

Beyond Carbon: Towards a Resource Efficient Future

Progress so far?

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25th November 2010
Eco-Innovation Forum

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1. The Aldersgate Group

- UK Group Founded in 2006
- A broad coalition of businesses, NGOs and government agencies
- We believe that high environmental standards are vital to future economic growth and competitiveness
- A think tank, forum and lobbying group founded on consensus and cross-economy, cross party support
- Three main reports published at end of last government; finance, skills and resource efficiency

Our main members

ALDERSGATE
GROUP

MPs from all three main parties, Lords and Influential Individuals plus.....



SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ
SKM ENVIROS

What we aim to do

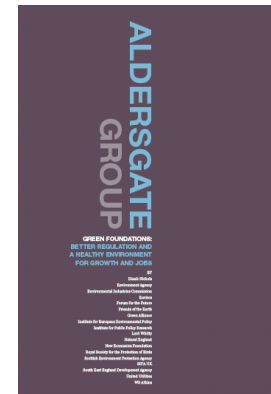
- Raise awareness in UK & Europe of all (economic and social) benefits of high environmental standards.
- Drive pace and build political support for smarter environmental policymaking to deliver the benefits
- Find the solutions with wide support from coalition of stakeholders to encourage policy makers to act early, boldly and strongly

All reports free to download on
website

www.aldersgategroup.org.uk

2. Beyond Carbon: Towards a Resource Efficient Future

- Launched on 1st February 2010
- Used knowledge from Group members
- Deliberately 'beyond carbon'
- Considered key primary resources of water, food and materials (principally metals)
- Looked for economic policy measures that would drive us towards a resource efficient future and give competitiveness



Case Study 1: Water

- Regulation has delivered fiscal but not resource efficiency
- National variations hide common aims, eg direct re-use, distribution and treatment efficiency
- Government, EA and Ofwat have different priorities
- Ofwat needs to take a broader view of economic benefit
- Funding cycles are damaging and stifle innovation
- Consumer engagement is poor

Progress: Ofwat review underway, White Paper by June 2011 but new legislation is at least 18 months away

Case Study 2: Food

- Food now 23% of global ecological footprint with 2.5bn more to feed in next 30 years
- In UK we need 5.2gha, when 1.7gha is our capacity/capita
- Water use, sustainable nutrients and food supply chain must all be reformed
- Taxation, regulation, procurement and consumer behaviour change are all required urgently

Progress: Defra – no 1 priority includes ‘encourage sustainable food production’ but more than just encouragement will be needed

Case Study 3: Metals

- Need to switch UK policy from linear to closed loop
- Interventions for minimising material loss wherever this occurs eg manufacturing, use, disposal
- Reduce re-use by re-melting
- Retain value in the economy eg in steel value of scrap exported is £60Mpa, and imports are £6Bnpa
- Cost the embedded carbon, eg landfill - £140m of steel pa

Progress: New goals on waste May 2011, but need to convert ideas into policy (SCP research, landfill bans etc)

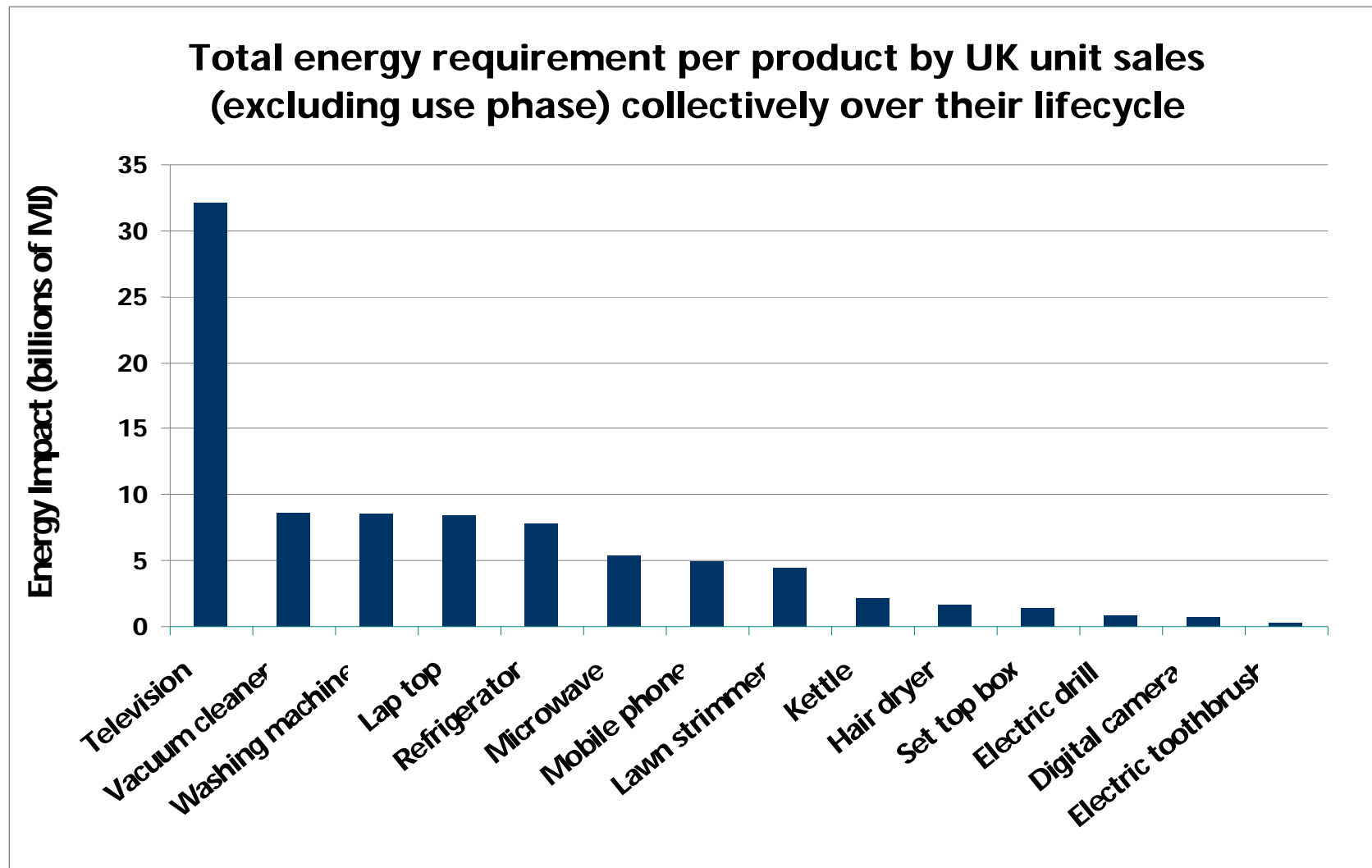
3. More materials:

Manufactured consumer products

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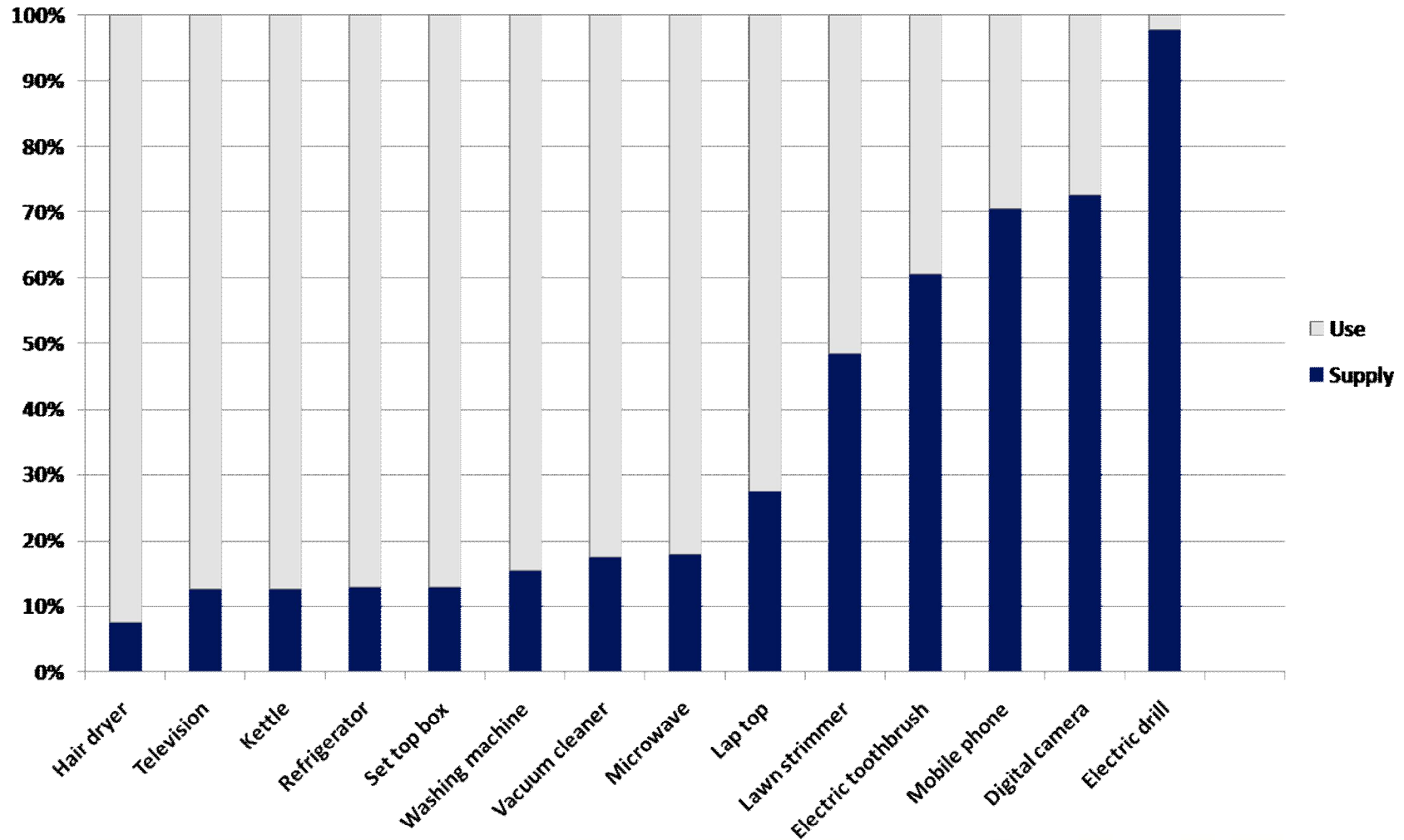
- Scale of opportunity is huge;
 - 1.3bn mobiles, 35 each!
 - 2bn TVs 1.3 per household with electricity
 - 45% of home energy use by 2020 electronic devices - EST
- A future renaissance for manufacturing but hurry!
- Embedding of energy is important, not just use
- Goods and energy policy must be linked and used to drive innovation – portable vs static electric goods.

Consumer goods – where are the wins?



Consumer goods – use vs supply

Balance of lifecycle impacts of common electrical & electronic products



Resource Efficiency Impacts can Drive Economic Recovery

2009 WRAP study of UK
consumption & the impact of
Resource Efficiency

Resource Efficiency in the UK can save
3.5 Billion Tonnes CO₂ by 2050 *and
can be implemented quickly*

The best options are those that
also improve business conditions

*The Eco-Design Directive
2009/125/EC, ERPs and Integrated
Product Policy is one to watch!*



4. Seven Common Lessons

1. Resource efficiency policies require a lifecycle approach
 2. Pricing external costs important but insufficient
 3. Regulation and consumer information alongside price
 4. Good economic decisions need physical as well as monetary accounts
 5. Resource use has social equity consequences
 6. Resource security an increasing driver
 7. Energy and carbon are a continuum with other resources
- Renewable and finite resources require different approaches*

5. The 'Greenest Government' test on resource efficiency

- Most of the components of a UK resource efficiency programme are there – water, food, waste, products
- Three Ps are missing – Pace, Policy and Procurement
- Not clear where the joined up thinking is being done, best is SCP programme but Defra has 29% cut in 4 years
- No sign of using all the levers, regulation and taxation in particular
- But a life cycle approach is hard; the last government got carbon, can this one get beyond to change our resource use patterns for real economic advantage?

Thank you!

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