

are being published to advise businesses and industries about energy-saving techniques.

Federal sales taxes on energy-saving equipment have been removed and rapid depreciation on other similar equipment is allowed.

A program of energy labelling for appliances will be initiated this year.

The Federal Government has initiated its "Save 10" program to cut energy use by 10 per cent and hold it at that level for the next ten years.

New building codes have been adopted for all new federal buildings.

More than six million requests for free energy-conservation booklets have been filled.

Insulation regulations for new housing

As part of the Federal Government's drive to conserve non-renewable energy resources through adequate home insulation, Urban Affairs Minister André Ouellet has announced higher thermal-insulation standards for housing financed under the auspices of the National Housing Act.

The regulations, which go into effect on September 1, 1977, will apply to new housing.

The new Canadian home-insulation program, provides grants to encourage the owners of existing housing to improve their insulation.

Mr. Ouellet said that, as of September 1, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will require attic insulation in houses built under the National Housing Act (NHA) to be as much as two, sometimes three, times present levels. Above grade walls in all areas of the country will be required to have as much insulation as present regulations require in only the colder areas of the country. Foundation walls will be required to be insulated to a depth of two feet below ground instead of one foot as is now required.

A moderate-size three bedroom bungalow insulated according to the new standards will require about 15 per cent less heating than the same house insulated according to present standards. Savings in fuel costs for that house could be \$65 to \$70 a year.

"Our aim is to achieve the greatest thermal efficiency possible in houses while having a minimal impact on the

Supply policy

While Canadians have had a steady and abundant flow of low-cost oil and gas in the past, they will have to depend on sources of much higher cost energy supplies in future.

A main concern has been that Canada could slip into over-dependence on foreign oil, which would leave the country dangerously exposed if access to mid-Eastern supplies were to be limited in the 1980s. Also the costs would be extremely high.

Under the Federal Government's goal of energy self-reliance within ten years, Canada would rely largely on domestic energy in the years ahead.

costs of house construction," said Mr. Ouellet.

CMHC estimates, that on a country-wide average, the new insulation requirements will add about \$500 to the cost of building a bungalow, \$250 to the cost of a unit of row housing, and \$75 to the cost of an apartment unit. The savings on fuel costs during the pay-back period on a mortgage will offset these costs.

Doors and windows

For the first time, the standards set a minimum thermal efficiency for exterior doors. Exterior entrances must be equipped with storm doors or have a single door with the insulating value of three inches of solid wood.

Also for the first time, the standards set an upper limit on the amount of window space in a house to restrict heat loss through the glass. This limit has been set high enough to allow a reasonable amount of window for light and ventilation and is not expected to significantly change the design of most housing. It will, however, prevent the construction of houses with excessive amounts of window space.

The new requirements for NHA-financed housing will be reviewed late this year or in early 1978 when the National Research Council's Associate Committee on the National Building Code has developed comprehensive insulation standards for all buildings in Canada. It is expected that even higher insulation levels for above grade walls will be required at that time.

Specific policy targets are (1) to ensure that net dependence on imported oil in 1985 does not exceed one-third of total oil demands; (2) to maintain self-reliance in natural gas until such time as northern resources can be brought to market under acceptable conditions; and (3) to increase exploration and development, and to conduct resource analyses and assemble as much information as possible about the national potential for oil and gas, for coal, for uranium and for other energy resources.

Action

Petro-Canada, the national oil company, is taking a leading role in exploration in the Arctic and off the East Coast. Some \$343 million was used to acquire Atlantic-Richfield holdings in Canada. Petro-Canada was provided with initial funding of \$1.5 billion by the Federal Government.

As consumers pay more for oil and natural gas, more money becomes available to find and develop new increasingly expensive sources.

The Federal Government has made very large direct investments in oil and gas projects. A sum of \$300 million was invested in Syncrude of Canada Ltd., which will begin producing oil from the Alberta oil sands in 1978.

Federally-backed Panarctic Oils Ltd. has had major successes in finding natural gas in the Arctic. Federal investment in Panarctic totals \$92 million.

Since 1975, federal and provincial tax changes have encouraged exploration investment and activity has been especially heavy in Alberta, where additional supplies of natural gas have been located. Companies have been supplying information to the Government on how they spend the money they receive from higher gas and oil prices. This program is to be made mandatory.

Companies with rights to potential oil and natural gas areas will, in future, be required to explore within a reasonable time period.

New legislation and regulations governing land tenure, royalties and Canadian-content guideline for about 1.3 billion acres of land in Canada's northern and offshore oil and gas frontier regions will be introduced in the House of Commons during the current session. As an interim measure, the Government will be making these lands