

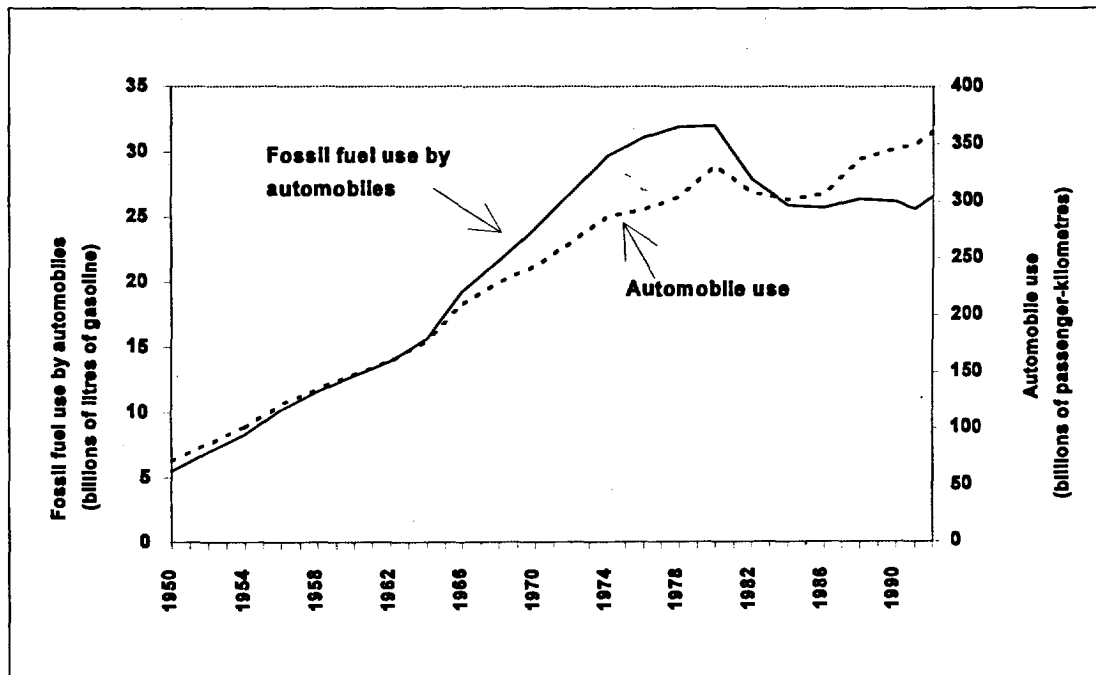
Initiatives in the difficult area of environmentally sound pricing are under way. For example, some municipalities encourage waste reduction by charging households for waste removal on a volume basis. Vernon, British Columbia, has introduced a water rate structure based on metered consumption that has resulted in a 28-percent reduction in household water use. In Halifax, Nova Scotia, household water bills now compare water use with the same period of the previous year. Governments have imposed levies on the purchase prices of products such as paint, and tires, batteries, and air conditioners for motor vehicles.

Challenges and Next Steps

While major economic producers in Canada are making substantial progress in improving their consumption patterns, sustainability will not be achieved without more progress in changing individual consumption patterns.

Perhaps the most significant challenge will be to make personal transportation more sustainable. Although urban transit use is increasing (total kilometres travelled), it represents less than 5 percent of motorized travel in urban areas, while urban automobile use continues to grow. A 1992 finding indicated that 82 of every 100 kilometres travelled by individual Canadians is in an automobile (see figure). Automobile fuel efficiency is

Indicator: Fossil fuel use by automobiles



Sources: Royal Commission on National Passenger Transportation, Canadian Urban Transit Association, Environment Canada, and Statistics Canada.

Indicator prepared by: State of the Environment Directorate, Environment Canada.

Between 1984 and 1992, fossil fuel use leveled off as the improvements in fuel efficiency slowed and were offset by an increase in automobile travel.

In 1992, The Canadian Association of University Business Officers gave a Quality and Productivity Award to Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dalhousie University had sponsored a project that integrated waste reduction/recycling initiatives on its campus with a new credit course on waste management and the environment. The environmental teaching module and demonstration projects developed during the project were designed to be transferable to other institutions.