

Dr Amy Proctor, Newcastle University

**CECAN Case Study:
QCA and the Environment Agency's evaluation
of waste crime**



Co-produced case studies

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CECAN Case Studies

CECAN addresses the tension between developing evaluation methodologies and ensuring their take up, by scoping complex policy 'case studies' with co-funders. CECAN has been developing new evaluation approaches and tools on specific policy areas chosen by government departments, facilitating experimentation and giving space for innovation.

CECAN encourages interaction and learning amongst co-funders, policymakers, social scientists and other experts, to form a 'community of practice' across Nexus domains.

Browse through a few of the CECAN Case Studies we are able to share publicly.

FSA - Regulating Our Future
Food Standards Agency
food.gov.uk

BEIS Energy Innovation Programme
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

BEIS and the Renewable Heat Incentive: Understandin...
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

BEIS Energy Trilemma
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

DEFRA RDPE / Future Farming
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Environment Agency - Enforcement on Waste Crime...
Environment Agency

BEIS - Contracts for Difference
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

DEFRA - Bovine TB
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

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Tweets by @cecanexus

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We'll be at @ESRC #RMF18 Research Methods Festival tomorrow in Bath - come find us at 1545 to hear about all things #methods #complexity #social #policy #evaluation ncrm.ac.uk/RMF2018/prog.p...

Jul 2, 2018

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PeteBarbrookJohnson @bapeterj

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Latest blog posts

- A Pluralistic Evaluation Framework (11/06/2018 - 21:06)
- The Defiance of Global Commitment (15/05/2018 - 21:36)
- Looking Through a Glass Darkly: Public Goods and Agricultural Policy (09/03/2018 - 14:38)

Waste crime

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Waste

Waste crime crackdown shuts 25 illegal sites a week

But number of successful prosecutions from illegal waste and fly-tipping down on year before, says Environment Agency



Fiona Harvey, environment correspondent
Mon 14 Oct 2013 00.03 BST

This article is over 4 years old

▲ Waste crime costs about £1bn a year in harm done to lawful businesses and the loss of taxation revenues.
Photograph: Bruno Vincent/Getty Images


A crackdown on illegal waste and fly-tipping resulted in 1,279 unlicensed dumping sites being shut down in England last year - roughly 25 every week - according to figures published by the Environment Agency.

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Defra launches next steps on tackling waste criminals in the countryside

News 12 Jun 2018 **Lauren Dean**

A Government fight against waste criminals is picking up momentum with people being urged to have their say on ways to crack-down on organised crime groups.



Lauren Dean
Lauren kicked off her print journalism career with Farmers Guardian shortly after graduating from the University of Leeds with a degree in B
Load More...

Complexity and evaluation challenges

1. **Nexus** – cuts across nexus domains
2. **Complex** – large number of variables, often interacting
3. **Evaluation challenges** – interventions often used in combination or sequence
4. **Methodological innovation** – EA keen to explore a more behavioural/contextual approach to evaluation
5. **Potential Impact** – A pilot of how the EA might approach evaluation of regulatory activity more broadly across Agency

So what did we do?

1) **Methods scoping workshop (November 2016)**

2) **QCA design workshop (April 2017)**

(New-complaints = tracked)

Successful Outcomes

- Reduced Waste Crims (Eliminated) (Reduced to tolerable minimum)
- Avoids Environmental Harm. (No longer have to process it...)
- Provides Lease Planning Time for Legit. Business.
- Avoids Social Blight. (Guns, Noise) etc.
- Avoids Costs (re cleaned) to Society.
- Decrease 'Leakage' ensures more waste 'correctly' handled.
- Eliminate motives for waste criminals (Profit, Social Norms) (No New Waste Crims)
- Reduce Intentional Waste Crims (Respect Offending)
- Failures of Reform (Created Hard to Read to go)
- Enhance our reputation in dealing with Gov. Crime. (Deterrence)
- Understand Cost-Effective Outcomes
- Address each site in the 'right' way.
- Fewer 'complaints'. (Reduce No High Risk) (115 - meet KPI.)
 - No Cot 1/2 Potential incidents from them
- We don't spend time on illegal sites which have no real impact.
- Securing abandoned land. - Cost + Reverts.

* = essential

Outcome: (1+3) Activity Stopped + Site Closed

1. Effective partnerships. (intermediate outcome?)
2. Good quality Intel.
3. Fit for purpose in intervention
4. timely intervention.
5. Clear Plan. (operation planning) (Roles + responsibilities)*
6. Dialog with Site.*
7. Research. (i.e. ~~at~~ context of site.)
8. Networking (internal + external)

1. lack of planning (to reactive?)
6. lack of resources.

(combi).
. 1 + 2 + 8
. 4 + 6

Outcome: Up to date + Good Intel.

1. Effective Partnerships.
2. Understanding benefits of intel (organizational culture) (Spending time to enter onto system.)

Key learning and insights

- ❖ Methodological innovation in context
- ❖ Building evaluation capacity and confidence
- ❖ Facilitating expertise exchange

Key role of champions

“CECAN has helped to introduce complexity-compatible evaluation methods into our work to understand the effectiveness of our interventions to prevent waste crime. This support, in particular using Qualitative Comparative Analysis, has helped us to take our evaluation of this work to a level which we would not otherwise have achieved.”

Dr Jon Greaves

(Senior Evaluation Adviser, Environment Agency)

