

WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST TARGETS TO COMBAT AIR POLLUTION?

50% of those using unimproved cookstoves switch to improved cookstoves which returns \$10 for every dollar spent. However, the use of improved cookstoves will not be able to eliminate the burden of air pollution, due to community pollution effects.

50-100% of those using unimproved cookstoves switch to LPG stoves which returns \$2 for every dollar spent

Outdoor air pollution targets to reduce concentrations of particulate matter (PM 2.5), globally averaged, return less than \$1 for every dollar spent. However, that does not preclude targeted interventions in particular cities, regions or reducing certain sources of pollution that may provide positive benefit-cost ratios. Outdoor PM2.5 abatement in especially low-income countries should be selective and well-targeted.

“An improved stove with chimney or simply venting of smoke through a hood from any stove or open fire, may be effective for the household installing these devices, but contributes to increased outdoor ambient pollution and indoor pollution in nearby dwellings.”

Improved cookstoves benefit the household but produce community air pollution

Bjorn Larsen, economist and consultant to international and bilateral development agencies, consulting firms, and research institutions has compared social, environmental and economic benefits and costs to identify the best targets. This work was then peer-reviewed in alternative perspective papers by Mike Holland, Independent Consultant, Ecometrics Research and Consulting and by Marc Jeuland, Assistant Professor at Stanford School of Public Policy and at Duke Global Institute, Duke University. An additional viewpoint is provided by Katharina Stepping, German Development Institute. Ultimately, an expert panel consisting of Nobel Laureate economists will weigh up the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of all targets discussed for the post-2015 development agenda to form recommendations.

ABOUT POST-2015 CONSENSUS: In a world of limited resources, we can't do everything, but how should we prioritize? The Copenhagen Consensus Center provides information on which targets will do the most social good relative to their costs. The final decision on choosing goals will definitely rest on a number of factors, not just economics – but knowing the costs and benefits provides an important piece of information. Together, with the input of renowned experts from the UN, NGO and private sectors, our 60 teams of economists produce research papers to establish the most effective targets within the 19 core issue areas.