

Nationwide, new construction tends to employ electric heating or gas furnaces, not fuel oil. Oil furnaces and boilers comprised approximately 8% of 1986 new heating equipment, while natural gas was 59%, electric warm air was 10%, and electric heat pumps were 23% (Mantho, 1987). A total of 3.9 million new furnaces and boilers were installed in 1986. The primary market for this technology is New England homes, where new existing fuel oil furnaces and boilers are used with greater frequency than in any other region.

Requests for the brochure and fact sheet peaked in 1982, and have fallen as fuel prices have declined.

4.4.5 Facilitating Factors

The FRHOB is a low technology, standard item, easily installed and serviced. The timing of this project was critical. When the project was initiated, fuel oil costs had risen to \$1.00 a gallon in some areas and were still increasing. There were also some localized shortages of fuel oil, and threats of impending scarcities.

4.4.6 Future Directions

The flame retention-head oil burner technology may also be applicable as a substantial energy conservation measure in commercial and industrial oil-fired boilers and furnaces. The potential for developing these markets should be explored.

4.4.7 Sources of Information

Interviews

Bill Graves, Project Manager, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, September 1987.

John Kauser, Hydronics Institute, Washington, D.C., August 1987.