

# Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation  
Ontario Tech University

## BEI Energy News

Weekly newsletter

April 25th, 2025

### BEI News

#### Advanced Nuclear and Small Modular Reactor Panel

<https://forms.gle/a5RDDRQ69z2qinEe8>

The Brilliant Energy Institute at Ontario Tech University is hosting an in-person panel discussion on advanced nuclear and small modular reactors (SMRs) on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM at the ERC Atrium. The event will feature international experts, including Dr. Hadid Subki from the International Atomic Energy Agency, Sonia Iqbal of Conexus Nuclear, Igor Pioro from Ontario Tech University, Dazawray Landrie-Parker of Mokwateh, and Brian Fehrenbach from the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Hossam Kishawy, Dean of Engineering at Ontario Tech University.

### Indigenous

#### Indigenous-led Projects Hold Key To Canada's Energy Future - Frontier Centre For Public Policy

<https://fcpp.org/2025/04/20/indigenous-led-projects-hold-key-to-canadas-energy-future/>

A revived call to build the Northern Gateway pipeline has renewed debate over Indigenous-led energy development, with leaders like Calvin Helin and Dale Swampy urging policy reforms and equity partnerships. They argue Canada's energy security and global competitiveness depend on repealing restrictive legislation and empowering First Nations leadership. With growing Indigenous support for LNG and pipeline projects, advocates are pushing for faster approvals and improved reconciliation guidelines. As the federal election looms, they say it's time to unlock Canada's energy potential through Indigenous equity and collaboration.

### Solar Energy

**Solar energy is growing fast in Canada, but panels are imported. Could we try to make them here? - CBC**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/solar-energy-manufacturing-canada-1.7515581>

As Canada's solar power sector grows, the vast majority of panels continue to be imported, raising questions about the future of domestic manufacturing. Toronto-based Mitrex is one of the few firms manufacturing solar panels in Canada, focusing on building-integrated photovoltaics for large projects. Industry leaders say boosting local manufacturing would require improved government incentives and growing demand. While most solar jobs are in design and installation, experts argue a manufacturing base could still support significant job creation.

## Building Infrastructure

### Overwhelming majority of Canadians back national clean energy grid, finds poll - Business in Vancouver

<https://www.biv.com/news/economy-law-politics/overwhelming-majority-of-canadians-back-national-clean-energy-grid-finds-poll-10550814>

A new EKOS poll finds that a majority of Canadians support the development of a national hydroelectric grid. Backed by 84 per cent of respondents, the idea has cross-party appeal and growing municipal support. The push comes amid competing calls for pipeline expansion and shifting priorities under U.S. trade pressure. Climate advocates say the grid would cut emissions and boost national unity.

### Canada's Pipeline Builders Ready to Get to Work - EnergyNow.ca

<https://energynow.ca/2025/04/canadas-pipeline-builders-ready-to-get-to-work/>

Canada's pipeline workforce is eager for new projects following the completion of Trans Mountain and Coastal GasLink, but industry leaders warn jobs are drying up without fresh builds. The Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada and Progressive Contractors Association are pushing for a revival of major initiatives like Energy East. They're also calling for an overhaul of the federal Impact Assessment Act, which they say stifles development. With workers and infrastructure ready, advocates say it's time to restart "nation-building" energy projects.

## Renewables

### Energy efficient school in Coquitlam, B.C., gets clean energy designation - Toronto Star

[https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/british-columbia/energy-efficient-school-in-coquitlam-b-c-gets-clean-energy-designation/article\\_fc9fcc38-e5d3-5bf4-baa6-3acea4e42102.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/british-columbia/energy-efficient-school-in-coquitlam-b-c-gets-clean-energy-designation/article_fc9fcc38-e5d3-5bf4-baa6-3acea4e42102.html)

BC Hydro has named Coast Salish Elementary in Coquitlam, British Columbia, a Clean Energy Champion for its leadership in energy efficiency. The school features solar panels, a hybrid heat pump, and LED lighting, with projected carbon savings of 740 tonnes over 15 years. Energy use is integrated into classroom learning. It's the first green school in the Coquitlam district.

### Clean energy powered 40% of global electricity in 2024, report finds - Canada's National Observer

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2025/04/21/news/clean-energy-powered-40-global-electricity-2024-report-finds>

Clean energy sources generated more than 40 per cent of the world's electricity in 2024, driven by

rapid growth in solar and wind, a new report by Ember says. Solar alone accounted for nearly 7 per cent, making it the fastest-growing energy source for 20 years. Despite record-high emissions due to heatwave-driven demand, Ember expects renewables to outpace fossil fuels as electricity needs rise. The report warns that technologies like AI and EVs will further drive demand in the coming years.

## Energy Policy

### **Review underway after Alberta withholds renewable energy survey results - Edmonton Journal**

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/review-alberta-renewable-energy-survey-privacy>

Alberta's privacy commissioner is reviewing the province's decision to withhold results from a public survey on renewable energy and farmland. Postmedia received over 300 fully redacted pages after filing freedom of information requests. The review questions the use of confidentiality exemptions that may not apply to public survey data.

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

Thank you.

The Brilliant Energy Institute news team

[brilliantenergyinstitute.ca](http://brilliantenergyinstitute.ca)

*(With a little help from ChatGPT)*