

Choice architecture and professional decision-making with energy and environmental outcomes

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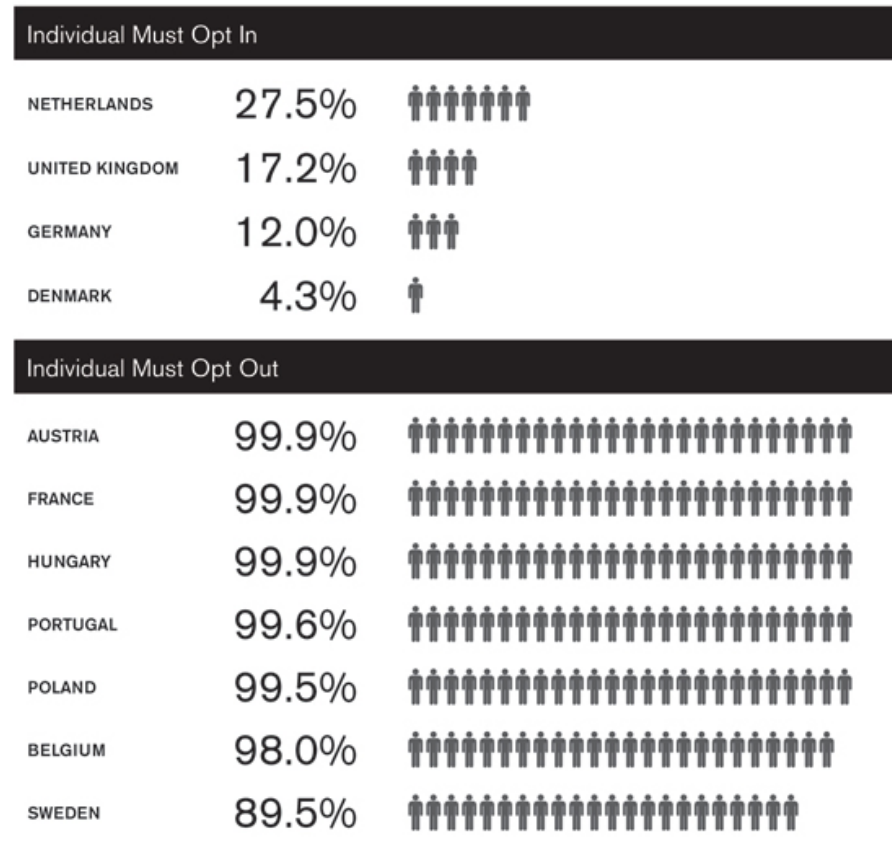


“Choice architecture” refers to the way information is presented to a decision maker.

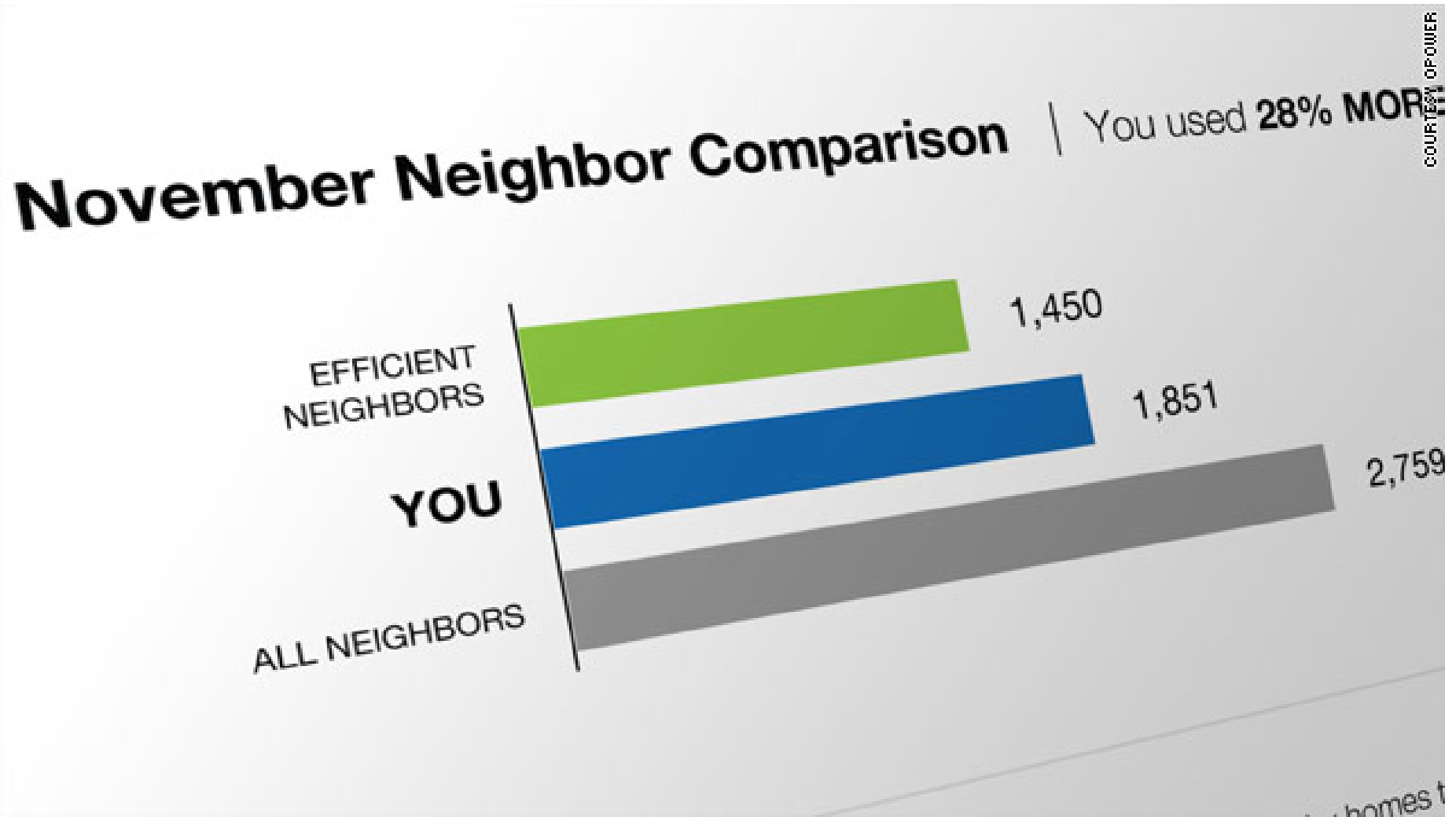
Opt In vs. Opt Out

Where the default is set and its influence on our decisions

Rate of Organ Donation by Country



Choice architecture is being used for better energy outcomes, particularly in consumer-level decisions...

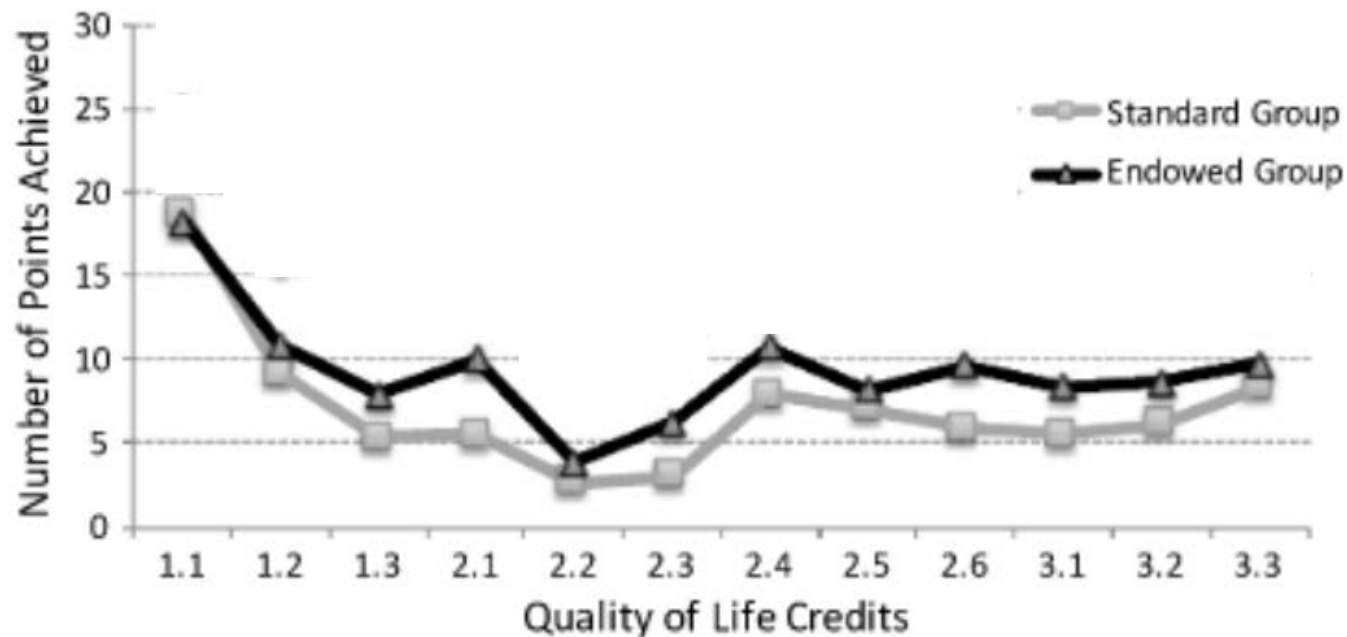


... and there are plenty of opportunities to do more.



Customers who choose not to shop for power will continue to purchase their electric commodity from PSE&G under regulated basic generation service.

Our research shows that choice architecture also shapes energy and environmental outcomes in professional decisions.



“Framing effects to inform more sustainable infrastructure design decisions.” *ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*. Shealy, E., Klotz, L., Weber, E., Johnson, E., Greenspan Bell, R., (2016).

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Klotz, L., Mack, D.**, Klapthor, B.**, Tunstall, C.** and Harrison, J.* (2010). “Unintended Anchors: Building Rating Systems and Energy Performance Goals for U.S. Buildings.” *Energy Policy*. 38 (7): 3557-3566.

Choice architecture in professional decisions has vast and untapped potential for environmental benefits.

- Suppose different defaults led to just 10% better performance in “Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”
- Applied to all U.S. infrastructure, this represents a reduction of over 1.5 *billion* tons of CO₂*
- Compare this to the successful cash-for-clunkers program, which invested roughly \$3 billion dollars to save an upward estimate of 30 *million* tons of CO₂

* estimate based on a per-capita carbon footprint of infrastructure of 53 tons and a U.S. population of 316 million).

Please consider how you might use choice architecture for better energy and environmental outcomes.