

BEI Energy Update

This update is produced three times weekly by the Brilliant Energy Institute.

Date: Mar. 6, 2023

Top news

Energy Transition:

Strategy:

[Canada releases its Taxonomy Roadmap Report – Government of Canada](#)

The Sustainable Finance Action Council (SFAC) released its “Taxonomy Roadmap Report” to establish standardized and science-based definitions of climate-compatible investments. Backed by the 25 largest financial institutions in the country, which participated in the process as members of the Taxonomy Technical Expert Group (TTEG), the Canadian Green and Transition Financial Taxonomy Framework laid out in the *Roadmap Report* is key to aligning capital flows with Canada’s climate targets and economic opportunities. The “green” label would apply to low-to-no carbon projects or activities that accelerate Canada’s clean energy transition. The “transition” label would apply to projects that substantially reduce emissions from hard-to-decarbonize sectors. Transition-labelled projects would also have limited lifespans and avoid making it either harder or more expensive to transition to net zero in the future.

[Illinois Put a Stop to Local Governments’ Ability to Kill Solar and Wind Projects – Inside Climate News](#)

Two years ago, when Illinois had passed a landmark clean energy law, around 15 counties with some of the most land available for wind and solar were about to pass, restrictions on new development that made the state’s goals more difficult to reach. Last month, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a bill that took away the ability for local governments to limit or ban wind and solar power. Clean energy advocates and supporters of the new law have said they hope this is trendsetting for the Midwest and hope Indiana and Michigan follow suit. The new law, H.B. 4412, sets requirements for utility-scale wind and solar projects and says that local governments are barred from having any rules that are more restrictive than the state rules. Local governments are required to approve any wind or solar project that meets the rules. Counties with bans on renewable energy development must rescind those restrictions within 120 days.

[UK and Canada sign agreement to boost green tech supply chains – Energy Live](#)

The UK and Canada have agreed to work together on critical minerals such as cobalt and lithium which are often used in technologies, including solar panels and electric vehicles. The partnership aims to help make manufacturers of these technologies more resilient to global shocks such as energy and cost of living crisis. The agreement will see both countries cooperate in research projects.

Technologies:

Nuclear:

[EDF teams up with Italian partners on SMR development – World Nuclear News](#)

France's EDF has signed a Letter of Intent with Italy's Ansaldo Energia, Ansaldo Nucleare and Edison to assess potential industrial cooperation for the development of nuclear power in Europe, including in Italy, specifically in the field of small modular reactors (SMRs). The companies plan to explore potential industrial cooperation, drawing on their respective skills. Ansaldo Energia Group is a developer of engineering components and service provider for the energy and nuclear industry, while Edison is a leading Italian energy player. EDF is involved in new nuclear projects based on its portfolio of technologies, including the Nuward SMR, the mid-size EPR1200 reactor and the large-size EPR reactor. EDF and Ansaldo Nucleare recently signed a first contract for provision of engineering studies for the Nuward SMR.

[Regulatory progress for continued operation of Diablo Canyon – World Nuclear News](#)

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has granted an exemption allowing the two units to continue operating while the agency considers Pacific Gas & Electric Co's (PG&E) application to renew the plant's licence, after the California Energy Commission (CEC) also approved a recommendation that Diablo Canyon should continue operating until 2030 to ensure grid reliability. Diablo Canyon unit 1's current licence expires in November 2024 and unit 2's in August 2025. PG&E applied to renew the licences in November 2009, but withdrew the application in 2018 after agreeing to close the plant at the end of its current licences. In September 2022 - as California's energy grid saw its highest-ever peak demand during a record-breaking heatwave - the state passed a law allowing the units to continue to operate until 2030 to ensure a reliable energy system.

[Second Bruce unit begins refurbishment outage – World Nuclear News](#)

Bruce unit 3 has officially begun its Major Component Replacement (MCR) outage. The CANDU unit was removed from service on 1 March and is scheduled to come back online in 2026. The MCR project will see six of the eight units at the Bruce site undergo refurbishment, enabling them to continue in operation until 2064. Bruce 3 follows Bruce 6, which began its MCR outage in January 2020 and is expected to return to service later this year. The MCR programme is due to be completed in 2033, and together with other life extension projects will increase Bruce Power's peak output from 6550 MWe today to more than 7000 MWe, the company said. The Life-Extension Program and MCR Projects will extend the operational life of each reactor by 30 to 35 years.

Battery:

[US electric vehicle batteries poised for new lithium iron age – Financial Times | Energy](#)

Battery technology prevalent in China is making inroads in the US electric-vehicle market, with manufacturers looking past poorer energy storage characteristics to embrace its cheaper cost and safety. This month a start-up named Our Next Energy will begin making lithium iron phosphate, or LFP, batteries in Michigan, expanding next year after opening a new \$1.6bn plant. By 2027 ONE intends to supply enough LFP batteries for 200,000 EVs. Last month Ford announced it would license technology to make LFP batteries for its cars from China-based supplier CATL, citing the need to offer customers a lower-priced option. A senior General Motors executive said in February that the company is exploring the possibility of using LFPs to reduce costs.

Hydrogen:

[Hydrogen-ready boilers are 'greenwash' that will delay zero-carbon heating, says think tank – Hydrogen Insight](#)

The UK government's proposal to mandate all new gas boilers are "hydrogen-ready" could allow boiler manufacturers to mislead the public with greenwash, and risks leaving householders stranded with equipment that will never burn H₂, a brief from energy think tank the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) has warned. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government is currently consulting on a plan to mandate that all boilers sold in the UK are "hydrogen-ready" — specifically defined as able to burn 100% hydrogen — by 2025.

Fossil Fuel:

[Pathways Alliance injects \\$10 million to advance oil sands CCS pipeline – Energy Now](#)

Canada's oil sands producers have taken a \$10 million step toward building one of the world's largest carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects. Engineering firm Wood will now begin design work on the 400-kilometer pipeline to be the backbone of the project, connecting an initial 14 oil sands facilities to a storage hub in northern Alberta. The project, being developed by the Pathways Alliance, is expected to remove up to 12 million tonnes of emissions annually by 2030, at a development cost of \$16.5 billion.

[Biden's Green Subsidies Kill Planned Parkland Biofuel Refinery – Energy Now](#)

President Joe Biden's landmark climate bill has prompted one of Canada's largest gas-station owners to scrap a planned renewable-diesel plant near Vancouver, illustrating how countries are struggling to counter the US's green subsidies. Parkland Corporation cited the US legislation by name in explaining why it's not proceeding with the low-emissions, 6,500 barrel-a-day facility near its Burnaby refinery. Parkland said in May that it would invest C\$600 million (\$441 million) in projects including the standalone renewable-diesel complex and an expansion of its co-processing volumes to about 5,500 barrels a day. The cancellation is a further example of how Biden's sweeping clean energy and climate incentives are stoking tensions with the country's allies around the world.

Other happenings to note

[Poll: British Columbians prefer clean energy over LNG, with low support for fossil fuel subsidies – Clean Energy Canada](#)

British Columbians overwhelmingly prefer the government to focus on developing renewable energy (64.0%) over LNG (18.2%), according to a new public opinion survey conducted by Stratcom for Clean Energy Canada. Clean energy has consistently been the preference of British Columbians for at least the past three years. Accordingly, more British Columbians (44.2%) would oppose LNG expansion if it causes B.C. to miss its climate targets than would support it in such a case (36.5%). Among NDP and undecided voters, opposition is even higher.

[Bruce Power marks National Employee Appreciation Day with \\$25,000 donation to Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce – Bruce Power](#)

Bruce Power is celebrating National Employee Appreciation Day by making a \$25,000 donation to Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce. In 2022, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce built seven single-dwelling homes for families on Saugeen First Nation. The local chapter of the non-profit has built more than 60 houses across Grey/Bruce since it was founded in 1987.

