

# Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation  
Ontario Tech University

## BEI Energy News

Weekly newsletter

May 9th, 2025

### Nuclear

#### Ontario Leads the G7 by Building First Small Modular Reactor - Ontario Newsroom

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1005889/ontario-leads-the-g7-by-building-first-small-modular-reactor>

Ontario has approved Ontario Power Generation to begin constructing Canada's first grid-scale small modular reactor (SMR) at Darlington, marking the first such project in the G7. The four-unit SMR project will power 1.2 million homes, create up to 18,000 jobs, and contribute \$500 million annually to the province's economy. Backed by over 80 Ontario companies, the project will add \$38.5 billion to Canada's GDP over 65 years. The government calls it a milestone for clean energy leadership, job creation, and energy security.

### Fossil Fuel

#### Alberta's energy industry, government watch nervously as oil prices hit 4-year low - Global News

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11164451/alberta-energy-industry-government-watch-oil-prices-4-year-low/>

Alberta's government and energy sector are facing pressure as oil prices drop to a four-year low, driven by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) plans to boost global production. With prices near US\$57 a barrel—below the province's forecast—Alberta risks a multibillion-dollar deficit, potentially hitting public programs. Experts say that while the Canadian industry can weather the downturn, growth could slow. Analysts also suggest the drop may ease U.S. trade tensions by reducing America's oil deficit with Canada.

### Energy Systems

#### Saskatoon moves to break with province on home energy efficiency standards - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/saskatoon-city-council-energy-efficiency-standards->

[regulations-1.7528782](#)

Saskatoon may adopt stricter home energy efficiency standards than the rest of Saskatchewan after a city committee voted to reinstate Tier 2 building requirements. The move follows the province's recent rollback to Tier 1 standards, which Saskatoon officials argue threatens local net-zero goals. While the upgrade would add \$1,000 to \$3,000 per home, it could save homeowners \$300 annually in energy costs. The proposal now awaits a final decision by the city council.

### **Northland Power puts 1,000MWh largest BESS in Canada into commercial operations - Energy Storage News**

<https://www.energy-storage.news/northland-power-puts-1000mwh-bess-in-canada-into-operations/>

Northland Power has brought Canada's largest battery energy storage system online with the 250MW/1,000MWh Oneida project in Haldimand County, Ontario. Completed ahead of schedule and under budget, the project was developed in partnership with Indigenous and local organizations and will help double Ontario's storage capacity. The system will provide grid services under a 20-year Independent Electricity System Operator(IESO) contract and is expected to cut up to 4.1 million tonnes of emissions over its lifetime. Northland also plans to build the Jurassic BESS and Solar+ projects in Alberta.

### **Get ready for the Nisku Energy Show - Ponoka News**

<https://www.ponokanews.com/home2/get-ready-for-the-nisku-energy-show-7965502>

The inaugural Nisku Energy Show will take place May 14–15 at the Silent Ice Sports & Entertainment Center, featuring over 100 vendors from across Alberta's energy sector. Organized by the Leduc, Nisku and Wetaskiwin Chamber of Commerce, the event includes networking sessions and a career fair connecting job seekers with employers. Organizers say the show will highlight regional innovation and economic leadership while offering valuable connections for both industry professionals and local businesses.

## **Renewables**

### **Brazil adds 141 MW of renewable capacity in April - Renewables Now**

<https://renewablesnow.com/news/brazil-adds-141-mw-of-renewable-capacity-in-april-1274900/>

Brazil added 141 MW of renewable power to its grid in April, led by six new wind farms totalling 85.5 MW, according to regulator Aneel. A new biomass plant and a small hydropower facility contributed 50 MW and 5.6 MW, respectively. From January to April, the country added over 1,900 MW of capacity, surpassing 210 GW total. Renewables make up more than 85 per cent of Brazil's power generation mix.

### **BC's Latest Clean Power Project Call Wins Support - The Tyee**

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2025/05/08/BC-Latest-Clean-Power-Project-Call/>

B.C.'s new clean energy call has drawn praise from First Nations and environmental groups for advancing renewable power and Indigenous partnerships. The province plans to purchase 5,000 GWh of clean energy and seek energy storage solutions, but critics say it lacks a clear long-term energy strategy. Some experts worry that new power generation could support the expansion of liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects instead of leading to actual reductions in greenhouse gas

emissions. Experts say B.C. needs a broader plan to modernize its grid and meet its climate goals.

**New report reveals surprising source powering millions of homes worldwide:  
'More than ever before' - The Cool Down**

<https://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/renewable-energy-sources-2025/>

Global renewable energy production hit a record 32 per cent in 2024, driven by increased demand from electric vehicles, data centres, and heat waves, according to a new report by Ember. Experts say growing concerns about energy security—driven by geopolitical tensions and trade tariffs—are increasing the appeal of solar and wind power. Renewable sources are helping consumers lower bills and withstand power disruptions from extreme weather. Despite challenges, the sector added 858 TWh, more than the UK and France's annual electricity use combined.

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)*