

new policy on carbon dioxide emissions would seem to preclude major expansion of their fossil fuel base. One should add to this equation the fact that the Swedes have already achieved one of the best records for increasing energy efficiency in the world, and must be bumping up against some of the technological limits. Yet the Swedish government and the Swedish electricity industry have just completed a study that demonstrates that Sweden can indeed cut its emissions of greenhouse gases, still experience satisfactory economic growth, and dismantle its nuclear power industry.

I was told by a colleague from another country that at a recent White House conference the West German environment minister announced he will lay plans before his cabinet in the next month to reduce German emissions of carbon dioxide by 25% by the year 2005. When asked what particular act of alchemy he proposed to achieve this, he produced the now rather familiar list: energy conservation, increased energy taxes, new methods of taxing automobiles on the basis of what they emit rather than how much they weigh, and greater reliance on public transport.

Gerald Leech, a former colleague of mine from my British incarnation, recently performed a similar study on British energy prospects for the prestigious Stockholm Environmental Institute. I quote:

The broad conclusion for the U.K. is that the technical potential exists to greatly exceed a reduction of 20%, even with substantial growth in the economy and in living standards. The measures examined are not technically ambitious. They reduce consumer costs or increase the profitability of firms, often by large amounts.

I am quoting from an analysis of the study produced by the science adviser for Environment Canada. Mr. Leech concludes this strategy could reduce consumer spending on energy by 140 billion pounds—about a quarter of a trillion dollars Canadian—between the years 1990 and 2005.

As Mr. Fulton pointed out yesterday, we have produced a similar study for Canada with broadly similar results. The study was commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of Energy, on behalf of the federal and provincial Ministers of Energy, for their meeting last summer. The meeting was planned to resolve Canada's position on carbon dioxide targets in general, and the Toronto conference target in particular.

The study performed by a Toronto-based consulting firm demonstrated that Canada could achieve at least 60% of the savings toward the target, at considerable savings to the energy consumer, and that the 20% target is attainable with currently available technology. This report has since been rejected by both the federal and provincial governments. Their analyses of its faults, to my knowledge, have never been made public. The ministers have since twice refused to adopt any targets for greenhouse gas emissions.