

THE CANADA-EC ENERGY BUS PROGRAMME: AN UPDATE

In mid-December 1983, a 6-man team of experts from the European Community travelled to Canada to exchange information on the Energy Bus programme. This programme began in December 1979 with the signing of an agreement under the auspices of the Canada-EC Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation.

One of the most effective innovations in Canada's efforts to save energy, has been the Energy Audit Vehicle, more commonly known as the Energy Bus. The vehicles, endorsed and widely accepted by industry, help to identify energy conservation opportunities at the plant level by means of on-site energy audits. The buses are owned by the federal government and operated by the provinces under federal-provincial agreements. They perform preliminary energy analyses and audits at industrial, commercial and institutional locations where such service is requested. By means of a computer installed on the bus, an analysis of plant energy use and the potential for energy savings is made. The service is provided free of charge.

The Energy Bus programme generated a great deal of interest in the European Community and, following a series of demonstrations in all of the then nine member countries, Canada and the Community agreed to share technical information, computer software and expertise and to set up an international statistical data base.

During the recent visit to Canada, the participants from both the EC and Canadian Energy Bus programmes agreed to exchange information on the results of audit visits to plants in order to help build the data bases being established by both parties. The confidentiality of this commercially sensitive data will be guaranteed by the authorities and guarded by the two data base managers. For the first time, both Canadians and Europeans will be able to derive benefit in future Energy Bus audits by reference to the large amount of data which is now available.

Both sides agreed that the programme provided an excellent opportunity to assist small and medium-sized enterprises as well as larger firms and municipalities. It also has the potential to evolve in new directions, for example as a means of promoting specific energy policies such as oil substitution.



Canada's Energy Bus - helping to conserve energy in Canada and throughout the European Community.