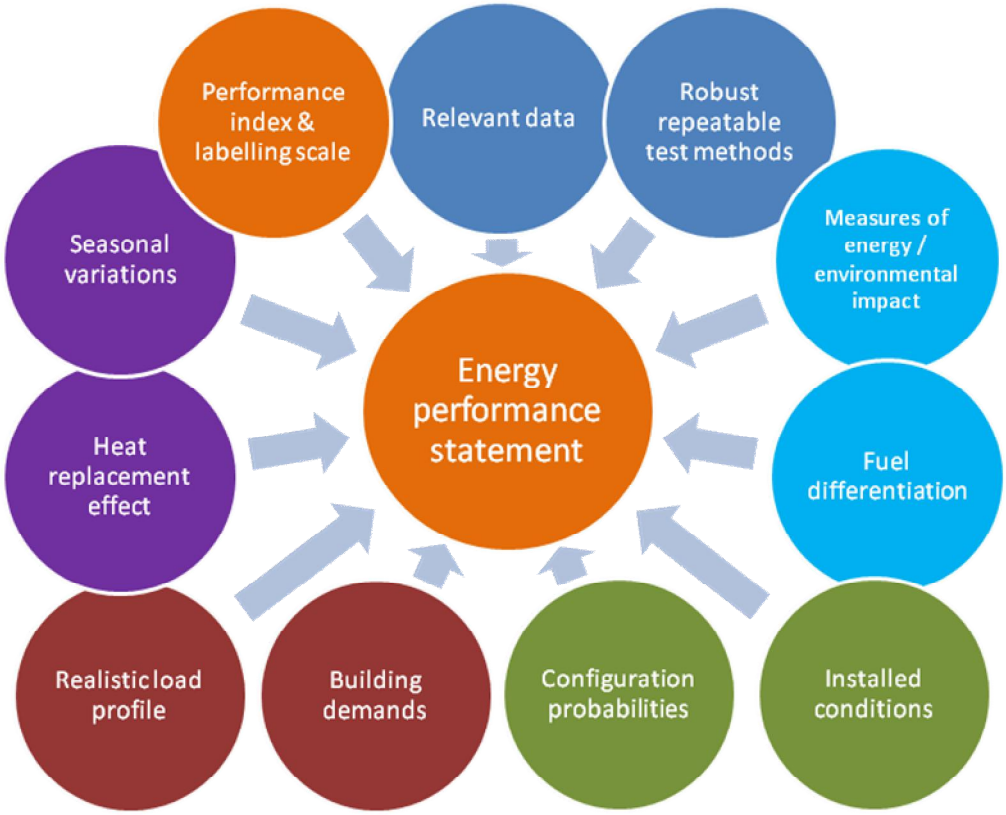


Do energy labels have the capacity to mislead?

Bruce Young – Building Research Establishment, UK



Yes – unless the data and methodology are defined with great care

Many things have to be right to make the energy label relevant and reliable

Obvious ones are the data, tests, performance metrics, methodology

Less obvious are installation conditions and interaction with buildings

The less obvious factors are of critical importance for whole systems, such as heating and cooling

At risk is the purchasing decision: a 'B' product might be better than an 'A' !

The simple measures (efficiency, COP, SPF) are not sufficient for a realistic annual energy assessment

Building and operational data is needed too: a 2-stage process with tables or calculation can combine them with product data

Integration with renewables adds further complexity