



CANADIAN COUNCIL ON RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY CONSEIL CANADIEN SUR L'ÉLECTRICITÉ RENOUELEABLE

Canada Can Strengthen Renewable Electricity Leadership

New Council Will Raise Profile of Wind, Solar, Hydro and Marine Energy Opportunities

MEDIA RELEASE — May 6, 2015

OTTAWA — Agreeing that strength lies in numbers, today four of Canada's leading national renewable electricity associations joined forces in an effort to clean up and expand Canada's electricity systems.

The newly created **Canadian Council on Renewable Electricity** will engage with Canadians on the opportunities to expand renewable electricity production and outline the benefits such expansion offers our communities, economy, and nation.

The Council's founding members are the Canadian Hydropower Association, the Canadian Solar Industries Association, the Canadian Wind Energy Association, and Marine Renewables Canada.

While Canada is a recognized global leader in renewable electricity production, abundant opportunities remain to clean up our remaining fossil-fuel dependent grids, and to further electrify and decarbonize our economy.

The Council can be found at renewableelectricity.ca and electriciterenouvelable.ca, and on Twitter @RenewableCanada.

QUOTES

"Renewable electricity is a key climate solution for Canada, and when we have surplus capacity we can export it to the United States and support American efforts to displace their coal-fired power plants."

— Jacob Irving, President, Canadian Hydropower Association

"Technology drives renewable electricity production and that means costs are continuously coming down as a result of innovation. In addition, there's no fuel cost—the sun, wind and water are not only inexhaustible, they are free." — John Gorman, President & CEO, Canadian Solar Industries Association

"Different sources of renewable electricity have different attributes, but most importantly they can complement each other to ensure we have clean, reliable electricity systems across Canada." — Robert Hornung, President, Canadian Wind Energy Association

"Clean, renewable electricity is the future in Canada and around the world. Canadians are fortunate to be at the forefront of this transition, but there is more work to do to ensure we continue to lead the way."

— Elisa Obermann, Executive Director, Marine Renewables Canada



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KEY FACTS

- Renewable energy sources such as sun, wind, and water currently meet 65 percent of Canada’s electricity needs.
- Canada has the cleanest, most renewable electricity generation system in the G7, and the fourth largest renewable energy capacity in the world.
- With respect to its ability to produce renewable electricity, Canada is ranked fourth largest in the world. It is the second largest in the G7.
- Canada is an attractive country for renewable-energy investment, ranking 6th in the world in a recent assessment by Ernst & Young. (Source: *Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index, Ernst & Young, 2015.*)
- Between 2009 and 2013, investors moved \$24 billion into Canadian renewable energy projects. (Source: *Tracking the Energy Revolution - Canada, Clean Energy Canada, 2014.*)
- A recent report for the United Nations identified boosting renewable electricity production—in combination with electrifying buildings, industry, and transportation—as a key step on a path Canada can take to “decarbonize” its economy. (Source: *Pathways to Deep Decarbonization - Canada Chapter, Sustainable Development Solutions Network & Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, 2014.*)
- A recent study by more than 60 of Canada’s leading academics identified renewable electricity as a key climate change solution. They note that Canada could completely decarbonize its electricity systems by 2035, which would make it possible for our country to adopt long-term pollution reduction targets consistent with our international obligations to act on climate disruption. (Source: *Acting on Climate Change - Solutions from Canadian Scholars, Sustainable Canada Dialogues, 2015.*)

Ce communiqué est aussi disponible en français.

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