

# Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation

Ontario Tech University

## BEI Energy News

Produced weekly

February 14th, 2025

### BEI News

#### Accelerating Automotive Innovation ACE x OVIN Innovation Garage Challenge

The Brilliant Energy Institute is thrilled to partner with ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel and the Student Enrichment Program (SEP) at Ontario Tech University, alongside the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) and the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI), to launch the Automotive Innovation Challenge—in collaboration with Toyota Canada and Magna International Inc. We are offering students from all faculties the chance to network with top industry leaders and showcase their expertise.

### Ontario Tech News

#### Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science Research Day

<https://engineering.ontariotechu.ca/research/research-day/index.php>

Join Ontario Tech University's Annual Engineering Research Day 2025 on February 20 at the North Oshawa Campus, UA Building. This year's event highlights the theme, *"Responsible & Sustainable Systems: Engineering for the Future,"* showcasing research in engineering. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in expert panels, explore poster sessions, tour research labs, and hear insights from key speakers, including Stephanie Smith from AtkinsRéalis and Ontario Tech's VP of Research.

## Nuclear

### **G7 pushing nuclear to prioritize power for AI won't come at cost of climate change: Trudeau – National Post**

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/g7-trudeau-ai-nuclear>

As Canada takes the lead in the G7 this year, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emphasizes the importance of expanding electricity generation to power AI technologies without compromising the fight against climate change. Highlighting nuclear energy as a pivotal solution, Trudeau is enhancing infrastructure to keep up with the rapid advancements in AI technology while also considering strategies to reduce AI's extensive energy demands. This initiative reflects Canada's commitment to sustainable development and technological innovation a global stage.

## Renewables

### **B.C. takes a critical step to fast track clean energy – Clean Energy Canada**

<https://cleanenergycanada.org/b-c-takes-a-critical-step-to-fast-track-clean-energy/>

British Columbia will expedite renewable energy projects under the new authority of the BC Energy Regulator, marking a significant move towards clean energy development. Announced by Evan Pivnick of Clean Energy Canada, the legislation aims to support the growing demand for clean electricity with a more efficient one-window permitting process, highlighting the critical need for dedicated resources within the BC Energy Regulator to advance renewable energy initiatives effectively.

## Building Infrastructure

### **Federal government supporting energy upgrades for affordable homes in Vancouver – Canada Newswire**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-hydro-peak-usage-1.7446495>

The Canadian government has allocated over \$15.5 million to enhance energy efficiency in 420 affordable homes in Vancouver, through the Canada Greener Affordable Housing program. This funding supports extensive renovations to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improving living conditions and extending building longevity. The initiative highlights Canada's commitment to fostering sustainable communities while addressing climate goals.

## **Energy Policy**

### **The calls are growing for action on energy. But what's the next step for Canada? - CTV News**

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/article/a-wake-up-call-canada-must-diversify-energy-experts-warn-amid-tariff-threats/>

In the wake of tariff threats from the U.S., Canada faces calls for urgent diversification in its energy sector. Portfolio manager Eric Nuttall criticizes past policies for overly relying on the U.S. as a trade partner, arguing for increased pipeline construction and market diversification. The pause in tariffs has sparked a broader debate on Canada's energy strategy, with advocates pushing for infrastructure to strengthen economic security against future trade disruptions, emphasizing the strategic necessity of expanding access to global markets.

### **Environmentalists warn against Quebec pipeline revival as politicians push for west-east link - CBC**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/environmentalists-quebec-pipeline-1.7452776>

Quebec reconsiders a once-scrapped pipeline project to transport natural gas from Western Canada for overseas shipping amid U.S. tariff threats. Halted due to environmental risks and public opposition, renewed political and economic pressures revive the debate. Environmentalists and First Nations express concerns, emphasizing the need for sustainable energy solutions and thorough consultation. The situation underscores Canada's need to diversify its energy exports and reduce dependency on U.S. markets.

### **Universal Kraft Canada Renewables secures USD 15 million credit facility for solar energy development – Canada Newswire**

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/universal-kraft-canada-renewables-secures-usd-15-million-credit-facility-for-solar-energy-development-888055877.html>

Universal Kraft Canada Renewables has secured a USD 15 million credit facility from Crayhill Capital Management, with potential expansion to USD 50 million, to support the development of 1.7 GW of solar projects in Alberta. This financing will help meet Generator Unit Owner Contribution requirements for solar development, enhancing Universal Kraft's ability to respond to growing renewable energy demands amidst market reforms. The facility marks a significant step in advancing Alberta's renewable energy capacity.

## **We tracked N.S. power outages in 2024. There were unplanned outages nearly every day – CBC**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/2024-power-outages-trees-storms-reliability-1.7453611>

In 2024, Nova Scotia experienced unplanned power outages almost daily, with more than 4,700 incidents reported. CBC News revealed that only one day passed without disruptions, as urban and rural areas faced frequent electricity cuts. Amid these ongoing issues, Nova Scotia Power has committed to a \$1.3 billion investment over five years to enhance grid reliability, focusing on tree trimming and modernizing the power grid to reduce outage impacts and durations by 20 per cent.

## **As global leaders, Canada and Norway's co-operation is timely in the face of surging energy demand – Tech Xplore**

<https://techxplore.com/news/2025-02-global-leaders-canada-norway-surging.html>

In the face of global energy challenges, Canada and Norway are advancing their cooperation on energy transitions, leveraging their long-standing partnership to foster a green and just transition. With their historical collaboration and environmental ambitions, the current geopolitical landscape offers an opportunity to lead in renewable energy innovations and infrastructure. This cooperation aims to significantly contribute to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, enhancing both nations' economic and environmental futures.

*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)*