- Establishing an 'energy footprint' of French final consumption by type of use and type of household

(Prabodh Pourouchottamin, EDF R&D)

For several years, the strategic and energy forecasting branch of EDF R&D has been working towards a new presentation of energy demand as the present differentiation between business sector and consumers does not allow its full allocation to final demand components.

Indeed, the energy necessary for daily needs is more than directly observable energy consumption such as petrol put in a car or electricity used for heating. It also includes what is called 'grey energy', i.e., energy use during the process of producing goods and services.

This new way of looking at things has major implication for traditional ways of presenting energy consumption. As it turns out, direct energy use by households only accounts for about 30% of all energy use, as opposed to the 70% accounted for by energy embodied in other goods and services that we consume.

Moreover, if one refers to energy demand of a country, this is typically understood to comprise total consumption in the country rather than the energy consumption induced by a country. In the context of economic globalisation, this is not always helpful. The approach developed by EDF R&D takes account of imports and exports.

The work at hand brings together traditional economic statistics with the various energy balances available. The differences in scope and break down between the two data systems as well as the choices for representation in the national accounts render such an exercise difficult.

We are presenting here a first attempt at building up the information base in the most balanced way possible that shows very well how our team needs to build on the know-how of the scientific community of economists/statisticians with a view to validating this statistical tool.