

Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation

Ontario Tech University

BEI Energy News

Weekly newsletter

July 05, 2024

Top News

Energy Policy

Google falling short of important climate target, cites electricity needs of AI - CityNews

<https://halifax.citynews.ca/2024/07/02/google-falling-short-of-important-climate-target-cites-electricity-needs-of-ai/>

Three years ago, Google pledged to reach net zero emissions by 2030. A recent report shows its emissions increased by 13 per cent in 2023 and 48 per cent since 2019. The rise is due to the energy demands of artificial intelligence. Google aims to use 100 per cent clean energy by 2030 and currently averages 64 per cent carbon-free energy for its data centres. Experts suggest more collaboration and investment in clean energy are needed to meet these goals.

Feds announce \$11 million in funding for clean energy projects, mostly in Alberta - CTV News

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/feds-announce-11m-in-funding-for-clean-energy-projects-mostly-in-alberta-1.6949849>

The Government of Canada announced \$11 million in federal funding for eleven clean energy projects, most of which are in Alberta. Of this, \$2.5 million will go to small modular nuclear reactor research at the University of Alberta and the University of Regina. The remaining \$8.5 million will support seven Alberta companies working on hydrogen projects, including Atco Gas and Innovative Fuel Systems. The federal government estimates the economic opportunity of hydrogen development in Canada at over \$100 billion. These projects aim to support Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Sask. won't comply with proposed clean electricity regulations; feds call reasons 'incorrect conclusions' - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/clean-electricity-regulations-1.7246223#:~:text=Sask.-,won't%20comply%20with%20proposed%20clean%20electricity%20regulations%3B%20feds%20call,regulations%20when%20they%20are%20implemented>

The Government of Saskatchewan will not comply with federal clean electricity regulations. A provincial tribunal found the ruling will reduce GDP by \$7.1 billion and cut 4,200 jobs from 2025 to 2035. Saskatchewan's Affordability Plan is considered more cost-effective. The federal government offers \$40 billion to help provinces build cleaner grids. The regulations aim to support a net-zero electricity grid.

Hydro Ottawa says 'massive' investment needed to meet electricity demands - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/hydro-ottawa-says-massive-investment-needed-to-meet-electricity-demands-1.7246175#:~:text=Conrad%20said%20coping%20with%20those,specific%20overall%20figure%20when%20asked>

Hydro Ottawa plans to increase capital spending due to severe weather and increased electricity use for heating and vehicles. The company will build a new substation annually to meet the rising demand for EV charging and heat pumps. More government funding for distribution companies is needed. There is a consensus on the need for federal and provincial support. Hydro Ottawa will submit its rate application to the Ontario Energy Board in 2030.

Fossil Fuels

Plan to wean B.C. off fossil fuels avoids vital question: How? - National Observer (Pay wall)

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2024/07/03/news/bc-fossil-fuels-plan-avoids-vital-question-how>

Critics say British Columbia's new plan to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy is short on specifics. The plan aims to double electricity demand by 2050. It includes rebates for solar panel installations and efficiency rules to phase out natural gas. The government will also increase hydrogen and renewable natural gas production. Critics argue the plan lacks a clear roadmap and detailed actions. The strategy concludes with plans for stakeholder engagement, suggesting more details may come. The project did not include any information about when it would start or how it would be funded.

Electric Vehicles

Federal call for new EV charging will help Canadians go electric, but more action needed from industry and all levels of government - Clean Energy Canada

<https://cleanenergycanada.org/federal-call-for-new-ev-charging-will-help-canadians-go-electric-but-more-action-needed-from-industry-and-all-levels-of-government/>

New request proposals for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging projects under the federal Zero-emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program will expand Canada's EV charging network as more Canadians opt to go electric. While more than 80 per cent of EV charging occurs at home, public charging is essential for longer road trips and Canadians unable to access home charging. EVs made up 12 per cent of new cars sold last year, and Canada has more than 27,000 public charging ports. More charging stations will be needed as EVs become popular. A comprehensive national charging plan is required to improve network reliability and coverage, particularly for condos and apartments. The estimated cost of building the necessary grid infrastructure is \$94 billion between 2024 and 2040.

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)