



## WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT?

If you are reading this article at home, look around you. The house you live in together with all the houses in the country consumes about one-fifth of the total energy used in Canada.

Until recently, this country has enjoyed an abundance of low cost energy that we have never considered it a commodity whose cost or availability must be reckoned in our day-to-day decisions.

The days of limitless energy at low cost are over. This does not mean that we have to give up our cars and walk or wear woolens to bed. But it does mean we have to think more of energy conservation.

Apart from the problem of scarce energy, is another fact, that we are all faced with—inflation. Utility bills are going up, not only as a result of higher costing fuel supplies, but also under the impact of inflation.

Energy is worth saving. And you will have to do it yourself. As individuals, there is not much you personally can do about energy that runs our factories, nor can you lower the energy needed to power offices, shops, theatres, etc. But you can do a lot about reducing the energy drain at home.

To make a start, you need a clear picture of just where energy is used in the home. Here's how it breaks down:

Space heating.....	80%
Water.....	10%
Other Uses.....	10%

You can see very quickly the major area in which savings can be made: space heating. In each of these areas, the amount of energy use is determined by two factors:

1. Your personal living habits, whether economical or extravagant.
2. The type of equipment you now have and how efficient it is.

You can change both factors to effect energy savings: you can change or improve your personal living habits or you can upgrade or replace inefficient equipment. In the first case, cost is likely to be a minor inconvenience; in the second, some changes will cost money.

## HOME HEATING AND COOLING

In a family's budget, home heating is the biggest item. If you can save in this area, you can put a dent in your fuel bills. Here in brief, are the important steps to take to improve efficiency in this area:

Add as much insulation in the house as you can. Any money you spend on insulation now will be offset by smaller heating and cooling bills in the future. Some insulation measures don't cost much at all.

Add storm windows or double paned glass if you don't have them (leave storm windows up all year.)

If you use air conditioning; weatherstrip and caulk every air leak.

Close off unheated (or uncooled spaces.)

Protect glass areas both summer and winter using appropriate shades, drapes, blinds, or exterior shading devices.

Ventilate attic spaces, particularly in the summer.

Control moisture both summer and winter.

Have heating and cooling equipment checked regularly.

Some of these suggestions involve investing money now for future savings. And in the years to come there will certainly be new energy saving materials and appliances that may well cost extra. In considering such expenditures, always take into account the original cost of materials (or of appliances) as well as the operating expenses during their estimated lifetime.

Finally, the basic secret to cutting your heating costs is keeping heat where you want it. If you would like to learn more about home insulation and how to do it, send for the book entitled "Keeping the heat in", office of Energy, Mines and Resources, 580 Booth St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4.

This book tells you how to go about upgrading the insulation in your home. It deals with houses of all kinds, in all parts of Canada and is designed to serve both the experienced "do-it-yourselfer" and the beginner.

## WATER HEATING

Heating water accounts for 10 percent of the total energy used in an average household. Many people do not realize the fact that wasted hot water is wasted heat. Anytime you can save hot water you save energy. You can't do without hot water but there are several ways to conserve it and energy requirements will be less.

Hot water usage depends on the number of people in the household, the number of bathrooms and on the presence and regular use of clothes washers and/or automatic dishwashers.