

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY CONSERVATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG TERM  
ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat

The attached report on the implementation of the Government's energy conservation programme, introduced from December 1977, has been prepared by the Interdepartmental Official Committee on Energy Conservation (IOCO) for the Ministerial Committee on Energy Conservation (MEC).

2 The current energy conservation programme aims to save 11 million tonnes of oil equivalent after 10 years. Some £450 million has been allocated for the first four years of the programme. Of this just over £200 million is in the form of loan sanction and £61.5 million (13%) is to be financed out of savings achieved.

3 The attached report does not allow firm conclusions to be drawn on the progress being made with implementing the overall programme. This is because of the quality of the reporting and the incompleteness of information supplied, notably by local authorities.

4 Reports to hand need further analysis and clarification but they do not generate confidence that a number of measures are being implemented satisfactorily. On the other hand, information obtained from the mineral fibre insulation manufacturers since the attached paper was prepared suggests that the insulation of public sector dwellings and the operation of the Homes Insulation Scheme, covering private householders, at least are proceeding apace.

5 There are wide discrepancies in the data available and officials are pursuing the possibility of improving the quality of reporting. Ministers may wish to consider whether to reinforce their efforts.

MEC Secretariat  
Energy Conservation Division  
Department of Energy  
19 July 1979

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY CONSERVATION  
ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRESS REPORT, JUNE 1979

SUMMARY

1. The attached report is the third by the Interdepartmental Official Committee on Energy Conservation (IOCEC) on the progress being made with implementing the 10-year energy conservation programme introduced in December 1977. This programme involves the expenditure of some £450m over the first four years, from 1978-79, and aims to save 11 million tonnes of oil equivalent a year after 10 years.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The available information is not complete and the short experience of these programmes does not allow firm judgments to be made on the overall picture. Reports to hand, however, do not generate confidence that a number of measures, mostly affecting the public sector, are being implemented as quickly as expected. IOCEC is pursuing the question of improving the quality of reporting.

3. The following conclusions are drawn:

- the implementation of energy management measures in local authority non-domestic buildings is unsatisfactory;
- reports on the insulation of public sector dwellings and the operation of the Homes Insulation Scheme are not comprehensive, but indicate that both were affected by interruptions caused by strikes in the supply of insulating materials during the winter and that progress may not match expectation;
- under spending on developing information and advisory services to industry is likely to be substantial and continuing mainly because of the existing comprehensive provision and the lack of Departmental manpower to manage further schemes;
- the demonstration projects programme is gathering momentum though the build up is slower than expected;
- the Energy Conservation Scheme run by the Department of Industry under S8 of the Industry Act 1972 is proving attractive to industry and it seems likely that the bulk of the £25m allocation over two years will be spent.

PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDINGS

4. An important element in the Government's overall energy conservation strategy is the setting by Government in its widest sense of a good example. A total of £27m was allocated in 1978-79 for:

- (i) measures covering insulation, heating controls and efficient energy management in the Government estate;
- (ii) Health Service buildings;
- (iii) educational buildings; and
- (iv) local authority non-domestic buildings.

- the proposed new training service to promote energy management in non-domestic buildings has yet to get off the ground; it has been decided to abandon the proposed related advisory service to avoid duplication;



All local authorities, local education authorities and regional and area health authorities have been advised of their allocations and circulars have been sent to them describing the requirements and methods of funding. Performance is satisfactory in (i) and also in (ii) though a judgment cannot yet be formed in relation to Scotland. Adequate progress or arrangements are being made in (iii) in Wales and Northern Ireland and progress may be adequate in England; it is not yet possible to form a proper view in relation to Scotland. Item (iv) appears to have attracted a poor response; the monitoring arrangements are being reviewed.

#### PUBLIC SECTOR DWELLINGS

5. A total of £28.5m was allocated for the first year of a 10-year programme to bring public sector dwellings up to a basic standard of insulation. The information so far available needs closer analysis and no reliable judgment can yet be formed on the overall performance during the first year. The programme may have been up to the target of 200,000 dwellings insulated in England. Wales used 70 per cent of its allocation. In Scotland take up was little more than 50 per cent.

#### BUILDING REGULATIONS

6. New Regulations in England and Wales prescribing higher standards of thermal insulation for new non-domestic buildings came into force on June 1, 1979. It is hoped that Orders requiring appropriate controls on new or replacement heating systems in non-domestic buildings will, subject to the views of Ministers, be laid at the earliest opportunity. Similar regulations will follow in Scotland where consultations have now taken place. In Northern Ireland it is hoped that Regulations, as applying in Great Britain, will be made in 1980.

#### ADVISORY AND TRAINING SERVICE FOR NON-DOMESTIC BUILDINGS

7. The Department of Environment, with the agreement of the Department of Energy, will not be proceeding with the advisory side of this measure since there is already adequate provision by the Government in this area. There is, however, clear scope for a training service and this will be undertaken at the Department of the Environment's residential training and conference centre at Cardington as soon as circumstances allow.

#### INFORMATION AND ADVISORY SERVICES TO INDUSTRY

8. A comprehensive programme of information and advisory services to industry has been developed by the Departments of Energy and Industry. For this reason and because of the shortage of Departmental manpower to manage further programmes there is likely to be substantial under-spending in this area for which £4/5/5/5 has been allocated over 1978-79 to 1981/82. Only £1m was spent in 1978-79 and it is unlikely that monies allocated for the remaining years of the programme will be expended. Industrial members of the Committee administering the funds remain impressed nonetheless with the scope and coverage of the existing services.

#### DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

9. Twenty-three projects to demonstrate the benefits of existing technology or novel applications of it have been recommended. They involve total commitment of £1.08m of Government funds. Industry's commitment is £5.6m. The total energy saving that could result from these first 23 projects is about 1.08 million tonnes of oil equivalent a year.

#### CAR FUEL CONSUMPTION TARGETS

10. The interim report of the Working Group on Fuel Consumption Targets, a group under Department of Energy chairmanship with representatives of other Government Departments, the motor industry and the oil industry, was published on 27 June 1979. The Working Group recommended the adoption of a voluntary target of a 10 per cent improvement in the average petrol consumption of new cars by 1985. The Secretary of State for Energy has welcomed the adoption of this target scheme by the British motor industry.

#### PUBLICITY AIMED AT MOTORISTS

11. Valuable experience has been gained from the first year's (1978) £0.5m publicity campaign designed to persuade drivers to drive more economically. Research showed that the campaign had a transient effect on motorists' awareness of the effect of driving behaviour on petrol consumption. A publicity campaign directed at motorists in the current financial year is still being considered.

#### HOMES INSULATION SCHEME

12. As with public sector dwellings, the performance under this Scheme was affected by strikes during the winter which interrupted supplies of insulating materials. There is also a timelag between local authority approval of work for grant and claim. Reports from Local Authorities require further analysing, but to date it is possible only to say that about one-third of the allocation of £22m is reported as spent.