

It is difficult to assess the total future contribution of active solar heating in Canada, because of technical and economic uncertainties. Discussions are continuing concerning the advisability of establishing solar contribution goals and associated cost goals for the next 20 years, toward which policy and programs may be directed.

Federal programs in this area began with the renewables R&D program in 1974, and in 1978 several new initiatives were designed to launch active solar heating technologies and support a developing solar industry in Canada. Further initiatives were added in the 1980 National Energy Program.

Current Federal programs in this area include R&D support, industrial assistance, demonstrations (in conjunction with provincial governments) and consumer incentives. For example,

- federal R&D expenditures are \$11 million per year, covering product and systems development oriented mainly to provision of service hot water;
- Program of Assistance to Solar Equipment Manufacturers (PASEM) \$(4.1 million over two years) which provided grants to solar industries to assist in designing and developing solar equipment;
- Purchase and Use of Solar Heating (PUSH) which calls for the procurement of \$125 million of solar systems by the government for its own facilities;
- Renewable and conservation demonstration agreements with the provinces, which have resulted in expenditures of about \$800,000 to date on solar heating, including a 100-unit demonstration of solar domestic hot water in B.C.;
- a 1000 unit demonstration across the country of domestic hot water systems, costing \$5 million and including evaluating and monitoring of reliability and performance, and developing preliminary infrastructure;
- a fast (2 year) tax write-off for commercial and industrial solar heating installations;
- the applicability of the \$800 off-oil grant (see above) to solar heating.