

Details on national observatories

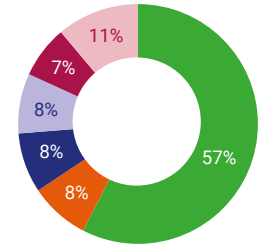
Meetings/interviews organised by **Energy Saving Trust (EST)**

Date	Type	Mode	Participants/Interviewees
1st September 2022	Interview	Online	3
30th January 2023	Meeting	Online	25
February - March 2023	7 Interviews	Online	9
13th March 2023	Meeting	Online	25

Total number of participants/interviewees: **62**

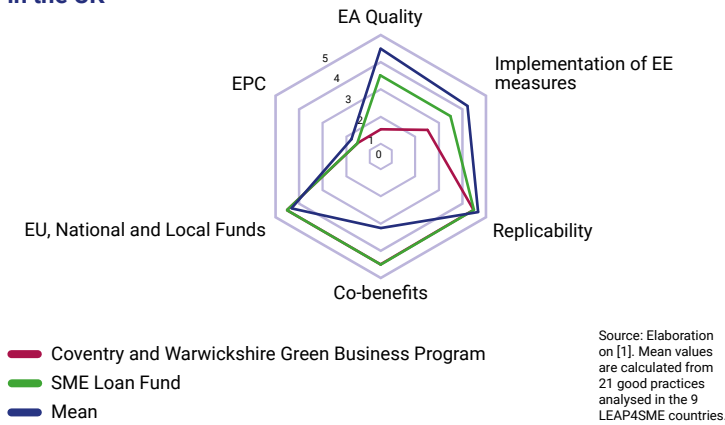
Type of participants/interviewees

- Policy makers and funding bodies
- Energy experts
- Business
- Business associations
- Academia
- Other

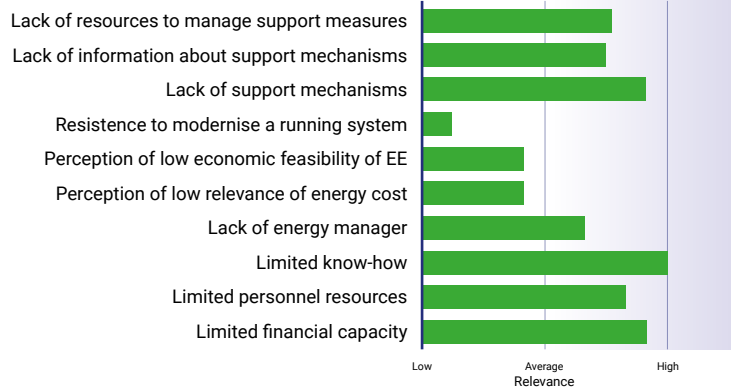


Background from policy assessment and surveys

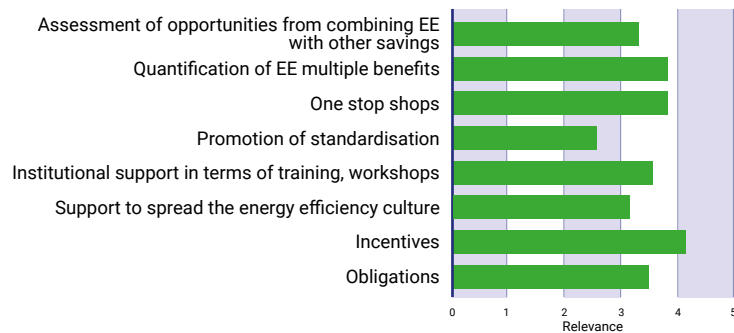
Evaluation of good practices in energy audit supporting programs in the UK



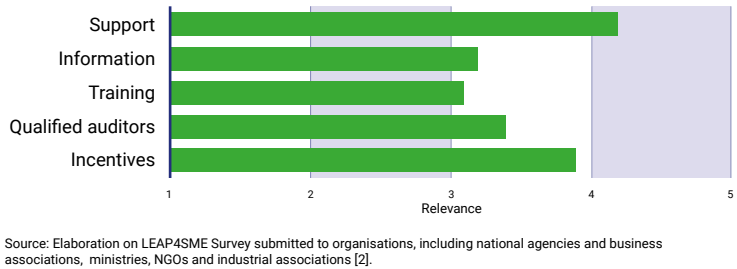
Energy Audits: Most relevant barriers for SMEs



Measures to increase the implementation of energy audit recommendations for SMEs



Energy Audits: Most relevant needs for SMEs



Observatories' main features

Main topics

- Energy efficiency barriers internal to the firms and firm behaviour
- The role of energy audits in unlocking energy saving measures
- Unlocking NetZero financing for SMEs through local business support programmes

Organisational tips and challenges

- There were challenges in engaging national experts to present at the training event
- Low response rate to the training evaluation questionnaire

[1] LEAP4SME Deliverable D3.3 Collection of good practices
 [2] LEAP4SME Deliverable D3.2 Report on the characterisation of SMEs to steer an effective development policy



Key recommendations

From policy makers and funding bodies

- **Financial constraints:** A starting point for engaging with businesses could be focusing on support measures directed towards commercial benefits, such as installing solar PVs to reduce energy bills and help payback the loans quickly. It would also be beneficial to extend the payback period on loans.
- **Tailoring:** The support should be tailored to the firm size. 99.3% of the UK business population are smaller enterprises and are difficult to engage. They need higher and more continuous support.
- **Skills:** Policies should be focused also on addressing skill shortages, increasing the pool of specialists, and improving the access of SMEs to expert and impartial advice, like business-focused advice services.
- **Awareness:** Policies should include information campaigns to make SMEs aware of which support measures are available as well as to constantly re-engage them.
- **One-stop-shop:** Policies should address time and resources constraints of SMEs and support the development of one-stop-shop models, ensuring that businesses get the support and guidance they need in one place after a feasibility assessment. A one-stop-shop backed up by public authorisation can help building trust of firm managers in the investment proposal.

Shared with other stakeholders (SMEs, business associations and academia)

- **Decision making:** Removing external barriers (economic, technical, financial) does not guarantee that SMEs change their behaviour and invest more in energy efficiency. Indeed, the decision-making process for an SME is complex, and SMEs have a high heterogeneity.

