

How Holy Are Your Savings?

Philipp Degens and Diane Ferington, Energy Trust of Oregon

ABSTRACT

Free rider, free driver, spillover, truing up savings based on evaluation, impact evaluations and their impact on program investment return. This topic is provided to evoke a discussion on how seriously efficiency programs respond to evaluation findings and incorporate derating figures. Are original savings for a given measure already incorporating evaluation findings? Once an evaluation is done, what do you do with facts as stated by one organization? What processes or procedures do utilities and other systems benefits administrators undergo in response to evaluation?

How Holy Are Your Savings? Or: The Rise and Fall of Savings

In the beginning, the “Originators” created the idea of “Savings” and the Savings were declared holy. The Savings were ideal savings and clean as the driven snow. The Savings were generated by ideal yet slightly imperfect families, businesses and factories (imperfection is required since perfect market actors would be perfectly energy efficient). The Savings lived amongst people and people regarded them as beautiful and perfect.

However, as time went on, people began to see that, however well intentioned the Originators of the Savings were, the Originators were still human and, therefore, imperfect. The thought came into the people’s minds that how can an imperfect being create a perfect and holy thing like Savings. People began to mistrust and suspect the Savings as they were now sullied with the original sin of the Originators. With this mistrust, unrest came about, and many of the Savings were cast out into the outside world.

In the wilds of the outside world, the dreaded “Realizationrate” lurked. These not so mythical beasts waited patiently for the Savings to walk forth into the world and adjust them in ways unimagined. Onto the Realizationrate’s procrustean bed, the Savings would be placed - often reduced but sometimes increased.

The outside world was the home of many other fearsome creatures and tribes that preyed upon the innocent savings. The ferocious nomadic “Freeriders” roamed the world to the chagrin of many of the Originators, with their fiery swords (a type named “nettogross”). Their nettogross swords often cleaved the Savings - whittling them down. Things were not always dire, as some friendly tribes sheltered the Savings. In some areas, the friendly “Spillovers” and the related “Freedrivers” lived and were strong. In these areas, the Spillovers and Freedrivers often fought the Freeriders to a standstill. The policy charms and incantations made the Spillover and Freedriver warriors strong and formidable. The powerful spirit “Time” also turned against the Savings and sent out its minions the “Survivalrate” and “Deterioratingpreformance” to battle the savings.

During many of the battles on the Savings in the outside world, “Intervener Avatars” often swooped down from the mountaintops on which they dwelled to join in the mortal combat. The Interveners, blinded in their rage, often wounded friend and foe alike. Even when no battles were taking place, the slow-moving and often strange “Controlsamples” also ranged the land.

The lumbering Controlsamples sometimes strengthened the Savings and sometimes chipped away at them.

In certain territories, the weakened Savings often found respite and momentary strength. Shaman “Impactevaluators” communicated in runes, smoke, and visions induced by the fruits of the “Dee’esem cactus” with the powerful PUC spirits and other regulation demigods. Through these visions, the shamans often declared, “The number is 0.8 and thus the number shall be 0.8,” or “the number is 0.3, and thus the number is 0.3”. With prognostication using sticks and broken tortoise shell, the Impactevaluators could forecast the future and the past. The use of “Trueup potions” made the Savings strong for a period of time and, even if they were diminished, they could resist the onslaught of the dreaded beasts and warriors of the energy tribes. Trueup potions allowed Savings to rest, but the administration was often painful. The hangers-on of the Savings - their allies in trade, market partners and associates - often wailed and moaned and gnashed their teeth after they saw how the potion had changed the form of the Savings. One special feature all focused on was the aura of the Savings also known to many as “Costeffectiveness.” Often, after partaking from the Trueup potion, the Savings’ costeffectiveness hue would change from a healthy black to red.

The loss of the Savings’ holy status devastated them. The battles they encountered and the dangers of the hostile outside world nearly decimated the Savings and the programs that nurtured them. However, the Savings persevered in face of these dangers that constantly diminished them and reduced their ranks. The Savings discovered new technologies that would increase their size and found alliances with associated tribes such as the “Nebs.” In other areas, new programs were founded by industrious Savings fostering and transforming markets providing Savings the resources to grow and prosper.

The Savings have never given up hope to return to their honored and holy status. Rumors have filtered in from the human worlds that Savings are on their way to regaining their preeminence and respect. Some humans and even spirits and higher policy avatars feel that the Savings have been unfairly adjusted and cut by the Freerider swords. Other questions that have arisen that may lead to the resurgence of Saving are:

- Have the Savings been cut too much?
- Have the benefits generated by the Savings been falsely attributed to others?
- Should humans not prize the Savings more highly with their alliance to the Nebs?

It may be too early to prognosticate if the Savings will become holy once more. Will they regain their halos and fly up into the sky? The shaman evaluators do not know the answers but will continue to seek answers from visions induced by the fruit of the Dee’esem and their ongoing communications with the spirit worlds and try to see the true nature of Savings.