



Policy

Canadian Politics and Public Policy

Welcome to our second annual full issue on sustainable energy. Clean energy is not an oxymoron. But in an age of breakneck technological innovation, global market shifts and compulsory social license, sustainable energy development is far from simple. This year, we hear from industry, advocates, experts and politicians on the crucial sustainability piece of Canada's national energy strategy.

In This September – October Issue:

- To begin, [David McLaughlin](#) considers the alignment between Canada and the United States on meeting the Copenhagen target of reducing GHG emissions to 17 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020. While the targets are voluntary, Canada now seems unlikely to meet them, writes McLaughlin, former president of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NTREE).
- Then, [Clare Demerse and Dan Woynillowicz](#) of Clean Energy Canada make a compelling case that clean energy could become the next oil sands—a leading sector of the Canadian energy space. They note that the International Energy Agency predicts climate change will “require mobilizing US\$36 trillion in clean energy investments by 2050,” providing a huge export opportunity for Canada in both goods and services.
- Canadian Nuclear Association President [John Barrett](#) argues for the importance of maintaining public research facilities such as the National Research Council's facility at Chalk River, Ontario. “Even the largest companies will not build research reactors for their own use,” he writes, “but they will use them if they exist.”
- Wondering about the future of transport? [Bob Fesmire](#) writes that it's in electricity, and already here in segments such as electric vehicles (EVs), and the electric-powered shipping industry, notably cruise ships. “There's a quiet revolution going on in transportation,” writes Fesmire, co-author of *Energy Explained*, a non-technical introduction to the energy industry.
- Natural Resources Minister [Greg Rickford](#) shares the Conservative government's agenda for responsible development of Canada's resources. Priorities include accessing new markets, enhancing safety and environmental regulation, forging stringing relationships with aboriginal peoples and investing in innovation.
- NDP Leader [Tom Mulcair](#) offers a reply from the Official Opposition on the imperatives of clean energy. Quite simply, he writes, “It's time to start enforcing basic rules of sustainable development, like polluter-pay.” In this way, he argues, environmental clean-up costs would not be passed on to the next generation.
- Genome Canada President [Pierre Meulien](#) writes of the role of genomics, “reading the DNA embedded in an organism,” in helping Canada's energy patch achieve greener production and extraction of hydrocarbon energy. “The sector's sustainability issues need to be addressed on an urgent basis,” he concludes, and industry and government policy need to work together to make it happen.
- Contributing Writer [Dan Gagnier](#), chair of the International Institute of Sustainable Development, sums up the legacy of the Energy Policy Institute of Canada (EPIC), of which he was president, and which brought together leading stakeholders from the energy sector with federal, provincial and territorial governments.
- [Scott Thurlow](#), president of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association makes the case for biofuel as the cleanest source of fuel available. “The priority we place on sustainability and innovation,” he writes, “will ultimately determine our long term prosperity.”
- Finally, from the Canadian Oil Sands Innovation Alliance, which represents 90 per cent of the producers, its president [Dan Wicklum](#) writes of the unprecedented sharing of research to improve environmental performance in the oil sands.