Recycling vs. Energy Efficiency Programs – Which Are More Cost-Effective for Reducing GHG?

by, Lisa Skumatz, SERA

as discussed by, Lea Kosnik, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Interesting and important topic!

This research echoes what I too am presenting this year at the WEAIs, in that it is an attempt to find cost-effective GHG improving opportunities NOW.

Research does not try to be a solve-all panacea to global climate change, but instead is an attempt to find something we can do quickly and effectively now.

And I agree that this is a good research effort - that a portfolio of small programs like this is what we should be focusing on right now.

Main criticism:

As currently written, this is a consulting report, not an academic paper.

- There is no literature review
- There is no theory
- There is no econometric analysis
- There is no bibliography to speak of

Therefore, I can't tell if the author is even seeking helpful comments to make this more academically rigorous or not.

→ Who is the audience here??

If the desire IS to make it a more academic piece, then:

- MUST have a literature review – where does this piece fit in with what we already know? What niche does it fill in our knowledge base?
- Add theory – talk about efficiency, or negative externalities, or stable equilibrium outcomes
- Add some econometrics – it appears that you certainly have the data. Explore the numbers!
- Finish with a thorough discussion of where to go from here…