

increased efficiency are key features of the National Energy Program and of the energy strategies of all provincial governments. Emphasis is on oil conservation, particularly in the eastern provinces, but programs are generally not commodity-specific and improved efficiency in the use of all types of energy is encouraged.

Energy demand patterns in Canada are changing, as industries and individuals respond to the steadily increasing prices. There are shifts to more efficient automobiles for example, and industrial efficiency in terms of energy use per dollar of product has increased significantly over the past few years. Government programs can facilitate this response and help to overcome some of the barriers to increased energy efficiency which exist in the market place. Many of these programs overlap to some extent with those encouraging the use of renewable energy: for example, increased use of wastes as an energy source is a conservation measure and, since biomass is usually involved, it is also a renewable resource. More efficient building design will normally incorporate the use of passive solar heating or cooling.

All provincial governments in Canada have conservation programs, as does the federal government. Programs encompass information dissemination to promote increased awareness, direct grants or other incentives to remove capital barriers or to increase rates of return, taxation measures, regulation, removal of disincentives to efficiency, research and development, technology demonstration, and in-house example.

The principal conservation programs (other than R&D support) of the federal government in Canada are:

A. Building

- (i) The Canadian Home Insulation Program, which provides grants to householders to upgrade the efficiency of their homes by the addition of insulation and other measures;
- (ii) a "super-retrofit" program, whereby the "off-oil" grant may be used in certain areas of the country for additional conservation measures;
- (iii) a demonstration of new super-efficient housing design and construction, comprising 1000 units to be built across the country;
- (iv) the development of new efficiency standards for Arctic housing;