

- 4. The Committee recommends that Environment Canada, as the lead agency, coordinate the development by federal departments and agencies of comprehensive public information and advocacy programs directed to individual Canadians, to Canadian business and to other institutions, identifying the role that each can play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

Canada has a long tradition of a mixed economy — an economy in which both the private sector and governments contribute to development. It is appropriate and necessary that this partnership extend to resolving our environmental problems. Considering how fundamentally important energy is both to the economic and the social welfare of Canadians, addressing the issue of global climate change must involve all sectors of our society.

- 5. The Committee recommends that federal and provincial strategies to combat human-induced global climate change combine strong regulatory systems with a careful utilization of market forces to develop economically efficient programs for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Canada.**

In the 1970s and early 1980s, Canada developed an energy research, development and demonstration (R,D&D) program that was world-leading in several respects. It emphasized energy conserving technologies and alternative forms of energy development, while simultaneously supporting a strong effort in conventional energy R,D&D. The federal government also established public information programs which were acknowledged internationally for their effectiveness and scope. Unfortunately, these programs were not sustained and the non-conventional aspect of the energy R,D&D program has been markedly reduced. The termination in 1986 of the National Research Council's Division of Energy, which had been the lead federal agency for alternative energy R,D&D, set the stage for this decline. Government support for conservation and renewable energy R,D&D in fiscal year 1990-91 is running at a level only about one-third that of the years of peak support in the early 1980s, as reported by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Figure 2 displays government spending in Canada on energy R,D&D by type from 1977 through 1988, measured in constant 1988 U.S. dollars.