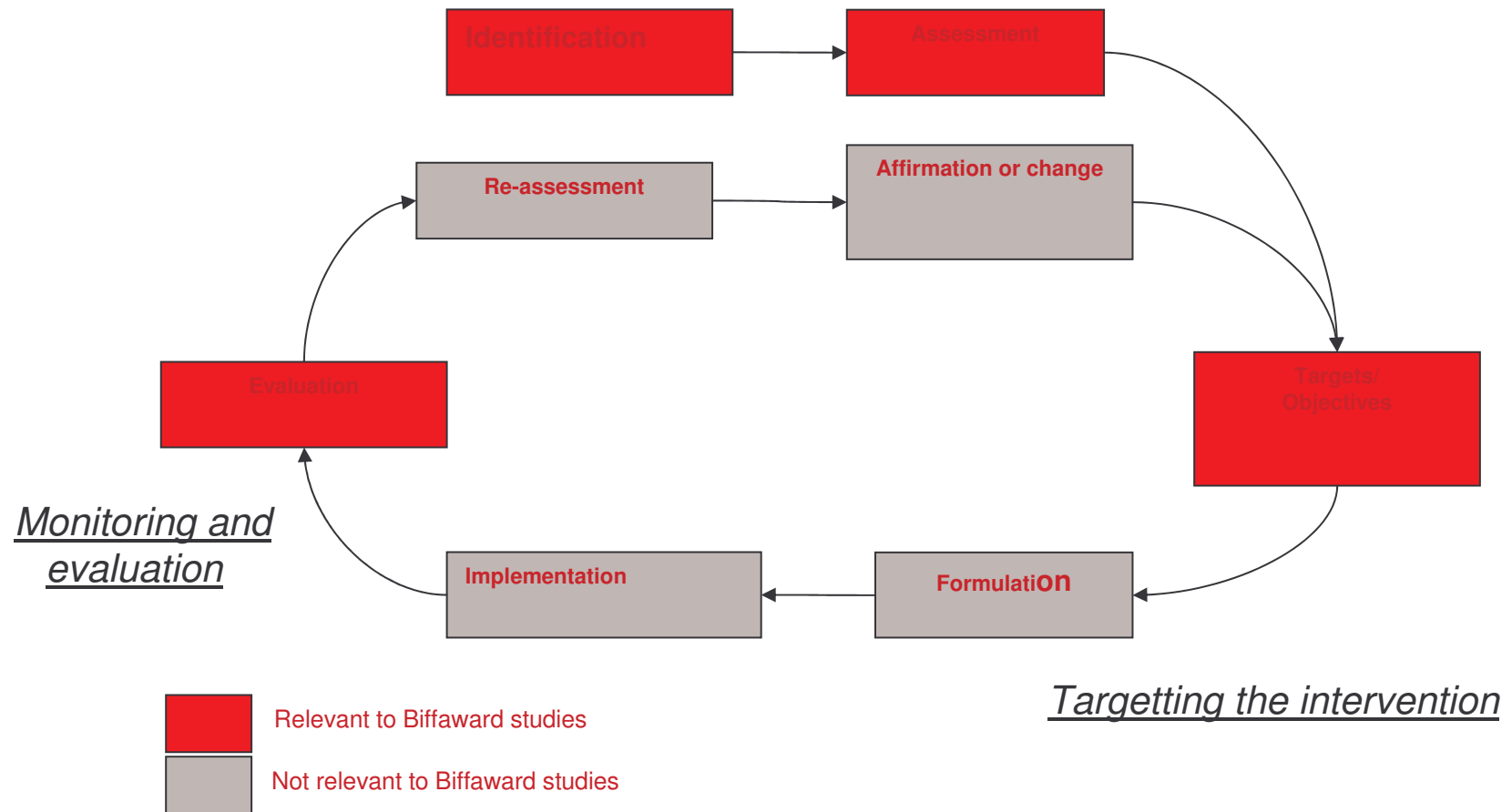
 - Take up of EMAS, Envirowise, Environment Agency assessments

- ★ **Modelled data using some combination of the above**

 - Starting with National Accounts, linking with Environmental Accounts, moving through to EIPRO-type analyses

The policy cycle

Assessing the scale of the problem



SCP is an evolving programme ...

It consists of a collection of the workstreams which have specific quantitative data needs:

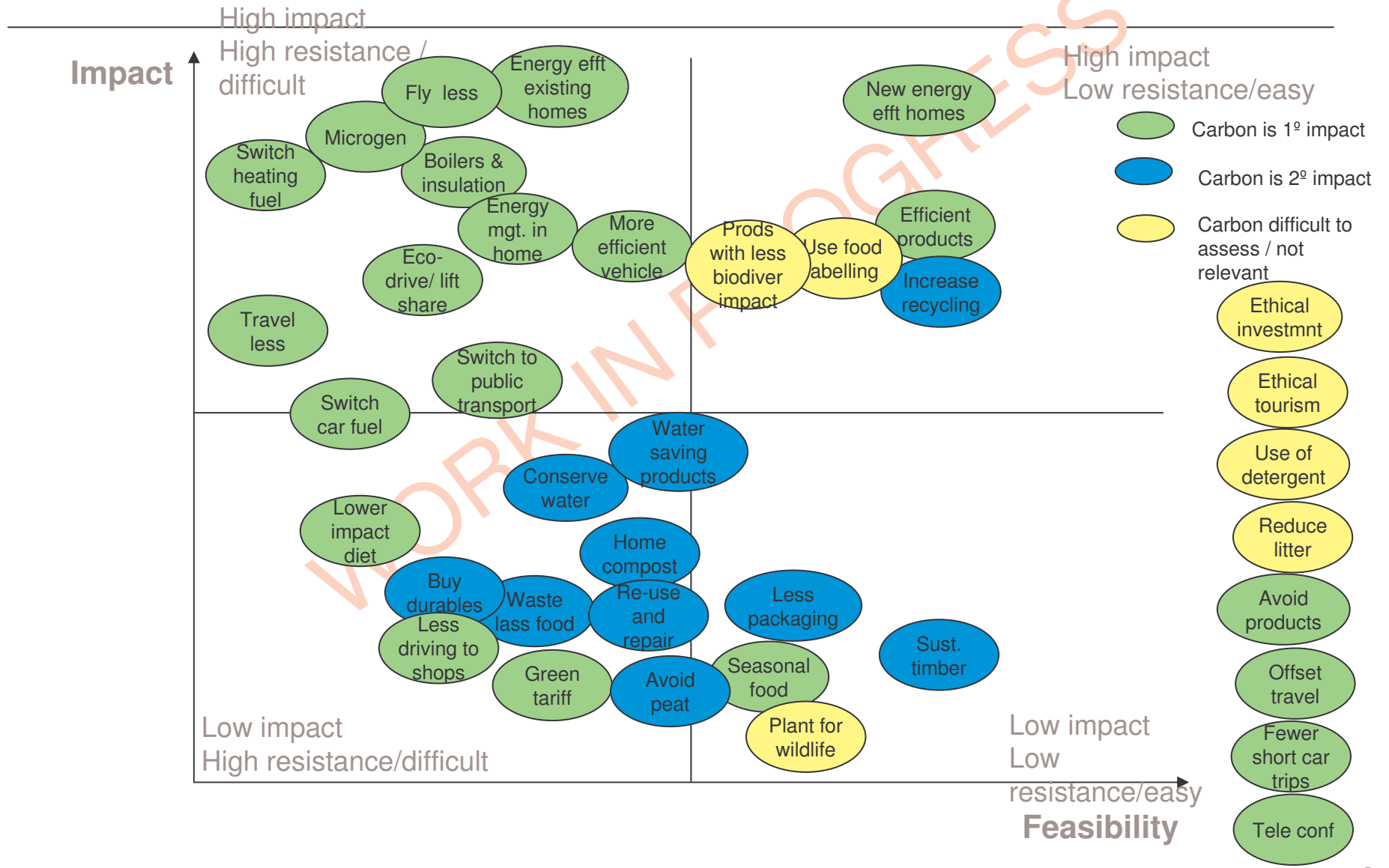
- Consumption patterns
- Sustainable businesses, sector strategies and sustainable production
- Sustainable procurement
- Sustainable products

Sustainable consumption

An emerging policy

- Relating behaviours to impact and feasibility
- Identifying relevant ‘segments’ of the community

Prioritising behaviour goals – main impact v feasibility



Sustainable consumption

An emerging policy

- Relating behaviours to impact and feasibility
- Identifying relevant ‘segments’ of the community
- Need better understanding of
 - Use and disposal behaviours
 - Threshold acceptancy levels (tipping points)
 - Relationship between attitudes and behaviour change
 - Take-up of eco-labelled products

More sophisticated models will be required for any evaluation, in order to deal with ‘rebound’ effects

Sustainable procurement



Policy framework has been established

- Modelling work for the Sustainable Procurement Task Force identified relationship between spending and impact
- Enabled the TF's Action Plan to be targeted

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Need more detailed information on spending

- Definition of 'sustainable sources' will be a problem
- Emerging need for monitoring government spending from a sustainability perspective

Evaluation may require further modelling

Business engagement

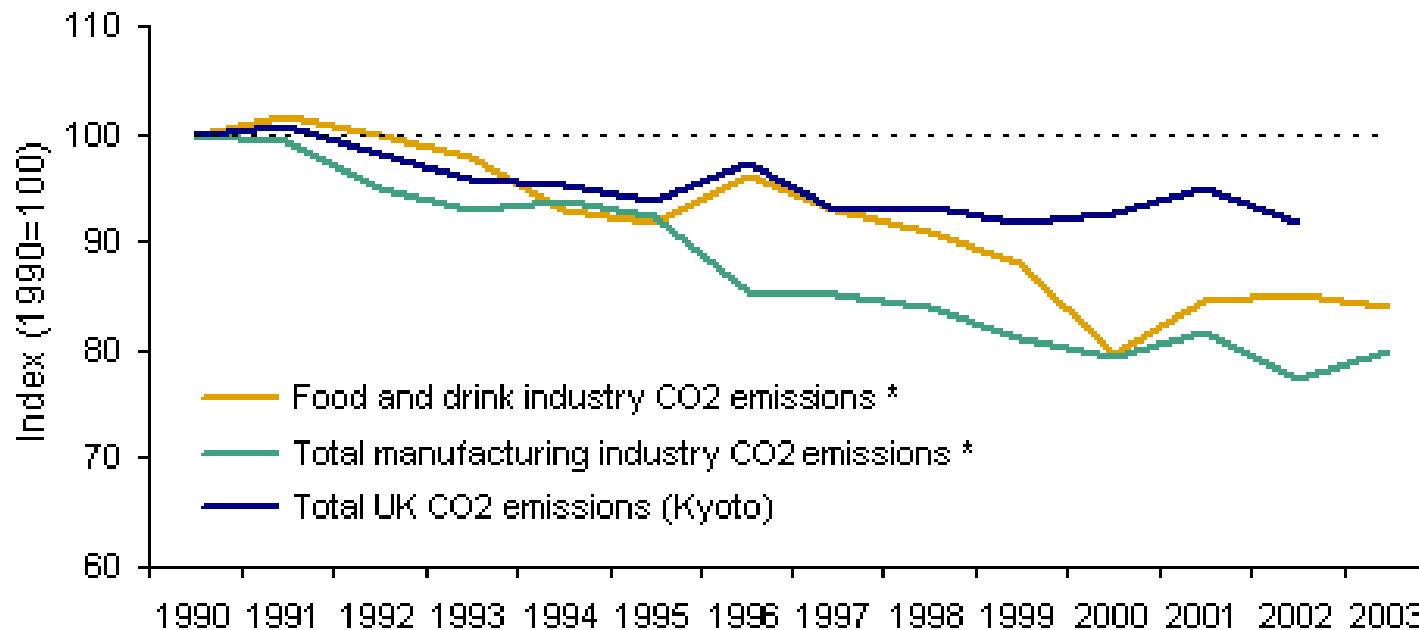


Policy framework under review

- Standard analyses of sectoral impacts available (though SIC classification does not always match policy requirements)

Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS)

Food and drink industry, total manufacturing industry and total UK carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, 1990-2002



* Including CO₂ emissions relating to electricity use

Business engagement

Policy framework under review

- Standard analyses of sectoral impacts available (though SIC classification does not always match policy requirements)
- Need better information for benchmarking (i.e. distribution of behaviours/impact within sector)
- Better information on non-carbon impacts
- Understanding relationship between attitudes, behaviours, management systems, profitability

Modelling required to identify impact of burden shift and structural change

Sustainable products

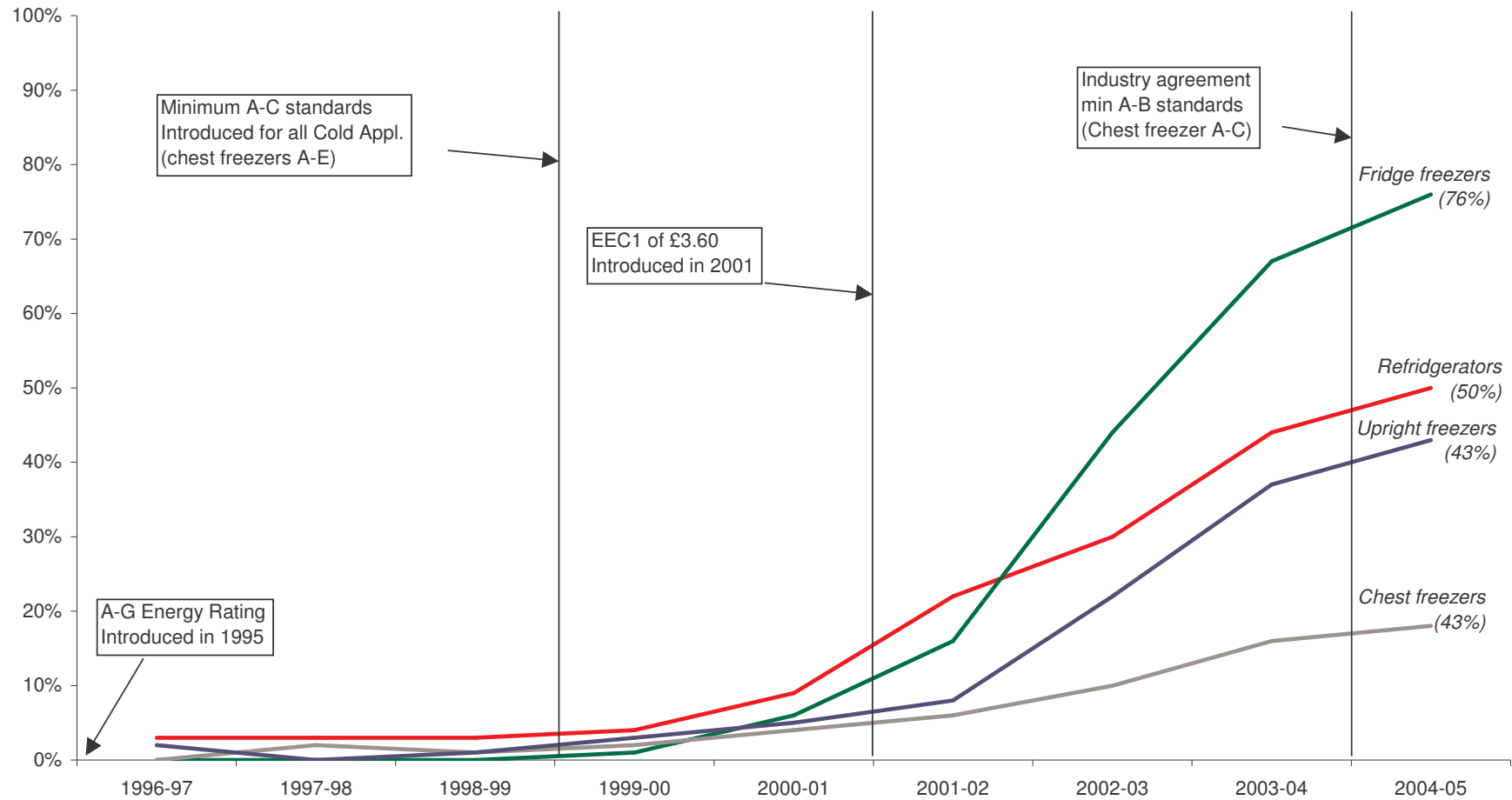


Policy framework well established

- LCAs used for standard assessment of scope and degree of change

Market share of A rated cold appliances

Market Share A rated Cold Appliances



Sustainable products

Policy framework well established

- LCAs used for standard assessment of scope and degree of change
- Need better information on use and disposal phases
- Better information on aggregated impacts (taking into account rebound effect?)

Modelling required to identify impact of burden shift and structural change

What's missing?

Where would better information on material flows fit in?

What about overseas impacts?

Where does waste policy fit in?

And chemicals?

Scenario building?

Lastly indicators

Current SCP indicators focus on the relationship between economic drivers and environmental impact

We need new indicators relating to specific SCP policies (preferably capable of identifying how much of the change results from Government intervention)

The challenge is to identify aggregate changes in impact resulting from

- changes in consumption patterns
- improvements in business resource efficiency
- improvements in product specifications
- market changes through Government procurement
- innovation