

Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation
Ontario Tech University

BEI Energy News

Weekly Newsletter

May 3, 2024

Energy Policy

Mexico proudly controls its energy but could find it hard to reach its climate goals - CityNews

<https://halifax.citynews.ca/2024/04/30/mexico-proudly-controls-its-energy-but-could-find-it-hard-to-reach-its-climate-goals/>

Presidential candidates in Mexico hold contrasting views on energy. Claudia Sheinbaum leans towards state control, while Xóchitl Gálvez advocates for private sector participation in renewables. López Obrador's policies prioritize state-owned firms, affecting climate commitments. Sheinbaum plans to enhance refining at Pemex and maintain CFE's electricity dominance. This debate echoes Mexico's ongoing debate on public versus private energy roles.

Kitchener Council votes yes to a multi-million dollar climate change plan - CityNews

<https://kitchener.citynews.ca/2024/04/30/kitchener-council-votes-yes-to-a-250m-climate-change-plan-into-2050/>

Kitchener Council approved a \$10 million yearly initiative for 25 years, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050. The Climate Action Plan 2.0 outlines 47 actions by 2027, including transitioning to renewable energy and researching biodiesel with the University of Waterloo. Councillor Scott Davey raised concerns over the \$250 million plan but supported it with hopes of government funding. Operations will start soon with secured funding.

Climate change could virtually disappear in Florida – at least according to state law - CityNews

<https://ottawa.citynews.ca/2024/04/30/climate-change-could-virtually-disappear-in-florida-at-least-according-to-state-law/>

Florida will remove climate change from energy policy priorities, focusing instead on affordability and availability. The bill awaits Governor Ron DeSantis's signature. It reverses a 16-year-old

law advocated by the former Governor. Critics argue against the shift, noting Florida's vulnerability to rising sea levels. The bill, supported by Republicans and opposed by Democrats, repeals the remaining provisions from Crist's era. DeSantis has until May 15 to act. Rep. Bobby Payne emphasizes energy reliability and cost concerns.

Inside job: How AI can help reduce emissions in buildings - Toronto Star (Paywall)

https://www.thestar.com/business/mars/inside-job-how-ai-can-help-reduce-emissions-in-buildings/article_e7afecca-00ce-11ef-b101-1bc46118f325.html

BrainBox AI, in partnership with ABB, now manages HVAC systems in 12,000+ U.S. buildings, focusing on big box retail stores. Their software reduces energy consumption by up to 25 per cent and cuts emissions by 40 per cent. Canadian firms are leading in AI-based energy management solutions for buildings, optimizing consumption and aiding with decarbonization efforts. The Arthur Meighen Building underwent a \$277-million renovation integrating AI for energy reduction and accessibility enhancements. This project is a model for future developments, emphasizing sustainability and inclusivity. Operations for the renovated Arthur Meighen Building began in 2019.

Here's where experts say the jobs in the 'just transition' to green energy will be found - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/signal-jobs-just-transition-1.7177590>

Newfoundland and Labrador are shifting towards green energy, emphasizing future job creation. World Energy GH2 plans to install more than 300 wind turbines and build a hydrogen ammonia plant in Stephenville. The College of the North Atlantic has launched a school of sustainable development to prepare students for emerging industries. These developments will help transition the region away from carbon-based energy.

Geothermal Energy

Alberta funding study for geothermal test site in the province - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-geothermal-energy-drilling-test-site-1.7189989?cmp=rss>

Alberta invested \$750,000 in a feasibility study for Canada's first open-access geothermal drilling test site, the Alberta Drilling Accelerator. Led by Eavor Technologies, the study aimed to advance geothermal technology, leveraging Alberta's drilling expertise. Minister Schulz highlighted the potential of geothermal energy, emphasizing its reliability compared to wind and solar. If the study confirmed viability, drilling could have commenced by 2025, aligning with Alberta's goal to derive 30 per cent of its electricity from renewables by 2030.

Hydrogen

Alberta wants more hydrogen vehicles. Experts say fuel infrastructure needs to come with them - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-wants-more-hydrogen-vehicles-experts-say-fuel-infrastructure-needs-to-come-with-them-1.7183489?cmp=rss>

Hydrogen is a solution for cutting emissions in Alberta's commercial transportation. Challenges persist in expanding hydrogen vehicle use and fueling infrastructure. Initiatives aim to address these hurdles. Air Products plans a hydrogen fueling network along the QEII Highway. Despite interest, costs and infrastructure viability are concerns. Federal incentives, supported by provincial backing, will drive progress over the next two years. Operations for the new fueling stations will commence soon.

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

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(With a little help from ChatGPT)