

Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation

Ontario Tech University

BEI Energy News

Weekly newsletter

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Top News

OntarioTech News

Ontario Tech graduate students innovate solutions for Canada's energy future at Ideathon - OntarioTech University

<https://news.ontariotechu.ca/archives/2024/11/ontario-tech-graduate-students-innovate-solutions-for-canadas-energy-future-at-ideathon.php>

Graduate students from Ontario Tech University collaborated with industry experts and mentors during a three-day Ideathon to develop innovative solutions for advancing fusion energy, a clean energy technology with transformative potential for Canada's energy future. Sponsored by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and held at Ontario Tech's Energy Research Centre, the event featured workshops, brainstorming sessions, and final project presentations. Winning ideas included a simulated twin of a fusion reactor and a fusion-based multigeneration system. Top teams earned cash prizes and invitations to refine their projects at CNL's facilities, highlighting the Ideathon's role in fostering innovation and professional development in the energy sector.

Indigenous

Energy projects in Alberta should prioritize Indigenous communities, experts say - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/energy-projects-in-alberta-should-prioritize-indigenous-communities-experts-say-1.7358772>

Experts emphasize the importance of early and meaningful consultations with Indigenous communities for future energy projects in Alberta, particularly nuclear energy initiatives. With Alberta exploring small modular reactors (SMRs) as part of its energy strategy, specialists like Sean Conway advocate for comprehensive engagement that considers the entire lifecycle of these projects—from pre-development through decommissioning. This approach ensures that Indigenous communities are consulted, involved in decision-making, and offered opportunities to participate in or own energy assets located on their traditional territories. The goal is to forge partnerships beyond contractual agreements, fostering long-term relationships and ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are integral to Alberta's energy transition.

Energy Policy

B.C.'s new cabinet and energy ministry has an opportunity to drive home a truly sustainable kind of affordability - Clean Energy Canada

<https://cleanenergycanada.org/b-c-s-new-cabinet-and-energy-ministry-has-an-opportunity-to-drive-home-a-truly-sustainable-kind-of-affordability/>

Clean Energy Canada has praised the new British Columbia cabinet's commitment to clean energy, with the introduction of a stand-alone climate and energy ministry that merges previous roles to more effectively address affordability, energy, and climate challenges. The organization emphasizes the importance of policies that support household clean technologies like EVs and heat pumps, which could significantly reduce energy costs. It also calls for the quick implementation of the province's recent energy strategy and climate policies, including an emissions cap for oil and gas and the maintenance of current policies against fossil fuel incentives, in response to ongoing cost-of-living and climate-related challenges.

Saskatchewan's Bekevar Wind Energy Facility now online - ReNew Canada

<https://www.renewcanada.net/saskatchewans-bekevar-wind-energy-facility-now-online/>

SaskPower has completed construction of the Bekevar Wind Energy Facility, now the largest renewable energy facility with Indigenous ownership in Saskatchewan, located north of Moose Mountain Provincial Park. The facility is a collaboration between Innagreen Investments and a wholly-owned entity of the Cowessess First Nation. It will provide 200 megawatts of emissions-free power—enough for up to 100,000 homes—under a 25-year agreement with SaskPower. This project is a significant step towards SaskPower's goal of achieving a net-zero emissions power system by 2050 and is part of a broader plan to add up to 3,000 MW of wind and solar generation by 2035. The facility represents a milestone in the involvement of Indigenous leadership in clean energy initiatives, emphasizing the cultural and economic benefits to the Cowessess First Nation community.

Evaluating Canada's pledge to triple nuclear capacity - Policy Options

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/november-2024/canada-nuclear-capacity/>

Canada's commitment to tripling its nuclear capacity by 2050 is a crucial element in its strategy to achieve net-zero emissions, as the country increasingly views nuclear power as essential amidst growing electricity demands. With the Canadian government highlighting the importance of nuclear in recent investments and regulatory advancements, there is a push to address the urgent need for increased capacity to meet future energy requirements. However, the absence of formal commitments to new nuclear plants creates uncertainty, stressing the need for definitive government action to secure Canada's position as a leader in nuclear technology. This approach includes enhancing regulations, supporting technological innovation, and ensuring community benefits from related developments, such as the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

Quebec plans to achieve 100% renewable energy in buildings - CityNews

<https://montreal.citynews.ca/2024/11/18/quebec-plans-to-achieve-100-renewable-energy/>

Quebec has unveiled an ambitious plan to phase out fossil fuels in all buildings, except industrial ones, by 2040 to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy usage. The initiative, announced by government officials, draws from existing municipal bans on gas systems and aims to expand renewable energy sources like renewable source gas (RSG). Key regulatory changes include prohibiting natural gas heating appliances in smaller new residential buildings

and mandating that gas distributors increase the percentage of renewable source gas delivered. This approach focuses on strengthening regulations, fostering technological innovation, and ensuring that communities benefit from developments like the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

Too many N.B.ers are living in 'energy poverty,' says Saint John activist - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/energy-poverty-relief-wishes-1.7384725>

In New Brunswick, the recent approval of a 19 per cent increase in electricity rates over two years has heightened concerns about energy poverty, especially among low-income households. Randy Hatfield, executive director of the Human Development Council in Saint John, highlighted the significant number of New Brunswickers already struggling with high energy costs, with some reports showing up to 36.3 per cent of households spend more than 6 per cent of their income on energy. With rising rates, Hatfield emphasizes the need for comprehensive policies to support those most impacted. These policies could include emergency benefits and direct financial assistance, similar to measures in other provinces and regions. Meanwhile, N.B. Power emphasizes its efforts to manage costs and provide subsidies for energy efficiency upgrades to help mitigate the impact of rate increases.

Canada, Indonesia agree to trade pact - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-indonesia-trade-apec-1.7384731>

Canada and Indonesia have successfully concluded negotiations on a new trade agreement, set to be signed next year, as announced at the APEC summit in Lima. This agreement highlights a significant shift, with Canada proposing nuclear-energy collaborations with Southeast Asian leaders to strengthen its clean energy commitments. Amidst global tensions and rising protectionism, this move represents Canada's strategy to bolster its role in multilateral trade and environmental efforts. The agreement will strengthen digital trade and renewable energy initiatives, highlighting Canada's commitment to balancing global trade relationships with environmental responsibilities.

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)