

Shedding Light

Understanding Energy Efficiency and Electricity Reliability

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Abstract

Overloaded electrical systems are a major source of unreliable power (outages) in developing countries. Using a randomized saturation design, we estimate the impact of energy efficient lightbulbs on household electricity consumption and local electricity reliability in the Kyrgyz Republic. Receiving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) significantly reduced household electricity consumption. Estimates not controlling for spillovers in take-up underestimate the impacts of the CFLs, as control households near the treated are likely to take-up CFLs themselves. Greater saturation

of CFLs within a transformer leads to aggregate reliability impacts of two fewer days per month without electricity due to unplanned outages relative to pure controls. Increased electricity reliability permits households to consume more electricity services, suggesting that CFL treatment results in technological externalities. The spillovers in take-up and technological externalities may provide an additional explanation for the gap between empirical and engineering estimates of the impacts of energy efficient technologies.

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Shedding Light: Understanding Energy Efficiency and Electricity Reliability*

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1 Introduction

Overloaded systems are a substantial source of unreliable power in developing countries. Overloads occur when the grid is asked to deliver more power than its capacity allows, causing components of the grid to break. Such breakage results in electricity outages, a major problem for electricity service provision in developing countries. This problem is likely to worsen in the future for at least two reasons. First, residential electricity demand is expected to increase with pro-poor development, as households buy their first appliances (Wolfram et al., 2012), putting further pressure on the existing electrical grid. Additionally, in certain settings, subsidized electricity prices provide little incentive for service providers to upgrade infrastructure, resulting in persistent low quality infrastructure (McRae, 2015).

With this in mind, programs distributing energy efficient technologies in developing countries¹ potentially provide an additional benefit beyond reducing emissions and decreasing the cost of energy services to technology adopters. CFLs are frequently deployed en masse in developing countries via programs with the specific goals of reducing electricity outages and increasing reliability of electricity services.² Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), which consume 25% of the electricity used by traditional incandescent bulbs (per lumen), can reduce overall household electricity consumption without requiring a reduction in the hours of lighting services consumed (DOE, 2009). They may also provide important aggregate impacts in the form of reduced peak electricity load and improved reliability, permitting households to consume more electricity services (World Bank, 2006).³ Such technological externalities, through which the returns to an individual adopting CFLs are increasing in the fraction of the population utilizing the technology, can be a substantial benefit from adoption of energy efficient technologies.⁴

¹There are many such programs. Just between 1990 and the mid-2000s (World Bank, 2006), the World Bank alone committed more than US\$11 billion to energy efficiency in developing countries.

²For example, 600,000 CFLs were distributed in Uganda to reduce peak load by 25 MW. In Rwanda, 400,000 CFLs were distributed to reduce peak load by 16 MW and offset the need for diesel-based power generation. In Ethiopia, 200,000 CFLs were provided to reduce peak load by 6.8 MW to increase reliability.

³At an aggregate level, energy efficient lightbulbs can help address electric power shortages, permit utilities to reach a greater number of customers with existing supplies, reduce need for investment in capacity and distribution, accommodate growth in economic activity, and reduce environmental impact.

⁴We follow the definition of technological externality employed by Foster and Rosenzweig (2010). For a particular technology, adoption of the technology by others is said to generate a positive (negative) technological externality if it increases (decreases) an individual's returns to the adoption of such technology. Miguel and Kremer (2007) discuss such effects in the context of de-worming medication. By reducing the exposure to individuals infected with worms, the net benefit of the deworming pill to an individual is small (as long as the fraction of treated individuals is reasonably high). Similarly, Dupas (2014) cites medical

The potential gains from distribution of energy efficient technologies in developing countries are highly promising; however, there is relatively little evidence to date on the empirical impact of energy efficiency on individual household electricity consumption.⁵ Perhaps more notably, there is a dearth of evidence on the technological externalities that may result from the aggregate consumption impacts of energy efficiency. This is likely due to several reasons. First, spillovers in the adoption of energy efficient technologies confound the estimated impact on individual household energy consumption. Second, data on outcomes related to infrastructure quality (such as actual outages) tend to be difficult to acquire for developing countries (Klytchnikova and Lokshin, 2009). And third, levels of energy efficiency take-up and reliability of electricity services within a community are mutually endogenous⁶ and jointly explained by community characteristics⁷, making the causal aggregate impact of energy efficiency challenging to estimate.

To overcome these empirical challenges and assess the impacts of energy efficient technologies, we implemented an experimental distribution of CFLs employing a randomized saturation design, which allows us to account for spillovers when estimating the impact of treatment on individual household electricity consumption.⁸ In a novel application of the randomized saturation design, we experimentally vary the treatment saturation at a technologically-meaningful and policy-relevant scale. Specifically, we randomize at the level of the typical infrastructure failure, the distribution transformer.⁹ While the direct aggregate impacts of CFL treatment, in the form of reduced transformer-level electricity loads, may be proportional to CFL saturation, the externality benefits are likely to vary non-linearly with CFL technology saturation. By randomizing saturation intensity at the technologically-relevant scale, we are able to test for evidence of technological externalities in the form of increased

evidence suggesting that the population of infected mosquitoes decreases as the fraction of households using a high quality bednet increases, thus reducing the individual benefits from bednet use.

⁵The notable exception is a quasi-experimental evaluation of a Mexican appliance (air conditioners and refrigerators) replacement program (Davis, Fuchs and Gertler, 2014).

⁶Greater consumption of CFLs within a community increases electricity availability. Greater electricity availability increases the gains from adoption of CFLs, potentially leading households to consume more CFLs. These effects reinforce each other.

⁷For instance, CFL consumption and electricity availability may be greater in communities with higher education levels, higher incomes, etc.

⁸Baird et al. (2014) demonstrate the use of a randomized saturation design to account for spillovers.

⁹Distribution transformers, which convert higher-voltage electricity from the distribution system to low-voltage electricity for household use, are a crucial part of the electrical grid and their failure is a common source of electricity outages (Glover, Sarma and Overbye, 2011).

electricity service reliability (reduced blackouts) and increased household electricity consumption in higher saturation transformers.

We implement this experiment in the Kyrgyz Republic, a lower-middle-income developing country that suffers from frequent electricity outages and therefore offers suitable conditions for research on electricity reliability. Although CFLs were available in some stores at the project onset, they were not commonly used outside of Bishkek, the capital city. Implemented in a district adjacent to Bishkek, the randomized saturation design employs an electricity utility’s data on its residential customers and the infrastructure through which these consumers are served.

Treatment status was randomly assigned in two stages. First, we randomize electricity transformers to different treatment saturations (i.e. different proportions of households are assigned to treatment within a transformer). Second, we randomize households individually to treatment and control groups, according to the transformer saturation intensity assigned in the first stage. After completing a baseline survey, the treated households receive up to four CFLs at a highly subsidized price. We follow household monthly electricity consumption via the electricity utility’s records for 18 months post-intervention to estimate the impacts on electricity consumption. To measure CFL use and spillovers in adoption, we return for a follow-up survey one year after CFL distribution.

We measure the impacts of CFLs on residential electricity consumption, both with and without controls for any potential spillovers in CFL take-up. The randomized saturation design in the initial CFL distribution allows us to test for such spillovers. In our sample, control households close to treated households are more likely to have CFLs at follow-up than pure control households in located control transformers. Not accounting for spillovers in take-up among the control group leads to estimates of electricity consumption reductions that are downward biased (in other words, they understate the savings from energy efficiency). When accounting for these spillovers, we find that CFLs lead to a significant reduction in monthly electricity consumption that falls within the expected range for the technology based on engineering performance estimates.

Using the transformer-level randomization of treatment intensity, we then test for externality effects resulting from the energy efficiency, in the form of improved electricity reliability.

We find that households in transformers with a higher intensity of treatment (i.e., a higher saturation of households within a transformer receive CFLs) have fewer days reported without electricity due to unplanned outages.¹⁰ This result is robust to including a number of controls, such as the baseline number of reported outages, and is supported by calculations of expected peak load reduction. We also find evidence suggesting that households in transformers with improved reliability consume more hours of electricity services due to fewer outages, and that the household energy savings are larger after accounting for this technological externality. Lastly, using these results we perform a simple cost-benefit analysis, which illustrates the importance of accounting for these spillovers and technological externalities when estimating the welfare impacts of such a program.

Our experiment contributes to the literature on energy efficiency in several ways, and offers a novel experimental design for identifying externalities at various treatment levels.

First, it contributes to the debate regarding the impacts of energy efficient technologies and their potential to reduce energy demand. Energy efficiency depends not only on the development of relevant technologies, but also on the interaction of end-user behavior with such technologies (Allcott and Mullainathan, 2010). Prior to ours, no experimental or quasi-experimental studies existed measuring the impacts of energy efficient lighting. The one previous study of a large-scale CFL distribution program found that approximately 20% of initial electricity savings dissipated over time (Costolanski et al., 2013), thereby contributing to skepticism regarding the gains from efficient lighting technologies and from energy efficiency more generally. Our experimental finding that CFL treatment results in a significant electricity consumption reduction very close in size to the expected technologically feasible reductions contributes to balance the evidence from such existing misidentified studies. Our finding is not only relevant for developing countries, but is also consistent with results from the United States, where lighting is a relatively smaller share of energy consumption.¹¹ This new evidence suggests that energy efficient lighting, and perhaps other energy efficient technologies as well, should remain on the menu of potential policy options.

Second, to our knowledge, our experiment is the first to use a randomized saturation design

¹⁰We collect data on reported days without electricity due to unplanned outages during both the baseline and follow-up surveys.

¹¹Burlig et al. (2016) are performing a machine-learning analysis of energy efficiency in California schools. Their preliminary results indicate substantial savings from the energy efficient lighting interventions.

to provide evidence of technological externalities at multiple policy-relevant levels. Given the scale at which technological externalities typically occur, designing an experiment that can identify such externalities is challenging; as a result, there is relatively little causal empirical evidence on them.¹² This study designs such experiment by taking into account the constraint within the electricity distribution system that most frequently causes electricity outages and randomly varies the saturation intensity of CFLs at that level. By doing so, we are able to provide evidence of technological externality effects on both electricity reliability at the transformer level and on household electricity consumption. We gauge how the externality varies with the number of treated households within a transformer to decompose the technology’s overall effect on household energy consumption into its direct and externality components. Our results suggest that energy efficiency programs can improve electricity reliability, not only in the Kyrgyz Republic but also in other contexts, if they reach sufficient levels of saturation. More generally, they speak to the extent to which energy efficiency programs can accomplish various, and sometimes opposing, goals using a technology-based solution.¹³

Third, our experiment contributes to the discussion regarding the energy efficiency gap. In spite of their promise as potentially welfare-improving, many believe households are not using energy efficient technologies when they should. Building upon Hausman (1979), cumulative research suggests an energy efficiency gap due to individuals not maximizing the net present value of their energy spending when making energy purchase decisions.¹⁴ There is a growing body of work investigating the factors impacting purchase decisions of energy efficient technologies, thereby causing these investment inefficiencies (Jaffe and Stavins, 1994; Allcott and Greenstone, 2012; Gillingham and Palmer, 2014). Most existing economic research on the take-up of energy efficient technologies largely focuses on private adoption decisions and

¹²A notable exception is Miguel and Kremer (2004), who provide experimental evidence of positive cross-school externalities from deworming medicines in Kenya, but have to rely on more tentative non-experimental methods to decompose the overall effect on treated schools into a direct effect and within-school externality effect. As acknowledged by them: “When local treatment externalities are expected, field experiments can be purposefully designed to estimate externalities by randomizing treatment at various levels. [...] However, this multi-level design may not be practical in all contexts: for example, in our context it was not possible to randomize treatment within schools. Randomization at the level of clusters of schools also dramatically increases the sample size needed for adequate statistical power, raising project cost.”

¹³For example, energy efficiency programs may be designed to reduce overall consumption and pollution or to improve service reliability in a way that could result in increases in electricity consumption.

¹⁴Energy efficient products often require a larger upfront cost than the standard products, but exhibit lower operating costs. Consumers’ decision to invest in energy-saving devices relies on this trade-off between initial investment and operating costs.

the returns to individual adopters.¹⁵ In contrast, very little attention has been paid to the role of spillovers in adoption decisions and technological externalities. In their presence, the level of private investment in some energy efficient technologies may be even less optimal than previously thought.

Finally, it connects with the literature on infrastructure and development. Research indicates that electrification is important for development (Dinkelman, 2011; Lipscomb, Mobarak and Barnham, 2013; Rud, 2012; Van de Walle et al., 2013), and residential access to modern energy and lighting can improve living standards and productivity (World Bank, 2006). And in many developing countries, lighting is a major component of residential electricity consumption. Yet access to electricity infrastructure does not guarantee reliable service (Klytchnikova and Lokshin, 2009). Electricity outages can impact both households (Chakravorty, Pelli and Marchand, 2013) and firms (Allcott, Collard-Wexler and O’Connell, 2015; Alam, 2013), yet low-quality electricity infrastructure can be persistent (McRae, 2015).

The remainder of the paper is as follows: Section 2 provides information on electricity use in the Kyrgyz Republic and the potential impacts of energy efficiency; Section 3 details the sampling process and randomized design; Section 4 addresses the data collected and results of the randomization and compliance checks; Section 5 estimates impacts of CFLs at the household level, both with and without spillovers; Section 6 estimates the impacts of energy efficient technology at an aggregate level; Section 7 provides additional supporting evidence of a technological externality; and Section 8 concludes.

2 Institutional setting and energy efficiency

2.1 Electricity services and infrastructure in the Kyrgyz Republic

The Kyrgyz Republic provides a suitable context in which to study energy efficiency and electricity reliability in a developing country setting.¹⁶ Due to its history as part of the former Soviet Union, the country is highly electrified, with nearly 100 percent of households covered by formal electricity connections (Gassmann, 2014). Residential electricity demand

¹⁵ Interventions to understand or increase uptake of energy efficient technologies have focused on energy labeling (Newell and Siikamaki, 2015), social norms (Herberich, List, and Price, 2011), information on energy costs (Allcott and Taubinsky, 2015), and subsidies (Allcott and Sweeney, 2015).

¹⁶The country ranks 147th out of 187 countries for GDP (PPP) per capita (IMF, 2012).

has increased since the country's independence in 1992. Over the past two decades, the proportion of total electricity consumption comprised by the residential sector steadily increased, with 63% of the country's current electricity supply consumed by the residential sector (Obozov et al., 2013).

Similar to many other developing countries, the electricity infrastructure is insufficient to meet current and growing electricity demand. In the Kyrgyz Republic, much of the existing electricity infrastructure dates back to the Soviet Union including all 16 of its power plants (Zozulinsky, 2007). Ninety percent of electricity generation within the country is hydroelectric, so supply fluctuates with annual variability in reservoir water levels.¹⁷ Technically, the capacity of both generation and transmission infrastructure could constrain household electricity services and result in unreliable electricity services (frequent electricity outages); however, during the study period, distribution constraints are the primary source of unreliable service.

Due to very low residential electricity prices (\$0.02 per kWh throughout this study), many households heat with electricity in winter. In spite of low prices, concerns regarding electricity bills and household energy expenditures are common. Household energy expenditures comprise an estimated 7.1 percent of total household expenditures in the Kyrgyz Republic (Gassmann, 2014), much of which is due to winter heating. Electric heating leads to large seasonal variations in electricity consumption, with average winter consumption approximately three times that of summer. The country's utilities face growing electricity consumption while constrained by a distribution system designed for substantially lower demand. As a result, the country is plagued by frequent unplanned outages particularly in winter.¹⁸

Transmission and distribution systems are consistently overloaded, acting as a binding constraint and source of unplanned outages. To put this in perspective, most of the transformers have a load factor of 0.9 - 1.2, with 0.7 being the optimal load (Amankulova, 2006).¹⁹ These constraints are a concern for both consumers and the electricity utility. Unplanned outages typically occur when local distribution systems experience an overload. The distribution

¹⁷In years of low water availability, the country has instituted planned, rolling blackouts during the winter. This did not occur during our study period, according to the electricity utility.

¹⁸For example, in 2010 the country had 12,578 unplanned power outages (approximately 34 outages per day), which is considered unreliable service by international standards (USAID, 2011).

¹⁹This is for the 35/220 kV transformers, which is the last step in delivering electricity to homes.

network was constructed for peak electricity consumption associated with households owning only a few electricity-using durables. However, peak household electricity demand has increased as households have bought more appliances, which is consistent with predictions made for pro-poor economic growth in developing countries, more broadly (Wolfram, Gertler and Shelef, 2012).

Transformers are a critical part of the electricity distribution infrastructure. A distribution transformer on the electrical grid converts high-voltage electricity to usable, low-voltage electricity for household consumption (Glover, Sarma and Overbye, 2011). There is a maximum electricity load that a transformer can transfer at any given time and exceeding that may lead to unplanned outages. During the study, transformer overloads were the primary source of unplanned outages. Quality of electricity services is correlated within a transformer, as households thus are exposed to the same electricity-related shocks. A transformer-level outage affects all households sharing the transformer.²⁰

2.2 Energy efficient lighting

Energy efficient technologies have the potential to decrease individual residential electricity consumption and therefore costs. Using approximately 75% less electricity than incandescent lightbulbs, CFLs are one tool for meeting lighting needs while reducing electricity consumption. If take-up rates are sufficiently high, energy efficient technologies could impact electricity load at an aggregate level. For example, CFLs could decrease aggregate electricity demand within a transformer reducing the probability of a transformer overload. By alleviating the stress on the infrastructure, energy efficiency could reduce unplanned electricity outages and increase service reliability.

Prior to this study, CFLs were available for purchase in large home repair stores and markets located in the capital city, but not in villages. CFLs cost between 100 and 170 Kyrgyz soms, depending on the quality.²¹ In contrast, incandescent lightbulbs were available to purchase in both rural and urban markets for approximately 15 to 20 Kyrgyz soms. Even with low electricity prices, the payback period for the CFLs was between 1 and 2 years.²² This study

²⁰In our setting, 54 households on average receive their electricity via a single transformer.

²¹In March 2013, the exchange rate was approximately 1 USD = 46 Kyrgyz soms.

²²Payback period calculations (not shown) were based on typical lightbulb use in our sample and electricity and CFL prices within the region. We show cost-benefit calculations for the first year post-distribution in Appendix Calculation 4.

was implemented in a district adjacent to the capital, Bishkek. Given residents of this district frequently travel to the city, they could have purchased CFLs pre-intervention; however, very few households outside of the capital used CFLs at baseline.

2.3 Potential impacts of energy efficiency

Based on constraints in the electricity distribution system and the potential for energy efficient technologies to decrease demand both at the household and aggregate-level, we might expect the following impacts on electricity consumption following installation of CFLs:

1. *Impacts on household electricity consumption:* The effect of energy efficient lightbulbs within one’s home depends on the net sum of both engineering and human factors. Based on engineering calculations, the technologically feasible benefit would be a reduction in electricity consumption, and thus in the electricity bill.²³ There are, however, multiple reasons a household’s electricity consumption might not change, might decrease by less than expected, or might even increase following the installation of CFLs. These vary from CFLs not meeting their technological promise (poor quality, failure), human interactions with the technology (incorrect use), human behavioral responses (rebound effect)²⁴ or some combination of these.²⁵
2. *Spillovers:* Installation of energy efficient technologies could influence others’ adoption decisions via channels such as learning, imitation, etc. These spillovers in take-up could be experienced by households with close linkages to the original adopters, and could be positive, negative, or zero. If present, spillovers in take-up can bias empirical analyses that do not account for them. For instance, when estimating the impacts of CFLs on household electricity consumption, if the comparison group finds alternative means by which to access the technology, they could also experience reductions in electricity

²³With some basic information (for example, information on the wattage of both the original bulb and the energy efficient bulb to which one is switching, hours of lightbulb use, etc.), one can perform simple calculations to predict reductions in electricity consumption. We perform such calculations and discuss them in Section 5.

²⁴By cutting down the energy requirements and monetary costs of lighting, CFLs may promote additional electricity consumption or generate a “rebound” that offsets the technologically feasible savings. As a result, the kWh consumed by a household may decrease, remain unchanged or even increase. For theoretical discussion of the rebound effect, see Borenstein (2015) and Chan and Gillingham (2015). Although the existing literature appears to agree on the existence of rebound effects, there is much debate over the magnitude of such an effect (Gillingham, Rapson and Wagner, forthcoming).

²⁵For example, by being more efficient, CFLs will result in less waste heat lost than incandescent bulbs. This may result in households compensating through other practices, such as winter heating.

consumption, leading to underestimation of true impacts. A reduction in electricity consumption may occur, but it may not be detected (or muted) due to contamination of the comparison group.

3. *Aggregate effect:* Energy efficient technologies could have an effect on aggregate electricity consumption within the local distribution system. The sign and magnitude of this aggregate effect will depend on the proportion of households that use CFLs, as well as on the sign and magnitude of the impacts they individually experience. If a large enough proportion of households within a transformer adopt CFLs and their individual impacts combine into aggregate electricity savings, the probability of an outage occurring due to a transformer overload would be reduced, thus increasing reliability of electricity services.
4. *Technological externality:* The distribution of CFLs could generate a positive (negative) technological externality if the returns to a household from adopting such technology increase (decrease) in the fraction of the population utilizing the energy efficient technology. In the scenario of a positive technological externality, when consumers install energy efficient devices at a high saturation and aggregate demand decreases such that reliability improves, households are able to consume more hours of electricity services. This effect is experienced by all households within a transformer, regardless of the individual household’s own adoption. The returns from CFL adoption increase because the potential for electricity consumption increases and therefore the potential for energy savings through CFL use does as well.²⁶

This field experiment employs a randomized saturation design to address these potential impacts of energy efficiency.

3 Randomized experiment with energy efficiency

3.1 Sampling process

In order to identify transformers and households within the transformers, we used data from electricity utility records on over 40,000 residential customers in a district adjacent to

²⁶If electricity is limited, the benefits from CFL use are positive but small—zero if there is no electricity. As electricity becomes more available the benefits increase, possibly in a non-linear way, at a decreasing rate and/or discontinuously.

Bishkek, the country’s capital.²⁷ These records contain crucial information for the design of our sampling procedure. The data identify the address of each of the households in the district as well as the transformer through which each of them is served.

Within the district for which we have utility data, seven villages (comprising 248 eligible transformers)²⁸ were chosen due to their accessibility from Bishkek during the winter months.²⁹ Given that the area surrounding the capital tends to be better off than those in the country’s other regions, the district in which the study occurs is not representative of the entire country. In order to improve external validity, the study sample was restricted to the 124 eligible transformers with below median monthly household electricity consumption in the year prior to the intervention. Such households and transformers are more representative of the country as a whole. To complete the sampling process, 20 percent of the households from each transformer were randomly selected to participate in the study.³⁰ Because the number of households per transformer is heterogeneous, the exact number sampled in each transformer also varies.

3.2 Experimental saturation design

The randomized saturation design varies household exposure to the CFL technology to test for evidence of a household energy efficiency effect, spillovers in take-up, and a technological externality due to aggregate impacts. Transformers are first randomized to differing treatment saturations and then households within those transformers are randomized either to receive CFLs or to control status, according to the saturation previously assigned.

Figure 1 depicts how treatment status was randomly assigned in two stages. In the first stage, the 124 sampled eligible transformers were randomized into three groups: control, lower treatment saturation, and higher treatment saturation. Due to funding constraints, households in 14 control transformers were not surveyed. This resulted in only 110 eligible transformers being finally included in the study, with 25, 45, and 40 transformers in control,

²⁷The data were provided by the electricity utility through a Data Use Agreement. The utility, however, was not informed as to which transformers or households were being treated through the experiment.

²⁸Transformers providing at least 5 households with electricity were eligible. According to the utility, transformers serving fewer households likely also serve industrial consumers.

²⁹This was to ensure that survey enumerators could reach households in March, when weather conditions can make transportation challenging.

³⁰Due to funding constraints, households in only 25 of the 39 control transformers were surveyed, resulting in households in 110 transformers being surveyed.

lower and higher saturation groups respectively. In control transformers, no study households were treated. In lower-saturation transformers, 60% of study households were treated. In higher-saturation transformers, 80% of study households were treated. As mentioned in the sampling discussion above, 20 percent of the households in each transformer were sampled into the study. Thus, the first stage randomization results in approximately 12% to 16% of all households within treated transformers being assigned to treatment.

In the second stage, a total of 1,000 study households within these 110 transformers were randomized into either control or treatment status. This resulted in 457 and 543 households in each group respectively. By design, as depicted in Figure 2, treated households are found only in treated transformers, in the proportions set by each transformer’s treatment intensity. Control households, however, can be in either control or treated transformers. The two stages of randomization also induced spatial heterogeneity in the location of the treated households, leading to variation in the proximity to and number of treated neighbors.

3.3 Intervention and household survey

In the spring of 2013, all study households were visited and invited to participate in a baseline survey regarding electricity use. Their treatment status assignment was not disclosed at the time of the baseline survey. All households were given 150 Kyrgyz soms (approximately 3.26 USD) to compensate them for their time, after finishing the survey.³¹

After the baseline survey, baseline interaction with the control households was complete. In contrast, households randomly assigned to the treatment group were offered the opportunity to purchase up to 4 CFLs at a highly subsidized, randomly-drawn price, via a willingness to pay experiment.³² The set of possible prices was $\{0, 5, 10, 15, 20\}$. The market price for CFLs was a minimum of 100 KGS, so treated households were paying a maximum of 20% of market price. The market price for incandescent lightbulbs was between 15 and 20 KGS. On average, treated households received 3.2 CFLs from the study intervention. Take-up of CFL treatment was not perfect, as some treated households opted to stop after the survey.

³¹As of 2011, the average monthly nominal employee wage was 9,352 KGS per month (or an estimated 467 KGS per day of work) (National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2012).

³²We provided up to four CFLs as pilot surveys indicated that, on average, households had five to six lightbulbs at baseline. We sought to replace most of their incandescent bulbs with CFLs. The experiment, which utilizes the Becker-de Groot-Marschak methodology to measure demand for CFLs, is explained in Meeks (2016).

The rate of non-compliance that resulted was 12%. In those cases, the household received zero CFLs.³³

All study households were visited again in the spring of 2014, one year following the intervention, for a follow-up survey. Of the original 1,000 study households, 101 addresses were identified as having new tenants in the year since the intervention. We interviewed all households currently living at the original addresses, as it was difficult to know exactly when residents moved or if the CFLs had moved with them.³⁴ After completion of the follow-up survey, survey respondents were again offered 150 KGS to compensate for their time.

4 Study sample

4.1 Data

We use several datasets, including electricity utility data, baseline and follow-up household survey data, and GIS spatial data, which are matched at the household-level. All of these data are then matched to heating degree day data from a nearby weather station. A description is provided in the Appendix.

Electricity utility data: We utilize electricity utility records identifying both transformers and households served by them, as well as the monthly household electricity bills. These data start in October 2010 and continue through September 2014. This provides observations 30 months prior to and 18 months following the intervention, held in March 2013. One important feature of this time period is that electricity prices remained constant at 0.02 USD per kWh.³⁵ The utility, however, was not collecting transformer-specific outage data at the time of the intervention.³⁶

Household survey data: As indicated in the previous section, we conducted two rounds of household surveys, one immediately prior to the intervention (baseline) and one a year

³³For intent-to-treat estimates, these households are considered treated. Compliance is discussed below.

³⁴Survey enumerators made at least four attempts to survey the household. If enumerators were informed that the previous respondents had moved, then the new residents were surveyed. A total of 835 original respondents were re-interviewed for the follow-up survey.

³⁵A tariff reform was introduced in late 2014 (see McRae and Meeks (2016) for details of reform) and therefore we end our analysis in September to avoid conflating the CFL intervention with the tariff change.

³⁶Because electricity consumption data are monthly, we cannot use them to calculate timing of outages.

following the intervention (follow-up). The baseline survey collected information on appliance ownership and use, lightbulb ownership (type, wattage, etc) and use (room of use, hours used in a typical day, etc.), electricity-related behaviors, and various household demographics. Importantly, we asked households to report the number of days in the past month that they did not have electricity due to outages.³⁷ Implementation of both survey rounds began in the month of March, specifically so that, when asking about the outages in the month prior, we were capturing winter months.³⁸ The number of CFLs distributed to each treatment household was tracked. The follow-up survey repeated questions from the baseline and also asked new questions on perception and understanding of CFLs.

Spatial data: GPS data were collected on the location of each participating house during the baseline survey. These data points permit various calculations relevant to potential spillovers in adoption, including the distance to nearest treated household and the number of treated households within certain radii. In addition, we use GIS data from OpenStreetMap on locations of all buildings in the study villages. These data permit calculations of the total number of households located within various radii (e.g., 100 meters, 200 meters, and so on) of each participating household.³⁹

4.2 Household characteristics

Households in the study sample are small, with an average of just under 4 members. Household monthly income per capita is on average 76 USD per month (2.45 USD per person per day) and household heads are educated, with 84 percent having finished secondary school. Most houses (91 percent) are owner-occupied, the majority of which were constructed during the period of the Soviet Union. They comprise an average of 4.3 rooms, and are typically constructed of brick (54 percent) or a hay/adobe mix (38 percent). Houses are served by formal connections to the electrical grid and metered individually (i.e., houses do not share meters).

Households receive a monthly electricity bill based on the meter readings of their consumption. At baseline, they use an average of 232 kWh per month in the summer (June to

³⁷These questions were piloted extensively prior to the baseline survey. We asked about the number of days due to heterogeneity in outage length. The transformer repair required and availability of replacement parts determines the outage length after a transformer overload. According to the utility, transformer outages last between a few hours and a few days.

³⁸Winter is when electricity demand is the greatest, stressing the transformers. For this reason, outages are most prevalent in the winter months.

³⁹The calculations of the total number of buildings are further described in Appendix Calculation 1.

September) and 633 kWh per month – more than double – in the winter (November to February). On average, households have 8 electricity-using durables⁴⁰ and many households (39 percent) report heating with electricity.⁴¹ A small proportion have an electric hot water heater (14 percent), and almost none (2 percent) have air conditioners.

Households largely indicate that they both frequently worry about saving electricity (95 percent) and take measures to save electricity (86 percent). More than half the households report knowing about energy efficient lightbulbs (56 percent). However, CFLs use was low. Only a few households had them, and in small numbers (resulting in 0.17 CFLs per household, on average). The majority of households did not know or believe that CFLs consume less electricity (70 percent), did not expect savings in their electricity bill from replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs (72 percent), and did not believe the electricity savings would pay back the upfront costs of the CFLs (69 percent).⁴²

4.3 Randomization balance

Baseline characteristics were compared both at the transformer and household levels to understand the outcome of randomization. Comparisons use both household survey data and data on transformer characteristics, provided by the electricity utility.

Transformer-level balance test results are shown in Appendix Table 1. There are no statistically significant differences between the transformers treated with a low saturation and the control transformers, nor are there any statistically significant differences between the high saturation transformers and the control transformers. The high and low saturation transformers do have one significant difference from each other. They differ in the number of households within the transformers. Following Bruhn and McKenzie (2008), we chose not to re-randomize and instead control for this characteristic in related regressions and perform additional robustness checks.

Results from the household-level balance tests are shown in Appendix Table 2. The two

⁴⁰Almost all homes have a television and refrigerator. Approximately three-quarters of households have electric stoves, an iron, and a clothes washing machine.

⁴¹Households conserve on heating. Most households report heating their houses at least sometimes with coal (80%), and on average they heat 3/4 of all their rooms during winter.

⁴²Households were also unaware of differences in quality (88%) and in potential electricity savings (80%) between different types and brands of CFL.

household-level treatment groups are statistically identical along most dimensions. Importantly, most households in all groups have their own individual electricity meters. There are, however, two slight differences. Control households are slightly more likely than treatment households to have a household head that has completed secondary school education, and to be in homes that are single family buildings (in comparison to the multi-unit apartment buildings). This difference is about what could be expected by chance. If anything, these differences would downward bias our results.

A graph of pre-intervention electricity consumption over time, in Appendix Figure 1, highlights important heterogeneities in electricity consumption over a year and shows the same seasonal variation for both treatment and control households. The large spike in winter electricity consumption is due in large part to electric heating and is the reason that electricity outages are most frequent in that season. Longer hours of lighting due to shorter days play a lesser role. The winter peak is somewhat greater among the treated households than the control in both pre-intervention winters (winter 2011 and winter 2012). To account for these patterns, our analysis will include household fixed effects and month-by-year fixed effects.

4.4 Compliance and attrition

There are two aspects of the intervention take-up and survey data collection, described in Section 3.3, with which we might be concerned: (i) whether or not treated households took the CFLs that we distributed as the treatment, and (ii) whether study households were still inhabiting the home at time of follow-up survey. We address these issues in the following ways. First, in our intent-to-treat estimates, treated households that did not comply with the treatment are considered treated. Second, we obtain estimates including all households (movers and non-movers) and excluding those houses with new tenants (just non-movers). Results are consistent across these analyses.

5 The impacts of energy efficient lighting on household electricity consumption

5.1 Bench-marking and previewing impacts

Prior to estimating the intervention’s impacts, we first calculate the technologically feasible expected electricity reductions for the winter, spring/fall, and summer seasons.⁴³ Back-of-the-envelope calculations for a typical household in our sample, in Appendix Calculation 2 and Appendix Table 3, suggest that replacing 3.2 incandescent lightbulbs of 100 watts each by CFLs of 21 watts each could potentially decrease electricity consumption by between 26 and 42 kWh per month.⁴⁴

These technologically feasible savings do not account for human interaction or behavioral responses to the technology. Estimates of the effect of CFLs in actual use conditions could be smaller or larger. They can differ from the engineering calculations for reasons such as a rebound in electricity consumption, a reduction in electricity outages permitting more electricity services, or spillovers in technology take-up that bias the results. The randomized saturation design helps us understand the impacts of energy efficient lighting and untangle the channels through which they operate.

To motivate the regression analysis, we begin with an event study-style graph of electricity consumption month-by-month (Figure 3). We plot our calculations of the technologically feasible electricity reductions alongside the estimated impacts of CFL treatment (the result of comparing treatment relative to control households in control transformers) month-by-month.⁴⁵ A few patterns are noticeable. First, the figure shows a downwards shift in electricity consumption for treatment households post-intervention (with CFL distribution starting in late March 2013). Second, the impacts are quite noisy, particularly in the winter months.⁴⁶ Although they indeed have reductions in electricity consumption, the noisiness

⁴³Through discussions with the electricity utility in fall 2012, we learned that winter (also known as the “heating season”) is the time of highest electricity demand and greatest strain on transformers.

⁴⁴During early survey piloting, we learned that households typically used 100 watt bulbs in their homes. We provided 21 watt CFLs, because they were advertised to be equivalent to 100 watt incandescent bulbs. These and other underlying assumptions are further described in the Appendix Calculation 2.

⁴⁵Because in this figure we calculate the treatment impact separately for each month, we cannot include household fixed effects.

⁴⁶This noisiness is likely due to some households heating with electricity in the winter (which would cause a large spike in their electricity consumption), while others heat with coal.

might make them less salient for treated households. Third, there is much heterogeneity in the impacts across seasons. Electricity savings start in the months following the distribution of CFLs in the spring of 2013, and continue over the summer and fall. In the winter, impacts diverge greatly from the engineering predictions, but in the spring of 2014 the electricity savings return and are similar to those predicted. The regression analysis that follows looks more closely into these impacts of the CFL treatment.

5.2 Basic estimates

To assess the impacts on household electricity consumption, we first estimate a simple difference-in-differences model using the electricity utility records:

$$q_{it} = \tau Treat_i * Post_t + \beta Post_t + \delta Treat_i + \alpha X_{it} + \gamma_t + \lambda_i + \epsilon_i \quad (1)$$

where q_{it} is household i 's electricity consumption (kWh) in month t , $Treat_i$ is an indicator of treatment status, and X_{it} is a vector of household-level variables.⁴⁷ Month-by-year fixed effects, γ_t , and household fixed effects, λ_i , address the large seasonal variations in consumption and potential heterogeneities across households in baseline electricity consumption, as identified in the event-study graph.

The $Treat_i * Post_t$ interaction denotes the household's assignment to treatment and if that treatment occurred in that month or prior months. The coefficient on this interaction term, τ , is therefore an estimate of the average change in household monthly electricity consumption (in kWh) that resulted from random assignment to treatment.

Table 1 reports intent-to-treat estimates of τ . In Table 1, Column 1, the estimated impact is identified according to the above basic regression, from variation within households over time, controlling for month-by-year shocks. This basic estimate indicates that the CFL treatment reduces household electricity consumption by 16 kWh per month. The magnitude of this impact is only half the expected size based on engineering calculations. However, in Column 1, the omitted group is comprised of all control households, regardless of whether

⁴⁷These include controls for number of days in monthly billing period and whether the household uses electricity for heating. We also control for heating degree days; however, we only have variation in temperature over time. The 7 villages in the study sample are all covered by one weather station and data are reported at that level. Nevertheless, we do not expect for there to be much spatial variation in temperatures across villages included in the study given their size and proximity.

they are in a treated or control transformer. If there are any spillovers in adoption among control households close to treatment households, or any technological externality affecting all households within a treated transformer, the omitted group will be contaminated and the basic impact may be mis-estimated.

5.3 Accounting for contamination

We re-estimate the impacts of CFL treatment on household electricity consumption, accounting for potential contamination within the transformer. We employ the following difference-in-differences specification:⁴⁸

$$q_{igt} = \tau Treat_{ig} * Post_t + \beta Post_t + \delta Treat_{ig} + \theta C_{ig} * Post_t + \phi C_{ig} + \alpha X_{ig} + \gamma_t + \lambda_{ig} + \epsilon_{igt} \quad (2)$$

where q_{igt} is our outcome of interest for household i located in transformer group g ; $Treat_{ig}$ indicates the treatment status of household i in transformer group g ; C_{ig} indicates if the household i is a control household in a treated transformer group; and X_{ig} is a vector of variables, additionally including the number of houses served by a particular transformer.

As before, τ is an estimate of the average impact of the CFL treatment on household monthly electricity consumption; and the new coefficient θ estimates the average impact on control households in treated transformers. Importantly, the omitted group in these regressions is now a “pure control”, in that it only includes control households that are located in control transformers.

The results presented in Table 1, Columns 2 and 3, indicate that the CFL treatment led to a reduction in household electricity consumption of 30 kWh per month. The coefficients are significant regardless of the level at which standard errors are clustered. Accounting for potential contamination within transformer, the estimated impacts are statistically and substantially larger than basic estimates in Column 1, and comparable to the expected engineering reductions.

We replicate the previous analysis, but this time separately for each season.⁴⁹ Appendix

⁴⁸We account for the potential within-transformer contamination in a fashion similar to Gine and Mansuri (2011) and Banerjee et al. (2014).

⁴⁹We divide the months according to the electricity utility’s seasonal definitions, with the winter heating months including November, December, January, and February.

Table 4 shows that the only season in which the impacts of treatment are of the magnitude expected and statistically significant is in the spring/fall. Impacts in the winter and summer seasons are far smaller than expected and insignificant.⁵⁰ These findings suggest a technological externality, by which households in higher intensity treatment transformers consume more electricity due to fewer electricity outages in the winter. Winter is when unplanned outages most frequently occur, as peak electricity demand is quite high. CFLs have the potential to reduce electricity consumption, but they also have the potential to reduce outages in winter (more than any other season). If households have more reliable electricity service (fewer outages) in the winter, then they will be able to consume more electricity services and we would not see the expected reduction in electricity consumption. Potential technological externalities could indeed account for heterogeneity in impacts across seasons.

In summary, contamination of control households may be biasing downwards the basic impact estimates. That we see a significant reduction in electricity consumption among control households in treated transformers suggests that spillovers in CFL take-up may be biasing downwards the basic impact estimates. Potential technological externalities due to an aggregate effect on electricity reliability at the transformer level may also contribute to the miss-estimation of impacts. We look more into these and other possible mechanisms in Section 7. Next, we analyze the impacts of CFL treatment at the transformer level.

6 The impacts of energy efficient lighting on aggregate electricity loads

6.1 Bench-marking and previewing aggregate impacts

As in many developing countries, in the Kyrgyz Republic outages are most frequently the result of overloads within the distribution system. Overloads typically occur during peak times and are more common in the winter, particularly in the winter evenings, when household energy demand is greatest.

We perform a back-of-the-envelope calculation of the peak load reduction induced by the CFL treatment. Switching 4 incandescent lightbulbs to CFLs could save 60 kWh per month,

⁵⁰Based on our ex-ante calculations of the expected electricity savings, we believed that electricity consumption reductions would be greatest in the winter (followed by fall/spring and then summer).

which is 10% of a 600 kWh household monthly bill. However, lighting is disproportionately used “on peak”. Therefore, the resulting reduction is actually 21% of the household peak load demand.⁵¹ For a transformer with about 20% of all households treated, this would equal approximately a 4% reduction in transformer peak load.⁵²

Using household survey data on the number of days without electricity (due to outage) during the month prior, we provide suggestive evidence of an aggregate impact of transformer-level treatment on unplanned outages.⁵³ In Figure 4, we plot the reported outages at follow-up by treatment group. As shown, the distribution of reported outages among households in treated transformers is shifted leftward (towards zero outages) in comparison to the graphed responses of households in the control transformers. This figure motivates the regression analysis that follows.

6.2 Estimating aggregate impacts

We use the transformer-level randomization to estimate the impact on reported unplanned electricity outages using the following equation:

$$O_{ig} = \pi H_{ig} + \rho L_{ig} + \beta Treat_{ig} + \eta X_{ig} + \epsilon_{ig} \quad (3)$$

where O_{ig} is the number of days without electricity due to outages in the month prior to the follow-up survey as reported by household i in transformer g ; H_{ig} indicates if household i is in a higher-saturation transformer, with between 15 to 18 percent of all households assigned to treatment; L_{ig} indicates whether household i is in a lower-saturation transformer, with between 10 to 14 percent of households assigned to treatment;⁵⁴ $Treat_{ig}$ remains the household’s own treatment status; and X_g is a vector of transformer-level controls. Standard

⁵¹According to the utility, times of peak demand are between 6 to 9 am and 6 to 10 pm. The calculation assumes a reduction of peak demand of 1.5 kW peak, and switching from 100 W incandescent bulbs to 21 W CFLs (Appendix Calculation 3).

⁵²We “ground-truth” these results by discussing them with our utility collaborators. Engineers indicated that this would be a substantial reduction in peak demand and would very likely reduce transformer outages.

⁵³The follow-up survey occurred in March and April 2014, so the months in which we are measuring days without electricity due to outage include February and March.

⁵⁴In higher (lower) saturation transformers, 80% (60%) of study households were assigned to treatment. There is heterogeneity in the number of households across transformers, and we sampled 20% of all households within each transformer to include them in the study. Therefore, the randomized study saturation proportions result in between 15 to 18 (10 to 14) percent of all households in high (low) saturation transformers actually receiving the CFL treatment

errors are clustered at the transformer level.⁵⁵ We also perform the standard error correction for multiple hypothesis testing developed by List, Shaikh and Xu (2016).

Results in Table 2 indicate that the energy efficient technology led to an aggregate impact in the form of improved reliability. Table 2, Column 1, shows the basic results at the transformer level, given by π and ρ in the equation above. We see between one and two fewer days without electricity in both the low and high saturation transformers, respectively. However, the reduction in days without electricity due to outages is only statistically significant for households in the high saturation treatment transformers. They report approximately half as many days of outages (two in comparison to four) as households in control transformers. The estimates are robust to including a suite of different transformer-level controls, most important of which are the number of households within the transformer and the baseline number of outages reported. The difference in outage-days reductions between households in high and low saturation transformers (two versus one) is also statistically significant.

Table 2, Column 2, controls for the reporting household’s own treatment status. High saturation transformers have more treatment households (by definition), so we may worry that those households have an incentive to report fewer outages. Accounting for individual household treatment status shows that such possibility is not a concern. The estimates remain the same as the basic impacts, suggesting that differences in reporting between treated and control households are not driving results.

6.3 Evidence of technological externality

We re-estimate the impacts of CFL treatment on household electricity consumption, this time breaking up the analysis by whether the household is in a higher or lower treatment saturation transformer. Importantly, these estimations still use variation induced by the randomized saturation process. Results shown in Table 3 indicate a difference between the transformers with lower and higher intensities of treatment in the extent to which a technological externality is created. These results are consistent with our working definition of a technological externality, in that the more individuals that take up the technology, the

⁵⁵We can and have also run these regressions collapsing to the transformer level and using the average reported outages per transformer. In doing so, we get similar results; however, in using the transformer level average, we lose our ability to control for the respondent household’s own treatment status.

greater are the returns to the technology.⁵⁶

The intuition is simple. In higher saturation transformers, the households that take up CFLs generate a reduction in aggregate demand load substantial enough to significantly decrease the number of days without electricity due to outages. Therefore, treated households attain smaller reductions in electricity consumption. Although they use fewer Kw per hour of electricity consumed (due to the greater energy efficiency of CFL technologies), they can consume more hours of electricity (due to the greater electricity reliability induced by the take-up of CFLs). In contrast, in the lower saturation transformers, treated households attain much larger overall electricity savings. The households' take-up of the CFLs reduces to some extent the aggregate load, but its impact in the number of outage-days is insignificant.

In summary, when a large enough proportion of households take up the CFLs, an aggregate effect is possible and, if substantial enough, it may induce a technological externality in the form of a reduction in electricity outages. This increased electricity reliability is experienced by all households served by the impacted transformer, regardless of whether they themselves are treated or control households. When controlling for this potential externality, the CFLs exert a significant reduction in household electricity consumption that is of a similar magnitude to that which is technologically feasible. This is the case of the coefficient on the treated households in low-saturation transformers, which do not experience changes in outage-days.

7 Additional checks and supporting evidence

7.1 Evidence of spillovers in CFL take-up

As discussed in Section 5.3, control households located close to a treated household were likely to experience spillovers, and this contamination may have biased the measurement of the CFL treatment impacts on electricity consumption.⁵⁷ To test whether there are indeed spillovers in CFL take-up following the intervention, we estimate the impact of our intervention on

⁵⁶We think of this as an analogy to children within a school being vaccinated against a disease, such as measles. Vaccinated children provide a positive externality to non-vaccinated children. With each additional child vaccinated, the probability of a measles outbreak within the school is reduced; however, the proportion of children within the school that are vaccinated must surpass some threshold in order for the school community to achieve herd immunity.

⁵⁷Our definition of closeness between households is a distance measure of geographical proximity. As discussed in Breza (2015), a number of studies have used geographical proximity to measure spillovers, including Dupas (2014), Godlonton and Thornton (2012), and Cohen, Dupas and Schaner (2015).

the number of CFLs in a house at the follow-up survey, controlling for the number of CFLs distributed to the households at baseline. We utilize the spatial variation in exposure of control households to close treated neighbors induced by the two-stage randomization to account for potential peer effects in technology adoption as follows:

$$Y_{ig} = \beta Treat_{ig} + \theta C_{id} + \rho N_d + \theta X_{ig} + \epsilon_{ig} \quad (4)$$

where the new term C_{ig} is an indicator for whether the household i is a control household with at least one treated household within 100 meters from the house; N_d is the total number of households within 100 meters from the house;⁵⁸ and X_{ig} is a vector of controls, including the number of CFLs the household received from our project at baseline. Standard errors are clustered at the transformer level.

Table 4 reports the estimated impacts on CFL adoption at the follow-up. Column 1 uses the basic specification from Eq. 1. As before, these results are expected to be biased because the omitted group comprises all control households and some of them are potentially contaminated by spillovers. Column 2 shows results from Eq. 4, which accounts for spillovers by controlling for whether a control household is within 100 meters from any treated household; and Column 3 mirrors the alternative specification given by Eq. 2, which corrects for contamination by including a dummy variable for control households in treated transformers. Their corresponding omitted groups are detailed at the bottom of each column.

Results from Columns 2 and 3 are similar, as they should be, given that households within the same transformer are in close proximity spatially.⁵⁹ Both treated and control households have an average of half an additional CFL at follow-up, controlling for the CFLs distributed by our intervention. This result contrasts with the basic specification’s much smaller and insignificant estimated impact, making clear that spillovers also bias the basic estimates of the effect on later take-up. Interestingly, the correct estimated impacts suggest that treatment households likely purchased CFLs themselves between baseline and follow-up, in addition to those they had received from our project. The correct estimates also indicate that, indeed, there is a positive and statistically significant relationship between being close

⁵⁸We consider a control household to be “close” if the entrance is within 100 meters of a treated household. We choose 100 meters as the cutoff, as some prior analyses of peer effects on a number of outcomes variables had suggested that this distance was an important cutoff, past which the effect dissipates.

⁵⁹This reassures that the impacts on household electricity consumption reported in Table 1, Columns 2 and 3, are well estimated.

to a treated household and the number of CFLs that household has at follow-up.

7.2 Checks of aggregate reliability effects

To ensure that in Section 6.2 we are indeed measuring a local aggregate reliability effect, we perform two checks.

First, we calculate the intra-cluster correlation in the number of reported outages at follow-up. We have argued that intense saturation of treatment households within a transformer is causing a reduction in outages at the transformer-level. Then, household reported outages should be correlated with other household responses within the transformer. Our calculation indicates a intra-class correlation of 0.56, which means that responses within transformers are indeed highly correlated.⁶⁰

Second, we consider the estimated reduction in outages in conjunction with the difference between the expected and the estimated reductions in household electricity consumption to confirm that our series of results tell a consistent story. We make this comparison for the winter months, as that is the season for which we collected outage data.⁶¹ In Section 5, we expected a reduction in households' winter electricity consumption of approximately 42 kWh per month (Appendix Table 3). However, what we actually estimated was a winter reduction in electricity consumption of approximately 26 kWh per month (Appendix Table 4). This is a difference of 16 kWh per month, which is equivalent to approximately 14.4 hours of additional electricity consumption. In Section 6, we found the aggregate impacts of these electricity savings to be two fewer days without electricity per month due to unplanned outages. In conjunction with the previous result, this would mean two outages of approximately seven hours in duration each. This is very reasonable and assures us of the consistency across results.⁶²

⁶⁰Responses won't be perfectly correlated with one another, as households in a transformer were surveyed on different dates and therefore the reference point of "past month" differs across households within a transformer.

⁶¹Winter is when outages are most prevalent and therefore when we would expect to see an aggregate reliability impact, if one occurs.

⁶²Anecdotal evidence from both consumers and the utility indicate that outages can last between a few hours to a few days, depending on the repair required following the transformer overload.

7.3 Evidence on alternative mechanisms

Although we cannot perform a direct test to rule out the possibility of a rebound, a number of analyses are inconsistent with a direct or indirect rebound in electricity consumption. For instance, in Figure 3 we provided an event-study graph of the impacts on electricity consumption by season. We found that following a winter spike, savings in electricity consumption returned to the expected amount in the spring.⁶³ If there were a rebound, a persistent change in behavior would be expected, and a reversal in the spring would have been unlikely. Furthermore, using our detailed baseline and follow-up survey data, we can test for impacts of treatment on appliance ownership and average monthly and daily use (results not shown).⁶⁴ We found no effects of treatment on lightbulb use (which would be the measure of a direct rebound) and only one significant effect of treatment on use of any household appliances (which would be a measure of an indirect rebound). In fact, treatment households were significantly less likely to report using electric heaters at follow-up. If anything, this finding is evidence counter to a rebound effect.

7.4 External validity

We implemented a randomized saturation design to study the impact of energy efficient lightbulbs on household electricity consumption and local electricity reliability in a lower-middle-income developing country. A policy-relevant question that guides our thinking about external validity is to what extent our results are location-specific or technology-specific.

A feature of this study’s setting, the Kyrgyz Republic, is that essentially all households are electrified, formally connected to the network and metered individually. We believe that research in this context does not harm the external validity of our study, rather it just helps with the internal validity. It has the additional benefit of ensuring that we are not just studying the responses of the richest households. The Kyrgyz Republic also has an extensive electricity generation and distribution infrastructure. However, similar to other developing countries, the Kyrgyz Republic has a problem of insufficient infrastructure capacity relative

⁶³This is also supported by the regression results by season in Appendix Table 4.

⁶⁴In both survey rounds we ask a number questions regarding the household use of appliances, including (1) “On average, how many days per month do you use [the appliance]?” (2) “On average, how many hours per day does your HH use [the appliance]?” Important to note, these specific survey questions are asking about average use in the a month and in a day. In contrast, our survey question on outages asks about “the past month.” For this reason, that we find no impacts on the use of lightbulbs is not inconsistent with our aggregate reliability results.

to demand. Constraints in the distribution system, more frequently than other factors limiting generation capacity, are a source of unplanned outages in developing countries. Thus, electricity reliability is largely driven by congestion within the electricity distribution network. Aggregate electricity demand relative to infrastructure capacity, not infrastructure alone, determines the probability of system overload, which results in unplanned outages. As such, we believe this work is relevant to many developing countries in which demand for electricity is either currently pushing the capacity of the current infrastructure or is rapidly increasing such that we expect the constraint to be binding in the near future.

Our study setting is also unique in that it allows us to generate aggregate reliability effects and observe technological externalities with relatively low treatment saturation. However, the point we are making is not that at some particular saturation of energy efficiency, technological externalities can be induced. Rather, we illustrate that these externalities are possible to generate and that they are crucial in understanding the welfare implications of such energy efficiency programs. Although similarly low saturation levels in other settings may not induce such effects, their existence should not be ruled out. Instead, we should ask how high the saturation ought to be to generate such aggregate effects and externalities. The answer will depend on many factors, including the expected technologically feasible impact of the technology distributed, the type of aggregate impact a program should induce, the capacity of the electricity infrastructure, the number of consumers the infrastructure serves, etc. Given a variety of factors, a program might need a higher or lower saturation to achieve aggregate effects and technological externalities. They may not be limited to a reduction in outages, but may take other forms such as reductions in prices due to lower peak loads.

Although deployment of CFL technologies in higher income countries may not have similar impacts, we believe our findings are not just specific to energy efficient lighting or developing countries. In developing countries, lighting comprises a substantial portion of electricity consumption for many households. For this reason, an energy efficient lighting intervention can reduce a household's electricity bill by a substantial proportion. In wealthier settings, such as the United States and other developed countries, where households own a greater number of electricity-using durables, introducing energy efficient lighting would likely result in a smaller reduction in the electricity bill proportional to the total. In such settings, a program wishing to induce an aggregate impact may need to focus on a technology that accounts for a larger proportion of the electricity bill.

8 Conclusions

Through an experiment with a randomized saturation design, we provide several substantial contributions to the literatures on energy efficiency, electrification, and electricity reliability. We show that energy efficient lightbulbs can indeed lead to significant reductions in electricity consumption. We find that controlling for spillovers is critical, suggesting that some estimates of energy efficiency that do not account for such spillovers may be downward biased.

In addition, we show that the energy efficient technology, when taken up at a high enough saturation levels, can have a local aggregate reliability effect, in the form of fewer days without electricity due to outages at the transformer level. By improving electricity service reliability, the energy efficient technology becomes more valuable; households can use the CFL for more hours when the electricity service is more reliable (i.e. providing electricity for more hours per month at a lower cost than traditional lightbulbs). This is a classic example of a technological externality, through which the returns to a particular technology are increasing with the number of other adopters. The results in both Table 1 and those in Appendix Table 4 highlight ways in which estimates of the effects of energy efficiency could be biased, if we do not account for spillovers in take-up, potential externalities, and heterogeneity in impacts across seasons.

Our study also highlights that an increase in consumption following the introduction of CFLs is a welfare improvement, not a sign of ineffective technology. Other technologies inducing positive externalities may create incentives for households to free-ride on the adoption by others. We show that in this case, in which the aggregate effect increases the returns to the technology, the externality may ameliorate (or even offset) the incentive to free-ride. Thinking about this interaction between technological externalities and incentivizing adoption is important for both policy design and the development of new technologies.

As a result of this analysis, we can perform several variations of cost-benefit analyses both with and without accounting for the aggregate benefits of improved electricity service reliability. These calculations, shown in Appendix Calculation 4, demonstrate that accounting for externalities in the welfare calculations is crucial. Benefit calculations that include both reductions in electricity consumption and increased electricity services are more than double the estimated benefits from electricity savings alone in the first year post-adoption (approximately \$15 in estimated benefits instead of \$7). The benefits in year 1 of the program are

substantially larger than the upfront cost of purchasing and distributing the CFLs (approximately \$9 per household). These simple calculations provide a lower bound estimate of benefits from such energy efficiency distribution programs, given they do not account for other benefits, such as pollution reductions. An energy efficiency distribution program, such as ours, looks much more favorable after making this correction.

Finally, the paper provides a novel application of a randomized saturation design at a policy-relevant and technologically meaningful scale. In doing so, we demonstrate the usefulness of such a design to inform our understanding of aggregate impacts and technological externalities from various interventions. This methodology can be applied to study other topics for which decomposing private returns and technological externalities is important in measuring the impacts of technology adoption and choosing between various policy options or program subsidy levels.

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Figure 1: Randomized saturation process

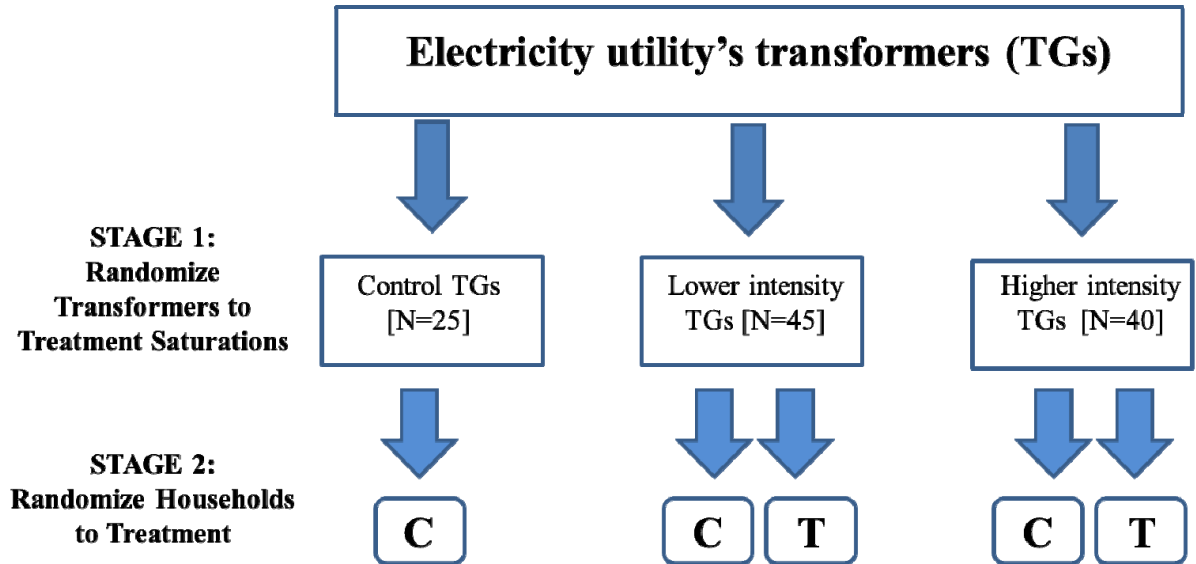


Figure 2: Stylized example of randomized saturation design

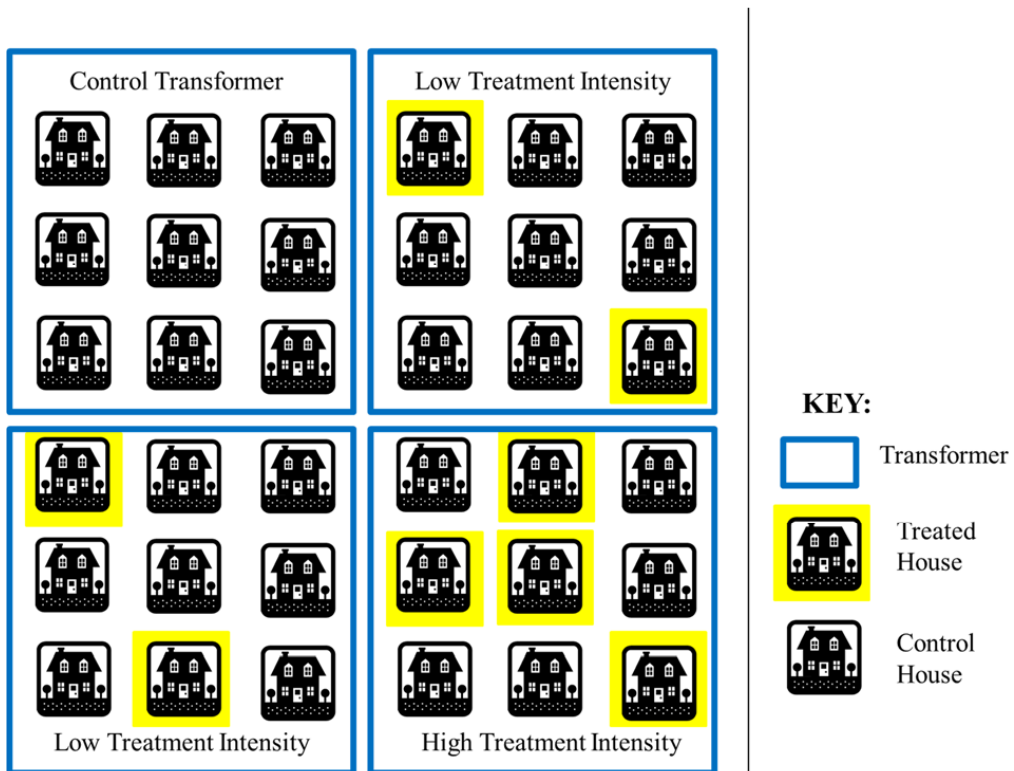
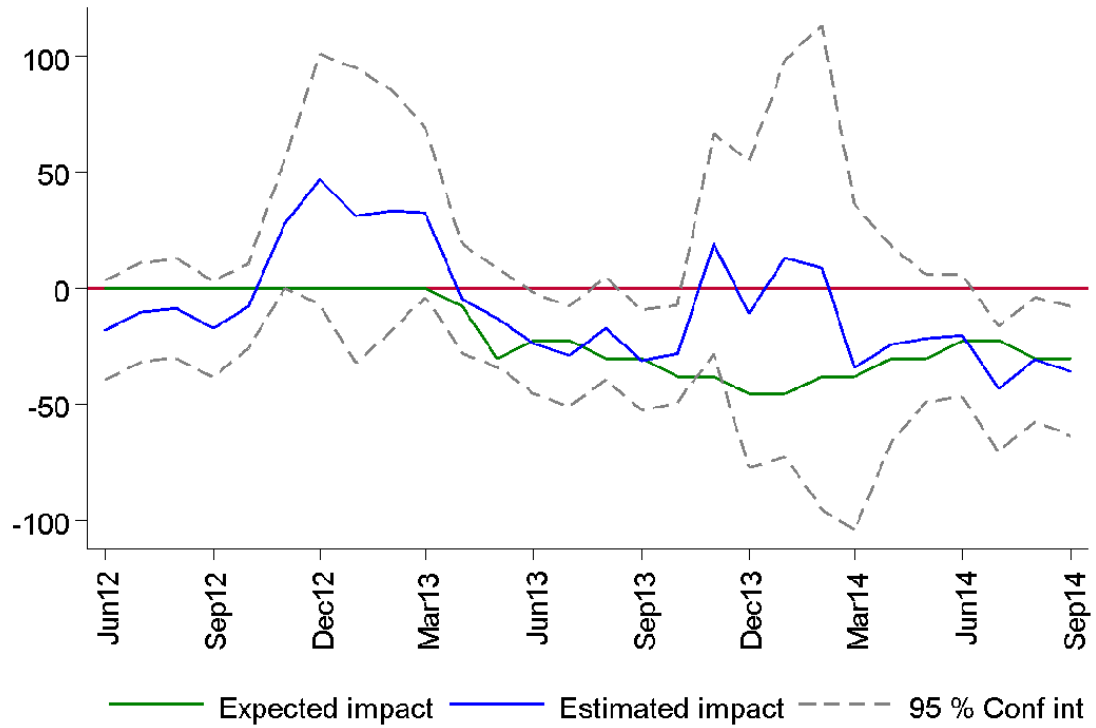


Figure 3: Predicted and actual electricity reductions (kWh per month)



Notes: Distribution of CFLs began in March 2013, so by design the expected impacts are zero up until that time.

Table 1: Impacts of CFL treatment on household electricity consumption

Dependent Variable: Monthly Household Electricity Consumption (kWh)			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Treated*post	-16.269* (8.803)	-29.949*** (11.399)	-29.949*** (10.434)
Control in treated TG*post		-25.086** (12.579)	-25.086** (12.384)
Omitted group	All control houses	Houses in Control TGs	Houses in Control TGs
Std error cluster level	Household	Household	Transformer
Households	899	899	899
Observations	31,143	31,143	31,143

Notes: Results are intent-to-treat. All regressions include month-by-year fixed effects, household fixed effects, and controls for heating degree days, number of days in monthly billing period, whether the household uses electricity for heating, and dummy variables for Treated and Post. Columns 2 and 3 also include a dummy variable for being a control household in a treated transformer. Each month drops the top 1% of observations with respect to electricity use. All regressions drop households that moved during period between intervention and follow-up survey (101 households). "TG" is the abbreviation for transformer group. Standard errors are in parentheses, with * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; and *** significant at 1% level.

Figure 4: Number of days without electricity, by transformer-level treatment status

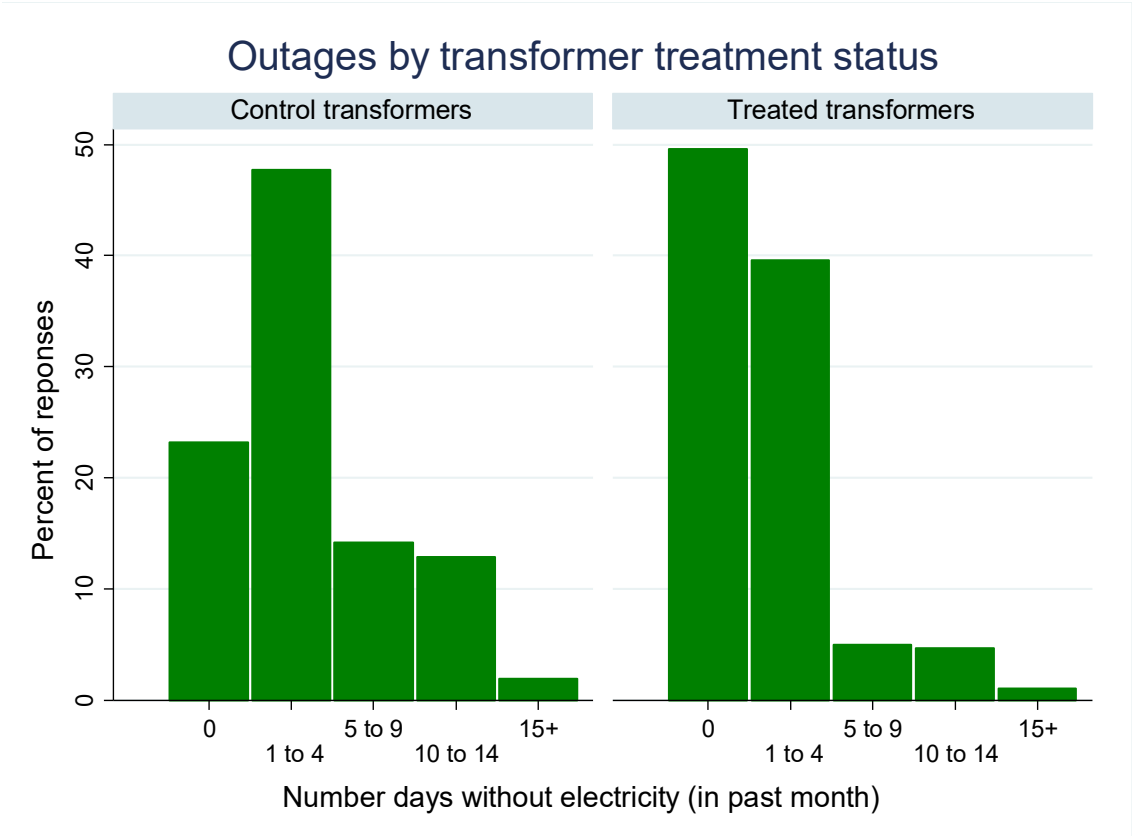


Table 2: Technological externalities: improved electricity reliability

Dependent Variable: Number of Days Without Electricity (in past month)		
	(1)	(2)
TG low saturation	-1.321 (0.851) [0.433]	-1.164 (0.868) [0.434]
TG high saturation	-1.866** (0.812) [0.000]	-2.162*** (0.822) [0.000]
Household treatment status controls	No	Yes
Constant	3.810*** (0.836)	3.811*** (0.838)
p-value: TG low = TG high	0.228	0.047
Observations	838	838
R-squared	0.051	0.053

Notes: "TG low" is a dummy variable that equals 1 if 10 to 14 percent of households in a transformer were assigned to treatment. "TG high" is a dummy variable that equals 1 if 15 to 18 percent of households in a transformer were assigned to treatment. Omitted group is comprised of households in control TGs. All columns control for the number of households in the transformer. The "Household treatment status controls" are separate binary indicators that equal one for treated households. Standard errors are clustered at the transformer level and shown in parantheses, with * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; and *** significant at 1% level. P-values accounting for multiple-hypothesis testing (List, Shaikh, and Xu, 2015) are shown in brackets.

Table 3: Technological externalities: heterogeneous impacts by transformer treatment saturation

Dependent Variable: Monthly Household Electricity Consumption (kWh)		
	(1)	(2)
Treated household in TG low * Post	-42.798*** (12.025)	-41.392*** (13.320)
Treated household in TG high * Post	-22.269* (11.911)	-20.337 (13.752)
Control household in TG low * Post	-42.986*** (13.713)	-50.243*** (13.769)
Control household in TG high * Post	13.014 (16.355)	21.283 (17.893)
Controls for reported outages	No	Yes
Omitted group	Houses in Control Transformers	Houses in Control Transformers
Observations: households	31,143	26,043

Notes: The omitted group is comprised of houses in control transformers. "TG low" is a dummy variable that equals 1 if 10 to 14 percent of households in a transformer were assigned to treatment. "TG high" is a dummy variable that equals 1 if 15 to 18 percent of households in a transformer were assigned to treatment. All regressions include time fixed effects, household fixed effects, and controls for heating degree days, number of days in monthly billing period, and the use of electric heater. Each month drops the top 1% of observations with respect to electricity use. All regressions drop households that moved during period between intervention and follow-up survey (101 households). Standard errors are clustered at the transformer level, with * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; and *** significant at 1% level.

Table 4: Spillovers: CFL stock at follow-up

Dependent Variable: Number of CFLs at Follow-up			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Treat	0.185 (0.174)	0.442** (0.212)	0.479** (0.219)
C close to Treat		0.458** (0.207)	
Control in treated TG			0.502** (0.205)
Constant	0.617*** (0.187)	0.365* (0.204)	0.332* (0.199)
R-squared	0.012	0.013	0.012
Omitted group	All controls	Controls far from T	Controls in control TGs
Observations	834	834	834

Notes: All specifications control for the total number of households in the transformer and the number of CFLs received at baseline through the project. A "C close to Treat" is an indicator for a control household located < 100 meters from treated household. "Controls far from T" are control households location > 100 meters from a treated household. Standard errors are clustered at the transformer level, with * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; and *** significant at 1% level.

Appendix: For on-line publication

Appendix Table 1: Transformer-level randomization check

	Number of Transformers	Control Transformer	Lower Transformer (<=14%)	Higher Transformer (>14%)	Joint F tests (p-value)		
					Control = Low	Control = High	Low = High
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Panel A: Household-level							
HH head completed secondary school	111	0.8	0.88	0.74	0.415	0.572	0.111
Household income (Kyrgyz soms)	111	13107.08	12647.62	13285.47	0.842	0.938	0.748
Own house	111	0.88	0.95	0.84	0.380	0.602	0.105
Private house	111	0.88	0.83	0.74	0.649	0.185	0.312
Number of rooms	111	4.32	4.50	4.14	0.584	0.582	0.203
Lightbulbs in house	111	6.36	6.21	6.23	0.831	0.851	0.975
Panel B: Transformer-level							
Years since last maintenance	102	3.38	3.03	3.90	0.568	0.385	0.101
Total # of households	110	51.80	63.12	47.58	0.126	0.565	0.015
Total # of households with 3 phase meter	110	12.92	15.36	15.81	0.324	0.240	0.829
Proportion of HH with 3 phase meter	110	0.28	0.28	0.34	0.951	0.102	0.068

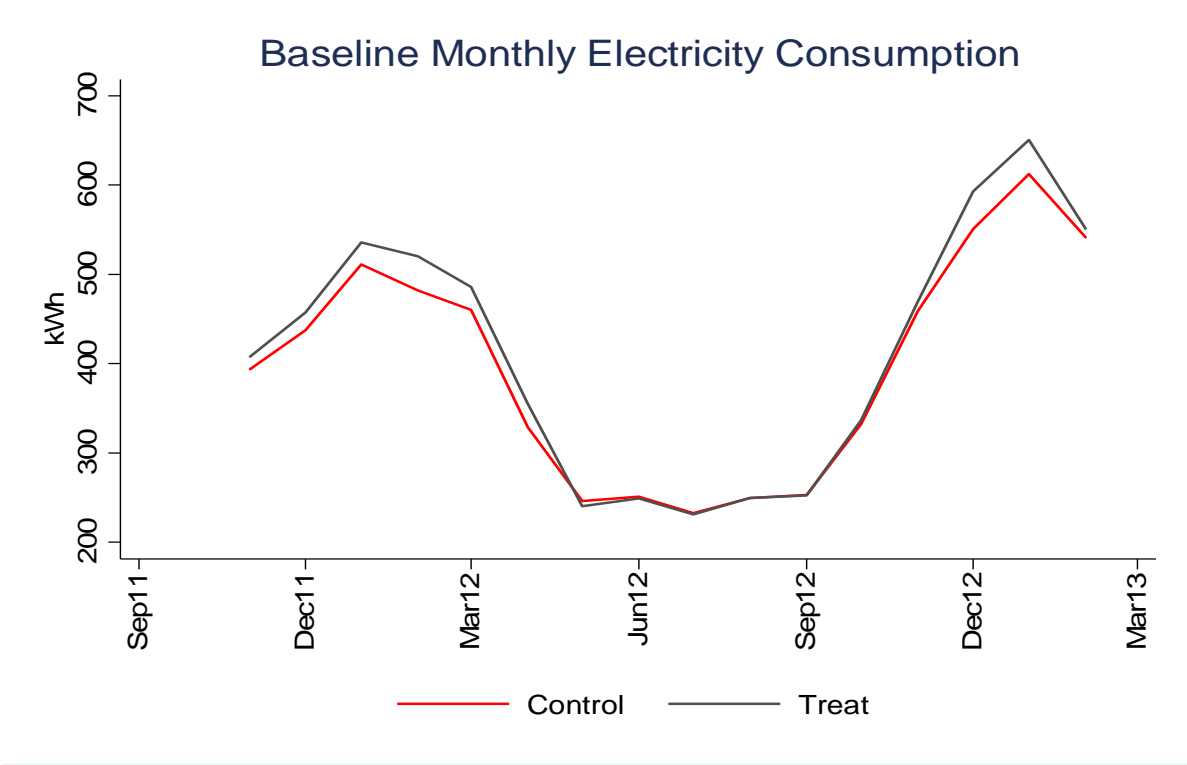
Notes: Panel A calculated using responses from the baseline household survey. 20% of all households in a transformer were surveyed at baseline. These household responses were then used to create transformer-level averages. Panel B is calculated using transformer-specific data provided by the electricity utility. Exchange rate in March 2013 was 1 USD = 48 KGS.

Appendix Table 2: Household-level randomization check

	All	Control	Treatment	Joint F tests (p-value)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>General characteristics</i>				
Household head completed secondary school	0.840	0.867	0.818	0.090
Household income past month (KGS)	10900	11463	10427	0.138
Household income past month per capita (KGS/person)	3668	3740	3608	0.603
Owner-occupied house	0.912	0.919	0.906	0.506
Number of people living in the home	3.6	3.7	3.5	0.218
Time at address (months)	203	201	204.137	0.789
<i>Housing characteristics</i>				
Single-family dwelling	0.793	0.829	0.762	0.053
Number of rooms	4.302	4.245	4.35	0.409
Home made from brick	0.535	0.569	0.507	0.100
Floors that are wood	0.877	0.864	0.887	0.388
Age of dwelling (years)	41.29	41.27	41.30	0.987
Electricity meter for single house	0.991	0.993	0.989	0.546
<i>Electricity consumption practices</i>				
Total number of appliances	8.393	8.578	8.238	0.210
Lighting hours per day	17.5	17.9	17.2	0.643
Think about saving electricity	0.946	0.934	0.955	0.500
Do something to save electricity	0.86	0.829	0.885	0.185
Total light bulbs in house	6.2	6.5	6.0	0.128
Total incandescent bulb in house	6.1	6.3	5.8	0.177
Believe CFL use less energy	0.305	0.319	0.292	0.436
Rooms heated in winter	3.14	3.12	3.15	0.764
Days without electricity in the past month	1.66	1.58	1.75	0.338
Number of households	1000	457	543	

Note: In March 2013, the exchange was 1USD = 48 KGS. For these calculations, the winter months include November through February and summer months include May through August. Baseline surveys were implemented in the late spring and early summer.

Appendix Figure 1: Seasonality of electricity consumption pre-treatment



Appendix Calculation 1: Number of residential buildings

To control for the total number of households within various radii of distances from project households, we use spatial data on residential building locations available through OpenStreetMap.org. The ArcGIS building layer for the Kyrgyz Republic was downloaded from OpenStreetMap in March 2015. We calculate the total number of residential buildings within radii of project households. Radii were of the following sizes: 100 meters, 200 meters, 300 meters, and 400 meters.

The following building types are considered residential for the calculation: residential, house, farm, dormitory, and apartment. Industrial and commercial buildings were omitted from the residential building count. ArcGIS aerial photographs were used to cross-check the building counts and also to manually add building polygons in areas not completely covered in data from OpenStreetMap.

Calculations needed to account for multi-family buildings, which are prevalent in the study district. Buildings were defined to be multi-family residential buildings if (1) the building polygon has an area of 369 square meters or more or (2) at least one side of the building is longer than 19.4 meters. These thresholds were made based on a random sampling of buildings and visual interpretation of the images. Fortunately for variable construction, essentially all multi-family residential buildings in this region were constructed during the Soviet Union and were built according to very standardized specifications. This permits us to make several assumptions regarding the number of households per building. We assume these multi-family buildings have 5 floors each and that each stairwell has 3 units per floor. The number of stairwells assumed depends on the size of the building.

Appendix Calculation 2: Technologically feasible electricity savings from CFLs

The expected technologically feasible electricity savings from the treatment can be calculated through the following equation:

$$\text{Expected electricity savings/month} = \# \text{ Incandescent bulbs replaced with CFLs} * (\text{CFL wattage} - \text{Incandescent wattage}) * (\# \text{ hours Incandescent bulbs used per day}) * (\text{days in a monthly billing period})$$

We calculate the technological feasible electricity savings using data from the project pilot in Fall 2012, the baseline survey in Spring 2013, and the intervention through which CFLs were distributed. On average, treatment households received 3.2 CFLs through the intervention.

We know from piloting exercises and the baseline survey data that 100 watt incandescent bulbs were most common in households prior to the intervention. We selected 21 watt CFL bulbs as replacements because they were rated to be 100 watt equivalent bulbs. Therefore we know that typical household in our treated group is shifting from 100 watt to 21 watt bulbs.

The calculations on lightbulb usage employ data on the self-reported hours of lighting use at baseline. Estimates of hours of lighting use throughout the year are extrapolated using data on the timing of sunrise and sunset in the region. These predictions assume behavior with respect to lighting and other electricity uses remain constant after the intervention, which is consistent with our results comparing various behaviors at baseline and follow-up.

These calculations of the expected impacts on electricity consumption are shown in the table below. Based on these data, electricity consumption is estimated to decrease by between 26 kWh per month (summer) and 42 kWh per month (winter). The percent by which the electricity bill is expected to decrease in each season is also calculated.

Appendix Table 3: Expected impacts on electricity consumption

Assumptions	Winter scenario	Spring/Fall	Summer scenario
Average number of light bulbs replaced	3.2	3.2	3.2
Incandescent wattage	100	100	100
CFL wattage	21	21	21
Average hours per use per day	5.5	4.5	3.5
Average monthly bill (kWh)	586	340	245
Prop bill in lighting baseline	0.090	0.127	0.137
Expected CFL savings (kWh)	41.712	34.128	26.544
Expected reduction in bill (no rebound)	7.1%	10.0%	10.8%

Notes: These calculations are for an estimated scenario. For these calculations, the winter months include November through February; spring/fall months include March, April, September, and October; and summer months include May through August. Average number of light bulbs replaced is based on the actual numbers of CFLs distributed on average through the intervention. Average hours of use per day are calculated using the baseline survey data and data on sunrise and sunset to estimate for the rest of the year. CFL wattage is the actual wattage for the light bulbs that were distributed. Incandescent wattage is the typical wattage found in households at the time of the baseline survey. Calculations are assuming an average of 30 days per month. Average monthly electricity bill is calculated using baseline electricity use amongst households in our sample during the year prior to the intervention.

Appendix Table 4: Impacts of treatment on household electricity consumption by season

	(1) Winter Electricity consumption (kWh)	(2) Spring/fall Electricity consumption (kWh)	(3) Summer Electricity consumption (kWh)
Treated*post	-25.538 (32.171)	-32.375*** (10.985)	-8.835 (6.672)
Control in treated TG*post	-26.314 (35.203)	-8.373 (13.906)	-12.114 (8.041)
Households	899	899	899
Observations	10680	9784	10679

Notes: The omitted group is comprised of households in control transformers. All regressions include time fixed effects, household fixed effects, and controls for heating degree days, number of days in billing period, and dummy variables for Treated and Post. Columns 2 and 3 also include a dummy variable for being a control household in a treated transformer. Each month drops the top 1% of observations with respect to electricity use. All regressions drop households that moved during period between intervention and follow-up survey (101 households). Standard errors are clustered at the transformer level, with * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; and *** significant at 1% level.

Appendix Calculation 3: Back-of-the-envelope expected peak load reduction

Times of peak demand are in the early morning and in the evening. Lighting is disproportionately “on peak.” To better understand the impact that switching from incandescent bulbs to CFLs could have on peak load, we perform a back-of-the-envelope calculation based on data from our sample and some informed assumptions. The calculation is as follows:

- We assume a household’s winter monthly electricity demand is 630 kWh per month, which is based on data from our sample.
- Dividing this by the number of days per month and number of hours per day, we estimate an average hourly winter electricity demand of .875 kW.
- We assume that peak load is approximately 70% more than average load, which is in line with the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s calculations for peak-to-average electricity demand ratios. Therefore, household peak is 1.49 kW.
- We assume the household has 4 incandescent bulbs (100 W each) that are replaced by CFLs (21 W) used in our project. This change would reduce peak load by 0.32 kW.
- Given our estimated peak demand of 1.49 kW, reducing peak load by 0.32 kW represents a 21% reduction in peak demand for a household.
- For a transformer with 20% of households making this shift to CFLs, this would mean a 4% reduction in peak load for the transformer.

Appendix Calculation 4: Cost-benefit analysis of the CFL program

To understand the welfare implications of such a CFL distribution program, we perform some simple cost-benefit calculations. By using the estimated impacts of CFLs on electricity savings and the aggregated impacts on reliability of electricity services, we are able to demonstrate the implications of performing these welfare calculations both with and without accounting for reliability improvements.

To simplify these calculations, we perform the cost-benefit analysis for the first year of the CFL program. The one-year analysis is sufficient to demonstrate the importance of the reliability impacts for welfare calculations. In addition, this simplification is useful for several reasons, in that we: can use the estimated coming from our experiment, which measures impacts over the course of 18 months following the CFL distribution; avoid having to make assumptions about the life span of the CFLs; do not have to worry about multi-year equilibrium adjustments in consumption; and, finally, we need not make any assumption regarding the discount rates.

Cost calculations

We perform program cost calculations from the perspective of a government entity implementing an energy efficiency program through a door-to-door campaign. These calculations are made based on a CFL distribution program with the design of our experiment: in which CFLs are distributed through individual house visits, at which time information on the benefits of CFL adoption are provided to households. Incandescent bulbs currently in-use at the households are not taken from the households. To encourage households to install the CFLs quickly, the entity distributing the CFLs can remove the packaging at the time of distribution. Although such door-to-door campaigns may be effective at inducing technology take-up, this is one of the more expensive distribution options available. Cheaper distribution programs include ones that distribute coupons at stores or through mailings, which permit households to receive the technology for free or a subsidized price.

In the calculations, we divide costs into two components: the cost of CFL purchase and the cost of distributing the technology through the door-to-door campaign. Calculations are shown in Appendix Table 5. We base these calculations on details from our own experiment, such as the price per CFL, the number of households served by the program, the average number of CFLs distributed per household, etc. These calculations do differ from our ex-

periment in that here we assume the government bears 100% of the program costs. This need not be the case given that we find households are willing to pay a positive price for the CFLs (Meeks, 2016). We can shift the assumptions as to the number of households such a door-to-door campaign can reach per day, but such shifts do not alter the costs substantially.

Benefit calculations

We perform three versions of benefit calculations for such a CFL distribution program, as shown in Appendix Table 6. Important to note, these calculations do not include the value of any reductions in pollution resulting from the CFL adoption.

Version A is our most simplified calculation of average benefits for households in all transformers. This is based on the estimate of electricity consumption impacts from Table 1, Column 2. This estimate does not account for any aggregate impacts in reliability of electricity services and is therefore an underestimate of the benefits. Even so, the benefits per household in the first year are approximately \$1.20 less than the costs per household.

Version B estimates the benefits from the CFLs among households that do not have any changes in reliability of electricity services. These calculations use estimated electricity savings amongst treated households in transformers not experiencing any reliability improvements (see Table 4, Column 1). Here the benefits per treated household in year 1 are greater than the costs per household.

Finally, Version C of the calculation includes the benefits from the CFLs amongst households that experience improvements in the reliability of electricity services. These calculations use the reduction in electricity consumption amongst treated households experiencing reliability improvements (see Table 4, Column 1). Part 2 of these calculations are still likely an underestimate of household benefits given that electricity prices were very low. In this calculation, the benefits per treated household in year 1 are nearing double the costs per household.

Appendix Table 5: Costs of CFL Distribution Program

COSTS FOR CFL DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM		
Part 1: CFL purchase cost		
Average # CFLs distributed	3.2	per household
Cost per CFL	120	KGS
Cost per household	384	KGS
Number of households	543	
Total CFL purchase cost	208512	KGS
Part 2: CFL Distribution cost		
Number of households	543	
Households visited per day	12	
Time to distribute CFLs	45	Days
Cost per workday	467	KGS
Total distribution cost	21132	KGS
Total Program Cost (Purchase+ Distribution):		
Costs	229643.75	KGS
Exchange rate	48.00	KGS = 1 USD
Costs	4784.24	USD
Cost of Program Per Household	\$ 8.81	

Appendix Table 6: Benefits of CFL Distribution Program

BENEFITS OF CFL DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN YEAR 1			
VERSION A: Basic calculations, households in all transformers	VERSION B: Benefits from CFLs, with no reliability change	VERSION C: Benefits from CFLs, with improved reliability	
Uses estimate of kWh reduction from Table 1, Col 2	Uses estimate for Treated households in low saturation transformers from Table 4, Col 1	Uses estimate for Treated households in high saturation transformers from Table 4, Col 1	
Part 1: electricity savings due to CFLs	Part 1: electricity savings due to CFLs	Part 1: electricity savings due to CFLs	
Average monthly savings -30 kWh/month	Average monthly savings (kWh/m -42 kWh/month	Average monthly savings -42 kWh/month	
Savings in a year -360 kWh/year	Savings in a year (kWh/ year) -504 kWh/year	Savings in a year -504 kWh/year	
Price per kWh 0.02 USD	Price per kWh 0.02 USD	Price per kWh 0.02 USD	
Value of savings -7.2 USD	Value of savings -10.08 USD	Value of savings -10.08 USD	
Absolute value of benefits 7.20 USD	Absolute value of benefits 10.08 USD	Absolute value of benefits 10.08 USD	
BENEFITS / HOUSEHOLD \$ 7.20	BENEFITS / HOUSEHOLD \$ 10.08	BENEFITS / HOUSEHOLD \$ 14.88	
		Part 2: additional electricity consumed	
		Additional electricity consumptic 20 kWh/month	
		Additional electricity consumptic 240 kWh/year	
		Price per kWh 0.02 USD	
		Value of additional consumptic 4.8 USD	