

Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation

Ontario Tech University

BEI Energy News

Weekly newsletter

April 26, 2024

Energy Policy

What is B.C. doing to meet its net-zero emissions goals? - CityNews

<https://vancouver.citynews.ca/2024/04/24/site-c-electricity-bc-hydro-first-nations/>

British Columbia is pursuing electrification goals, notably through the construction of the Site C hydroelectric dam on the Peace River, slated to be operational by 2025. Costing \$16 billion, it is Canada's most expensive dam project, expected to generate 1,100 megawatts of capacity and power about half a million homes annually. While Site C will enhance BC Hydro's output by 8 per cent, it faces environmental concerns and opposition from First Nations over treaty rights and ecological impacts. Despite these issues, the project must comply with various environmental and cultural conditions.

Electric Vehicles

Investments in EV charging ports a bright spark for greener motoring in Greater Victoria - Infrastructure Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2024/04/investments-in-ev-charging-ports-a-bright-spark-for-greener-motoring-in-greater-victoria.html>

The Capital Regional District in British Columbia will see an increase in public electric vehicle charging ports, with an investment of more than \$8.7 million from federal, provincial, and local governments. They will install around 576 Level-2 and 20 direct-current fast-charge ports at 80 public spots. The installation of these ports will make it easier to charge EVs and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project aims to boost sustainability and create jobs, funded by \$1.7 million from the federal government, \$4.7 million from British Columbia, and \$2.3 million from the CRD and the City of Victoria.

Honda EV investment the culmination of years of government leadership, securing Canada's place as an EV heavyweight - Clean Energy Canada

<https://cleanenergycanada.org/honda-ev-investment-the-culmination-of-years-of-government-leadership-securing-canadas-place-as-an-ev-heavyweight/>

Honda's \$15 billion investment in Ontario for an integrated electric vehicle battery supply chain represents the largest auto sector investment in Canadian history. The plan includes a new EV assembly plant and a battery cell manufacturing plant at Honda's Alliston campus. Supported by \$5 billion from federal and Ontario governments, production will begin in 2028. This investment will create at least 1,000 new jobs and maintain 4,200 existing ones.

Nuclear

BWXT announces expansion of Ontario manufacturing plant - World Nuclear News

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/BWXT-announces-expansion-of-Ontario-manufacturing>

BWXT Technologies is investing \$80 million to expand its Cambridge manufacturing plant in Ontario, enhancing support for small modular reactors and other nuclear energy projects. This investment includes \$50 million for a 25 per cent increase in facility size and \$30 million for advanced manufacturing equipment. The expansion will boost capacity by 50 per cent, improve productivity, and create over 200 jobs. Construction will start in the third quarter of this year and finish by mid-2026.

Indigenous and Community Engagement

Feds offer \$5B in Indigenous loan guarantees, fall \$420 billion short on infrastructure asks - Citynews

<https://kitchener.citynews.ca/2024/04/16/budget-2024-ottawa-offers-up-to-5b-in-loan-guarantees-for-indigenous-communities/>

The Government of Canada has announced a \$5 billion loan guarantee program in its 2024 budget to support Indigenous communities' investments in energy and natural resource projects. This initiative aims to provide better interest rates for Indigenous borrowers and addresses challenges imposed by the Indian Act on using land as collateral. However, significant funding gaps remain, with an estimated \$420 billion needed to close the infrastructure gap across Indigenous communities. The Assembly of First Nations states that \$349 billion is required by 2030 to meet infrastructure needs, but the current budget allocates only \$918 million for more than five years for these improvements. This allocation highlights the ongoing challenge in addressing the infrastructure needs of Indigenous communities.

Indigenous communities are leading Canada's clean energy transition - Globe and Mail (Paywall)

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-indigenous-communities-are-leading-canadas-clean-energy-transition/>

Fort Nelson, BC, once reliant on a gas-driven economy, is now embracing renewable energy initiatives. The community, heavily affected by the boom and bust of the gas industry, is now leveraging Indigenous-led clean energy projects to restore environmental and economic stability. The Indigenous Clean Energy's Generation Power program educates and empowers Indigenous youth in sustainable energy practices. As part of a broader effort, Natural Resources Canada committed more than \$30 million on June 5, 2023, to foster green job opportunities and training in the natural resources sector.

Ulkatcho First Nation to house largest off-grid solar project in Canada - Infrastructure Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2024/04/ulkatcho-first-nation-to-house-largest-off-grid-solar-project-in-canada.html>

The Ulkatcho First Nation will soon benefit from Canada's largest off-grid solar project, following a \$15.84 million investment from federal and provincial governments. The solar energy facility, aimed at cutting the community's diesel use by 64 per cent will

significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operational costs. The project includes the construction of a solar power plant, new roads, and a battery storage system, with BC Hydro purchasing the generated energy. Construction will begin soon to enhance sustainable energy access and economic development for the Ulkatcho First Nation.

Do you have any milestones, events, or news updates to share with the energy community? Email your submission to BrilliantEnergy@ontariotechu.ca for consideration in an upcoming edition.

Thank you.

The Brilliant Energy Institute news team
brilliantenergyinstitute.ca

(With a little help from ChatGPT)