

The length of patent protection is sometimes insufficient to attract potential inventors. Patent waivers from DOE are also often difficult and costly to obtain, thereby hindering commercialization. Failure to discourage monopolies through antitrust regulation also discourages innovation, since monopolies lack incentives to perform aggressive R&D.

1.5 POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY SAVINGS IN BUILDINGS

Although there are many barriers to innovation in the buildings industry, the potential payoff is significant. Buildings consume 40% of all forms of energy, and 75% of U.S. electricity production. A recent study (Rosenfeld and Hafemeister, 1988) estimates that technologies and policies for energy-efficient buildings could reduce energy consumption by \$50 billion per year. Without a major technology transfer effort, however, less than half of the energy savings achievable by cost-effective investments in buildings will occur (Office of Technology Assessment, 1982).