

Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation
Ontario Tech University

BEI Energy News

Weekly newsletter

May 2nd, 2025

BEI News

Advanced Nuclear and Small Modular Reactor Panel



The Brilliant Energy Institute was proud to host the Advanced Nuclear and Small Modular Reactor panel on campus on Tuesday, April 29. Discussions centred around collaboration, innovation, and Indigenous consultation to power the future of nuclear.

Energy Systems

US energy storage industry ready to commit US\$100 billion domestic supply chain investment but reforms are needed, ACP says - Energy Storage News

<https://www.energy-storage.news/us-energy-storage-industry-ready-to-commit-us100-billion/>

The American Clean Power Association says the U.S. energy storage industry will invest US\$100 billion to build domestic battery supply chains by 2030. The move could create 350,000 jobs and ensure all storage projects use American-made batteries. Industry leaders warn that policy uncertainty, tariffs, and permitting delays may derail the effort. They're calling on lawmakers to stabilize tax incentives and streamline approvals to unlock this growth.

Renewables

B.C. streamlines permitting for renewable-energy projects - British Columbia

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025ECS0018-000397>

British Columbia has introduced legislation to streamline permitting for renewable energy projects by designating the BC Energy Regulator as the lead agency for approvals. The move will fast-track wind, solar, and transmission developments amid rising demand and trade uncertainty. The proposed law would simplify processes, exempt priority projects from environmental assessments, and ensure Indigenous consultation. Officials say the changes will support clean energy growth, job creation, and energy security.

BluEarth Renewables agrees USD-217m loan to fund growth - Renewables Now

<https://renewablesnow.com/news/blueearth-renewables-agrees-usd-217m-loan-to-fund-growth-1274567/>

BluEarth Renewables has secured a CAD 300-million credit facility to accelerate its North American growth, including project development and acquisitions. The loan, backed by major lenders like CIBC and Rabobank, replaces the company's previous credit line. BluEarth operates over 780 MW of clean energy and has a development pipeline exceeding 7 GW. Recent milestones include a Wyoming wind project and a solar partnership with the Nlaka'pamux Nation in British Columbia.

Energy Policy

Proposed law aims to limit foreign participation in Ontario mining and energy sectors - Law Times

<https://www.lawtimesnews.com/practice-areas/real-estate/proposed-law-aims-to-limit-foreign-participation-in-ontario-mining-and-energy-sectors/392388>

Ontario has introduced the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, aimed at restricting foreign participation in the province's mining and energy sectors. The proposed law would give the province power to suspend mining rights, deny leases, and block hostile foreign entities from critical energy infrastructure. Officials say the measures are meant to safeguard Ontario's resources, supply chains, and economic sovereignty. The legislation also seeks to streamline development approvals, particularly in the Ring of Fire.

Program aims to transform energy in Northern BC - Prince George Citizen

<https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/local-news/northern-regional-energy-dialogues-sees-support-during-the-second-day-of-northern-10596679>

A new program is helping Northern B.C. communities lead renewable energy projects and adapt to climate change. Launched by Accelerating Community Energy Transition (ACET) and university partners, the initiative focuses on local input, training, and jobs. Researcher Sinead Earley says facilities like rec centres are already using solar and waste-heat tech. The goal is to keep energy planning and benefits in northern communities.

Energy, environmental groups strike hopeful tone after Liberal federal election win - City News Toronto

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2025/04/29/energy-industry-strikes-hopeful-tone-after-liberal-federal-election-win/>

Energy and environmental groups are cautiously optimistic following the Liberals' minority election win under Mark Carney. Industry leaders hope for improved relations and faster project approvals, while clean energy advocates urge a firm shift away from fossil fuels. Carney faces pressure to balance climate goals with economic growth amid U.S. trade tensions. Critics warn of regulatory gridlock and demand clarity on Canada's energy direction.

How NWT power changes aim to promote community-led clean energy - Cabin Radio

<https://cabinradio.ca/234347/news/economy/infrastructure/energy/how-nwt-power-changes-aim-to-promote-community-led-clean-energy/>

The N.W.T. government has issued 11 new directives to its utilities regulator to promote community-led renewable energy and clarify the path for independent power producers. The policy raises the cap on intermittent renewables to 30 per cent, expands net metering, and mandates integrated planning toward net zero by 2050. While officials and utilities welcomed the changes, some critics say the directives remain too cautious and protective of the current system. Final implementation will depend on further regulatory work and consultations later this year.

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)