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Canada heads towards the replacement of oil by alternative fuels

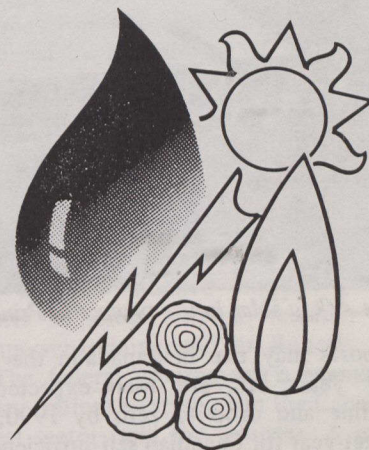
The federal government has started its Canada Oil Substitution Program (COSP) which was first announced as part of the National Energy Program last October.

The new program is a "cornerstone" of the National Energy Program and is designed to reduce oil consumption in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors to 10 per cent of their total energy needs by 1990.

The ten-year COSP plan provides for taxable grants to householders who convert their heating systems from oil to other energy sources, mainly natural gas and electricity, but also propane, solid fuels or even wood and solar energy in certain areas.

Grants for conversion

The program provides taxable grants covering half the costs of heating-system conversion from oil up to a maximum of \$800 for single-family residences. For



centrally-heated buildings with two or more self-contained units, the maximum grant ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,500 depending on the number of units in the building.

The program also applies to space-heating and water-heating systems in principal residences but not in recreational properties.

There will be limitations on eligible fuels in some provinces, depending on the regional supply situation and preference of the provincial governments. For example, conversion to electricity in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland will not be eligible because those provinces rely heavily on oil-fired power generation. However, certain Labrador communities served by hydro-power will be eligible.

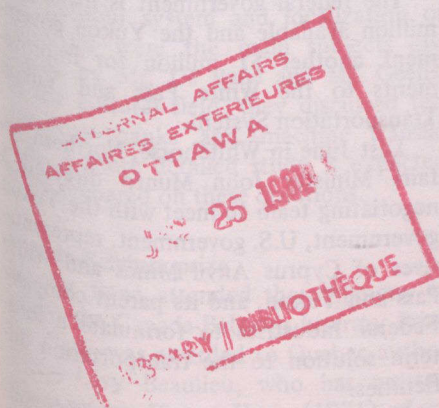
In announcing COSP, Energy Minister Marc Lalonde, said oil consumption in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors will be cut from the current 550,000 barrels a day to 210,000 barrels a day under the total government "off-oil" program by 1990.

Balancing oil supply

The goal of the National Energy Program "is to bring national oil consumption into balance with our assured domestic supply", said the minister. He added that oil



A 50-kilowatt vertical axis wind turbine being erected on Vancouver Island.



Four-hundred-and-eighty-four-years ago this week...
On June 25, 1497, Jean Cabot first sighted the eastern seaboard of North America.

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