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Legislature Sees Light

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Future Applications

A primary goal of this ERDA-sponsored work on solar ponds is to reduce the cost of the ponds to make them even more attractive for industrial use. Several other applications are possible and will be investigated as the work progresses. For example, fossil fuel is used every autumn for crop drying. In its place, hot water from solar ponds could be converted to hot air by a heat exchanger, or the ponds might be designed to produce solar-heated air directly. Another potential use for energy supplied by shallow solar ponds is to provide hot water, space heating, and air conditioning for a residential complex.

Looking further into the future, we believe that it may be possible to make steam economically with solar energy. This would open a whole new area for supplying industrial-process heat with solar energy. Determining the feasibility of these and other applications is the objective of our ERDA program.

Literature Cited

1. Based on *Patterns of Energy Consumption in the United States*, Stanford Research Institute (January 1972). The 1968 base data given by SRI have been projected to 1973 by applying historical growth rates.
2. *Study of Effectiveness of Industrial Fuel Utilization* (prepared for the Ford Foundation Energy Policy Project), Thermo Electron Corporation, Waltham, Mass., Rept. TE5357-71-74 (1974).

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The 1974 Iowa Legislature included, in an appropriation bill, \$300,000 for a solar energy plant to partly heat and cool the State Capitol.

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Solar Energy Society of America

The Solar Energy Society of America and its publication *Energies* is dedicated to a broad scope of information and education in solar energy and related energy concerns and realities. The society is working in areas ranging from the immediate use of solar energy for heating and cooling to planning preparation of lifestyles resulting from changed physical and human energy use patterns. Cost is \$12.50 for subscribing memberships and \$8.50 for student memberships. For information contact Solar Energy Society of America, P.O. Box 4264, Torrance, California 90510.