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## Energy — a review of Canadian policy and action

*In April 1976, a year before the Carter administration in the United States launched a major energy policy initiative, the Canadian Government adopted a strategy to prepare Canada for the energy challenges of the next 15 years.*

*Earlier this year, James Schlesinger, chief energy adviser to President Carter, speaking of the Canadian strategy for energy said:*

*"We are seeking to emulate Canada, in that Canada has one of the few comprehensive energy plans...within a matter of some months, the United States will emulate Canada by publishing its own comprehensive plan."*

*The targets and related actions in the Canadian strategy are reviewed below.*

### Use and conservation policy

Canada's rate of energy consumption, on a *per capita* basis, is one of the world's highest, if not the highest. Cutting out waste has the greatest priority because, by saving energy, requirements can be reduced for costly new oil-sands plants, nuclear- and other electrical-generating plants.

The Federal Government's goal is to reduce the average rate of growth of energy use in Canada, over the next ten years, to less than 3.5 per cent from the average growth rate of about 5.5 per cent a year, which had prevailed over the past 15 years.

### Action

Fleet-average performance standards for new cars for 1980 and 1985 have been introduced. This will assure that total gasoline consumption in Canada in 1985 will be below the level of 1976 even though more cars will be on the road.

Provincial governments have been urged to adopt 55-mph speed limits on most highways and to impose higher registration fees for heavy cars.

A \$100 surtax on automobile air conditioners is in effect.

Graduated weight or fuel economy taxes for cars and station wagons, ranging from \$30 to \$300 a car, are in effect for cars over 4,425 pounds. Increases in the tax are being considered.

Auto makers and dealers under a voluntary program are urged to display automobile fuel economy ratings. The program may become mandatory.

The Federal Government collects a

10-cent excise tax on gasoline. One of the purposes of this tax is to encourage people to be thrifty in their use of gasoline.

A national home-insulation grant program totalling \$1.4 billion is currently in effect. Under the program, householders across Canada can apply for grants up to \$350 for the cost of materials to upgrade the insulation in their home. Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which received \$57.3-million worth of grants and loans early in 1977, are excluded from the program.

Federal sales taxes have been removed on insulation.

New federal National Building Code insulation standards for new housing are under consideration by the provincial governments.

"Enersave" home-energy audits are being conducted in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and communities in the other seven provinces and two territories.

"Energy vans" have been touring Nova Scotia, Northern Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, assessing energy-saving possibilities in homes and factories.

Twelve key industrial sectors have been brought together and encouraged to develop voluntary energy-conservation goals. Two national conferences have been held.

Federal programs, totalling \$6.6 million, for industry- and business-energy conservation in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are under way.

A national energy bus program, which will provide analyses of industrial consumption, is under development.

Ten information manuals for industry

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