Some cities work to pare residents' energy costs

energy programs have come to a screeching halt with the Reagan budget cuts. This is a shame. If only communitie

understood how much could be saved by cutting their total energy

usaae: — Kathi Quigley Wayne County energy coordinator

A recent study by the Energy Policy Group at the University of Michigan should raise eyebrows. Two issues stand out boldly in this report on energy consumption in Michigan:

• More than \$8.2 billion left the state in 1981 for imported energy

sumption in Michigan:

• More than \$42. billion left the state in 1981 for imported energy.

• That dollar drain could be reduced as much as 70 percent in the residental sector and 60 percent in the commercial sector through prudent planning and commitment to conservations.

The "how-to-do-lift" are not clear. A few thousand well-intentioned individuals talking "BTUs" and "flue restrictions" can't significantly whittle-energy consumption. Collective action will be needed.

SOME MICHIGAN cities have already taken a collective approach to saving energy dollars by focusing a combination of municipal, commercial and residential talents on the problem. The city of Plymouth gained national attention last year with a civic energy program that orchestrated a city-wide "Vanscan."

It is an infrared picture-taking process which reveals building heat losses.

It was followed by -a series of neighborhood meetings where Plymouthlise viewed pictures of their homes and learned how to reduce costly heat leaks.

raks. In neighboring Westland, a commission on Ener-y and Environmental Quality developed a local nergy plan, seeking to stimulate civic energy

awareness through questionnaries, literature dis-semination, and an energy fair.

IMPRESSIVE AS these accomplishments sound, form Stanton, an official with the Michigan Energy Administration, says, "Most cities are barely scratching the surface of possible avenues for sav-ne energy "

Administration, says, must clues are bately scratching the surface of possible avenues for saving energy."

Stanton, acting director of the Energy Clearinghouse, believes communities fail to understand the impact of energy on the local economy, and the harmful effects of energy dollar leaving form. "Cities that develop a serious energy minagement program get good results," said March, that western Michigan city was selected to participate in the Community Energy Management (CEM) program developed by the Energy Administration. The program began with a Vanscan and followup neighborhood meetings. The program developed by the commercial results and the community of the control of the control

\$100,000.

Local sales in energy devices are booming, and do-it-yourself workshops have blossomed.

"IN THE FIRST year of promoting the CEM program, we have worked with 13 cities, including, Albion, Alpena, Harper Woods, Oak Park, and Berkley," said Jan Patrick, CEM coordinator for the En-

She described the CEM program as divided into four basic parts which the city agrees to cover. They are:

• A state-funded Vanscan of the community.
• A follow-up residental program which helps

A follow-up residental program which helps householders stop heat loss, by encouraging home engery audits, monitoring fuel bills, holding instal-lation workshops, and establishing a local energy

resource center.

• A small business program which conducts walk-through building audits, with the state absorbing the costs.

ing the costs.

• A municipal program which provides an En-ergy Administration consultant to work with city administrators to provide the latest information on energy management and planning.

PATRICK STRESSES the board ontions of the CEM program, emphasizing that cities could con-centrate on portions which suit their particular sit-

centrate on portions which suit their particular sit-uations.
"The key to success is strong support from city government and an enthusiastic group of volun-teers," said Patirok.
It is a proper to the support of the support to the support of the Patirok, "is to get a majority of cities across Michi-gan giving active consideration to all aspects of en-gergy use."

gan guing active com-gergy use."

Citles in Wayne County already have a head start. The county has developed profiles of energy use in each of the 42 communities outside Detroit. The profiles detail how much energy is used in the community and for what purposes.

The county also offers a study entitled, "Guide to Local Energy Managemment" to aid local govern-ments in the process of energy management and

ments in the process of energy management any conservation.
WILL THESE tools and programs find their way into local hands? Planners are concerned.
Kathi Quigley, Wayne County energy coordinator, remarks saldy, "Local community energy programs have come to a screeching halt with the Reagan hudget cuts. This is a shame. If only communities understood how much could be saved by owiting their intal energy vasage."

while some communities have taken up the chal-lenge of saving energy dollars, the question re-mains: Will the rest follow?

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