

# Nebraska ENERGY

Q U A R T E R L Y

Nebraska Energy Office

Summer 1988

## A Message from Governor Orr

### Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of *Nebraska Energy Quarterly*! This is a new publication of the Nebraska Energy Office. The *Nebraska Energy Quarterly* will bring you information about energy projects, facts about our energy use and tips for using less energy in our homes and businesses.

This newsletter is designed to discuss Nebraskans' energy concerns. Although it's a fact that we have lower energy prices than almost every other state, we still need to use our energy resources wisely. Increasing our energy efficiency will help secure the state's energy future and enhance the competitiveness of our economy.



Kay A. Orr,  
Governor

So look inside and you'll find news on the items listed in the box below. This newsletter is for you, so we are eager to learn how we can serve you best. Write or call the Energy Office with suggestions for articles, energy news in your area or comments about the *Quarterly*. We want to hear from you!

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## New construction jobs...

### Energy Saving Building Improvement Training in Central Nebraska

Mid-Nebraska Community Services of Kearney is using Nebraska Energy Office oil overcharge funds to train displaced ag-related workers to become energy conservation contractors. Mid-Nebraska will also operate a public awareness campaign in Buffalo County to encourage energy savings in homes, businesses and governmental buildings.

#### Local Economic Impact

These activities began in April and will continue until September of next year. Former ag workers will develop job skills and new career opportunities. The resulting local construction will stimulate demand for dollar and energy saving building improvements and reduce the flow of energy dollars from the local economy.

Trainees may receive up to 700 hours of classroom and hands-on practice installing insulation, weatherstripping, storm windows and doors and other improvements in residential, commercial or governmental buildings. The trainees also learn small business management skills from Central Community College. According to Robert Briseno, program manager, "Trainees will learn everything an energy conservation contractor should know."

#### October Opportunity

Mid-Nebraska is currently recruiting applicants for future sessions. Applicants must meet certain eligibility criteria. Accepted trainees receive a stipend of \$4.50 per hour of training. The next session begins in October.

Mid-Nebraska Community Services is also looking for persons who would like to have energy improvements made to their residential, commercial or governmental buildings located in or around Kearney. The buildings will be selected on the basis of their appropriateness as a learning tool for the students. The building owner must pay for the weatherization materials but all labor will be provided free of charge. If you are interested in enrolling in this program or having your building weatherized, contact Robert Briseno at Mid-Nebraska Community Services, 16 West 11th Street, Kearney, Nebraska, or call (308) 237-2005.

## *\$4.5 Million is Waiting*

# Grants and 0% Interest Loans for Public Schools

The Energy Office's School Weatherization Program offers financing to public schools to identify and implement energy projects. The program offers both grants and loans.

### Grants

Schools can apply for grants of up to \$2,500 per building to hire a registered engineer or engineer/architect team to conduct an energy use study of the building. This study will identify actual dollar and energy saving opportunities and supply the school district with the cost estimates and projected energy savings.

Since the Energy Office began making study grants in 1985, 106 school districts have received grants for 153 buildings. Grants are awarded monthly and about \$200,000 is currently available. The latest grant recipients are Wood Lake (\$2,500), Loup County (\$10,000), Wheatland in Madrid (\$10,000) and Diller (\$5,000).

### Zero Interest Loans

No interest loans to school districts are also available to make dollar and energy saving building improvements. The only limitation is that the maximum amount of any loan cannot exceed one-half of the estimated energy dollar savings realized within 14 years. This allows the school district to share in half of the energy dollar savings to fund other needs, while repaying its no interest loan.

No interest loans may be used to cover the cost of all elements of a project — identification, design, implementation and work oversight.

To date, the Energy Office has loaned approximately \$3.5 million to 58 school districts to make improvements in 103 buildings. School districts may apply for loans at any time, with loans approved in 45 days. Approximately \$4.5 million is currently available. The most recent loan recipients are Omaha District #66 (\$85,988), Wakefield (\$12,732), Cedar Rapids (\$18,433), Axtell (\$13,300) and Paxton (\$2,871).

Any energy conservation project reducing energy use or resulting in a more efficient use of energy resources can be funded. Most of the work done to date has been traditional — window and lighting modifications; modifications or the replacement of heating and cooling systems; system controls, such as automatic timers, thermostats and energy management systems; and insulation of pipes, boilers, roofs, pool covers, ceiling fans and motor replacements.

Beyond saving a school district tax dollars, the improvements can enhance student and teacher comfort and

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## *Dialing for Savings*

# Toll-Free Hot Line Answers Your Energy Questions

There's a place you can go for answers to your energy conservation and renewable energy questions...the National Appropriate Technology Assistance Service or NATAS.

NATAS offers technical information and assistance on energy conservation and renewable energy technologies, such as

- types of insulation to use in your attic
- advice about improving the efficiency of a church's furnace
- troubleshooting a moisture problem in a well-insulated office building
- solutions to ventilation problems for a home builder
- the cost-effectiveness of a solar water heating system.

### Four Types of Specialists

Information Specialists answer the toll-free telephone lines and respond to requests with information tailored to your particular situation.

■ Technical Specialists analyze questions and discuss individual technical needs.

■ Resource Specialists review current literature and network with other government programs to provide up-to-date, relevant information.

■ Business Specialists evaluate energy projects, services and products and suggest innovative financing and marketing techniques.

### Help for Businesses

- map a strategy for marketing an energy-related invention
- assess a weatherization company's business plan
- suggest financing options for a cogeneration installation.

NATAS' services are available at no cost to everyone in the United States. Call (800) 428-2525 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central Time. Sorry, the service is not available on weekends or federal holidays. Or you can write NATAS, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2525, Butte, MT 59702-2525.

Their specialists are waiting.

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add to the school's appearance and longevity.

If you are interested in the School Weatherization Program, contact John Osterman in the Energy Office.

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*Keep rolling, rolling, rolling...*

## More Miles per Gallon

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Want to feel secure that you're doing your best to protect the earth's environment? Want to know how to reduce your transportation costs? The Nebraska Energy Office can help.

Our fifteen page booklet, "Transportation," shows you specific techniques to get the most miles out of a gallon of gasoline. Want to know how much money Nebraskans spend on transportation, and how much of that they could easily redirect into other goods and services? The booklet tells you.

The booklet suggests ways individuals can reduce their transportation energy costs, and suggests projects that organizations and communities can do to increase the energy efficiency of their members. Projects such as used oil recycling, minivans and high mileage vehicles are discussed. Ways to organize and implement these projects are included in the booklet.

For your free copy, just write to the Energy Office.



**Least Cost  
Purchasing**

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### Many Recommendations

## Public Buildings Task Force Reports Findings

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The Nebraska Public Buildings Energy Program task force recently completed a study aimed at assisting public buildings operators increase the energy efficiency of tax supported institutions. The task force recommended a range of options including development of energy management skills and financing options for building improvements.

The task force's work was underwritten with a \$222,562 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The grant was for the planning and development of programs to make energy improvements in institutional buildings such as schools, hospitals and local and state government buildings. The task force's program and financing options are currently under review.

### Do It Yourself Energy Calculations

The Energy Office also developed an energy calculation handbook and software for building operators to figure their own energy savings and a computer program to operate a revolving loan fund for energy improvements in public schools. For more information or a copy of the task force report, contact Allison Meyer at the Energy Office.

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*Four-Part Series to Start on NETV  
Friday, October 14 at 9:00 p.m.*

## Fueling the Future

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For each caloric of food energy we consume, at least ten times as much energy was needed to produce it and bring it to our table. This is just one of the startling statistics on energy consumption brought to light in *Fueling the Future*, a four-part series, airing statewide on NETV stations starting Friday, October 14 at 9:00 p.m. Subsequent programs will air on the next three Fridays at the same time. Hodding Carter, a regular participant on *Nightline* and *The McNeill/Lehrer NewsHour*, is host.

The automobile, suburbia, modern agriculture and disposable products have all brought about a tremendous shift in the way Americans use energy. *Fueling the Future* considers the impacts of these changes and their implications for the years ahead. The series delves beneath the usual concerns about energy technologies, economics and politics to examine the fundamental values and expectations that determine our patterns of energy use. Conservation is explored, not simply as a matter of cutting back, but as a creative approach to change our consumption patterns and enable us to do more with less.

Each program examines how our current energy habits were shaped by the pursuit of certain economic and social freedoms. In the long run, these pursuits have had profound consequences on the nation's energy picture.

For example, Americans love the freedom of movement afforded by the automobile. But ironically, the car has made us hostages of the volatile world energy situation. "Running on Empty," the first program, asks whether America's reliance on the automobile can be sustained.

The second program, "No Place Like Home," looks at the energy demands of our homes and our communities and explores the links between these demands and our overall quality of life. Suburban living keeps us constantly on the move between work and home, expending an enormous amount of energy.

"Hot Wiring America's Farms," the third program, examines the huge energy requirements of our food production system—on the farm, in processing and packaging food and in transportation to distant markets. The program features several farmers who offer disturbing accounts of health problems, soil erosion, water pollution and financial difficulties that have resulted from this energy-intensive system. "Hot Wiring America's Farms" looks at whether widespread adoption of a less energy-intensive approach could yield an affordable food supply.

The final program, "No Deposit, No Return," examines energy efficiency in the context of our most tangible example of wastefulness—the nation's burgeoning garbage crisis.

Millions of Dollars

## Oil Overcharge Money Given to Nebraskans

Since the mid 1980s, Nebraska has received millions of dollars as restitution for crude oil price control violations.

In 1986, the Nebraska Energy Office received approximately \$15.5 million as result of a decision in *United States vs. Exxon Corporation*. That decision found Exxon liable for overcharges on crude oil sales made during the period of federal price controls between 1973 and 1981. Because it is not practical to track down small oil consumers who were overcharged, the Court directed payments to state governments in proportion to the consumption of petroleum products in the state used during the period of price controls. State government is responsible for providing indirect restitution to the state's consumers.

### More Funds Coming

Nebraska has received several smaller oil overcharge payments, and is scheduled to receive additional money as the *United States vs. Texaco* and other cases are settled.

The federal court decisions which awarded these funds set certain requirements for their use. For example, the benefits of the awards must be returned to the public and the funds must be used to achieve greater energy efficiency in the state. The Energy Office has used these funds to provide a variety of programs (see articles on pages 1 and 3) to provide indirect restitution to all Nebraska energy consumers.

### Direct Refunds

An opportunity has also been provided for larger consumers to receive direct restitution for oil overcharges. The U.S. Department of Energy has set aside approximately \$80 million dollars to be given directly to individuals, businesses and local governments that consumed at least 20,000 gallons of petroleum products between 1971 and 1983. Refunds will be awarded at the rate of \$8 per 10,000 gallons consumed.

By the end of June, Nebraskans had filed 5,318 claims — the highest number of claims by any state. Claims totaled 2,190,803 gallons, which could result in \$1.7 million dollars being refunded to Nebraskans. Nebraska state government filed a claim for \$204,000 for fuel used in state vehicles and for crude oil used on road resurfacing. The deadline for submitting applications was June 30, 1988.

### Six to Eight Months

Federal officials estimate it will take six to eight months for a claimant to receive payment.

THE ENERGY QUARTERLY WAS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

\$2 a Guide

## Energy Saving Guides for Appliances

Energy prices are low now, but they won't stay that way forever. Before you invest in appliances which will consume energy for the next decade, get a copy of *The Most Energy-Efficient Appliances — 1988 Edition* from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). It contains a brand name listing of the top-rated residential equipment on the U.S. market, including:

- refrigerators
- freezers
- dishwashers
- clothes dryers
- central air conditioners
- room air conditioners
- heat pumps
- water heaters
- furnaces and boilers

The ACEEE also has a 34-page educational guide, *Saving Energy and Money With Home Appliances* (co-produced with the Massachusetts Audubon Society) which shows how to:

- identify the energy guzzlers in many homes
- use appliances more efficiently
- make cost-effective purchasing decisions

The illustrated booklet is loaded with money-saving tips. Detailed information is given for ten key appliances including lighting products and cooking equipment.

Individual copies of either booklet are available for \$2 each from: ACEEE, Suite 535, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Reduced prices are available for orders of 25 copies or more.

This material was prepared with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Grant No. DE-FG47-80CS69109. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE.

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