



Canadian Renewable
Energy Association

Clean Power Nation:

Meeting the Power Needs and Expectations of Canadians

October 2026



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governments, utilities and system operators across Canada are planning for substantially higher electricity demand over the coming decades. Electricity use is forecast to increase as the population and economy grow and more transportation, buildings and industry are electrified. Governments and utilities will need to decide what new electricity supply to build and how to keep costs affordable.

CanREA has long been advocating for more wind, solar and energy storage to deliver affordable energy. However, decisions about Canada's future electricity supply need to reflect the priorities of Canadians. As a result, CanREA commissioned Innovative Research Group to survey Canadians about what they want governments and utilities to consider as they make those decisions.

Affordability is the leading priority as governments and utilities plan for growing electricity demand. Keeping electricity affordable was the highest priority for 33 per cent of Canadians, more than twice the proportion selecting any other individual priority. When asked which source they would most like to see used to build more electricity supply, wind, solar and energy storage together were chosen by 36 per cent of Canadians (solar 21 per cent, wind 12 per cent, energy storage 3 per cent), more than any other individual source. Views are more mixed on whether the country is ready for the growth ahead: half say it is prepared to meet demand over the next 10 to 20 years, while 35 per cent say it is not.¹

Long-term scenarios published by the Canada Energy Regulator project that national electricity demand will grow by between 26 and 85 per cent by 2050, depending on how quickly electrification proceeds.² CanREA's market analysis estimates that meeting this growth could require up to 64 gigawatts of new wind, solar and energy storage capacity by the mid-2030s,³ an investment opportunity of up to \$200 billion.⁴ Canada already has approximately 25 gigawatts of wind, solar and energy storage capacity operating,⁵ with a further 24.3 gigawatts in active or announced procurement, representing more than \$45 billion in investment.⁶ Wind, solar and energy storage will be part of a broader electricity mix that also includes hydro, natural gas, nuclear and other resources; the specific mix will vary by province.

Wind and solar can provide new electricity at competitive costs. Recent Canadian procurements⁷ and international benchmarks^{8,9} show both competing favourably with other sources of new generation, while battery storage can help match variable generation with electricity demand.

Canada's planned expansion of wind, solar and energy storage could also support more manufacturing in Canada. Research conducted by Dunskey Energy + Climate Advisors for CanREA identified nearly \$100 billion in potential Canadian manufacturing opportunities through 2035, including approximately \$35 billion in strong domestic manufacturing opportunities and approximately \$63 billion in conditional or strategic opportunities.¹⁰ Canadian-made components currently account for about 19 per cent of capital spending on new wind, solar and battery storage projects, and this share could grow to as much as 30 per cent under favourable conditions. This could support more manufacturing jobs and investment in Canada at a time of growing external economic pressure.

Building more of the equipment in Canada will depend on whether Canadian-made components can compete on cost and whether manufacturers can count on sustained demand. New electricity projects also face lengthy approvals and insufficient transmission and grid-interconnection capacity.

Early Indigenous and community participation can help identify and address concerns before they delay projects later in the development process.

This report focuses primarily on the utility-scale wind, solar and energy storage buildout. New electricity supply will also come from projects of different sizes, including homeowners installing solar and battery storage and businesses developing mid-sized commercial and industrial clean energy projects.

CanREA's recommendations to governments, utilities and system operators include actions for utility-scale, commercial and industrial, and residential projects:

LARGE SCALE: UTILITY-SCALE WIND, SOLAR AND ENERGY STORAGE

Recommendation 1: Provide federal tax and financing certainty

Extend the Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits to 2040 and speed up and clarify how the Canada Revenue Agency processes claims. Designate clean electricity generation and storage components as a priority category for tariff remission, with a standard three-month turnaround for projects already under contract or in procurement.

Recommendation 2: Support predictable procurement and Canadian manufacturing

Utilities and system operators should publish five-to-10-year procurement roadmaps. Governments should provide targeted support for components Canada can realistically manufacture and address barriers to moving Canadian-made components between provinces.

Recommendation 3: Speed up approvals and strengthen financing for the transmission Canada needs

Accelerate federal approvals for transmission and other electricity infrastructure. Federal and provincial governments and system operators should develop a joint strategy to build transmission capacity ahead of new electricity procurements. Expand the Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit to cover bulk transmission within provinces as well as between them. Give the Canada Infrastructure Bank a tool to help manage unexpected interconnection costs.

Recommendation 4: Expand Indigenous access to early-stage capital

Broaden the Canada Infrastructure Bank's mandate so it can finance early-stage, pre-development Indigenous project costs directly, including before a project has entered or succeeded in a power procurement process. This would extend the equity-financing model it already applies to later-stage participation.

MID-SIZED: COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

Recommendation 5: Restore a federal funding pathway for commercial and industrial clean energy projects

Reopen a funding stream within the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program for privately developed projects in the 100-kilowatt to 5-megawatt range, including behind-the-meter battery storage. Ensure the restored funding can be claimed alongside the Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit.

SMALL SCALE: RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY

Recommendation 6: Expand access to affordable financing for home clean energy

Create a low-interest loan program to help homeowners finance residential solar, battery storage and other home electrification investments.

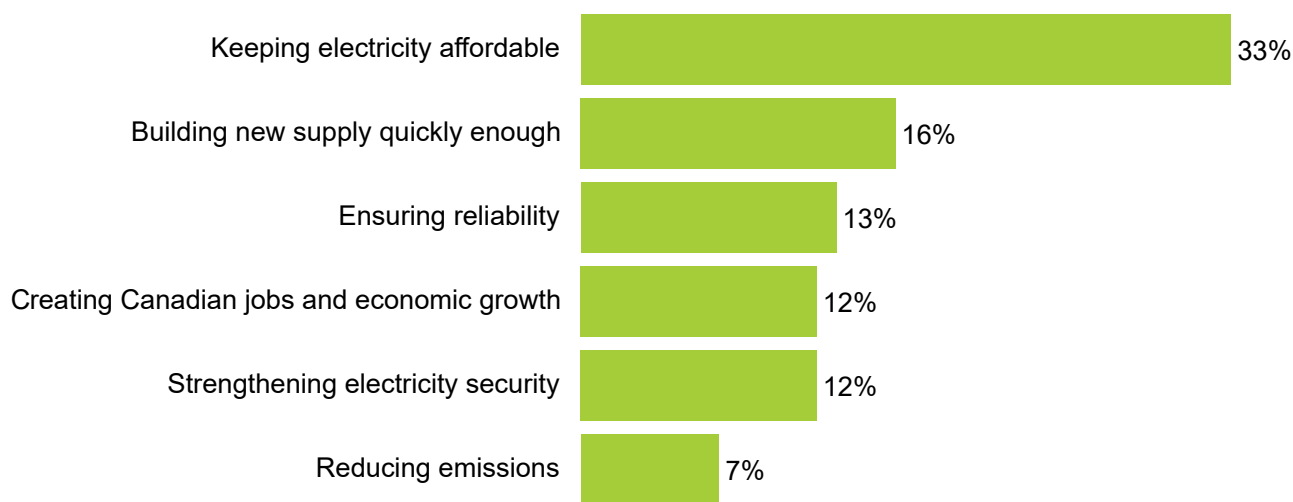
Building more wind, solar and energy storage can help meet growing electricity demand while keeping energy affordable. It can also create jobs, attract investment and strengthen Canada's energy security. Together, these can help make Canada an even stronger Clean Power Nation.

2. WHAT CANADIANS EXPECT FROM THEIR ELECTRICITY SYSTEM

Governments, utilities and regulators across the country are planning for rising electricity demand. They need to determine how much new electricity Canada will need, what new sources of power to build and what it will cost. CanREA commissioned Innovative Research Group in September 2026 to survey Canadians nationally about their priorities for the country's future electricity system.

Affordability was the leading priority nationally and across every region of the country as governments and utilities plan for growing electricity demand. Keeping electricity affordable was the highest priority for 33 per cent of Canadians, more than twice the proportion selecting any other individual priority. The concern was particularly strong in rural communities, where 42 per cent selected affordability as their highest priority, compared with 29 per cent in urban communities.¹ Abacus Data separately found in 2026 that 72 per cent of Canadians say their household utility costs rose over the past year, and that more than a third have had to choose between paying an energy bill and another essential expense.¹¹

Affordability is Canadians' leading electricity priority



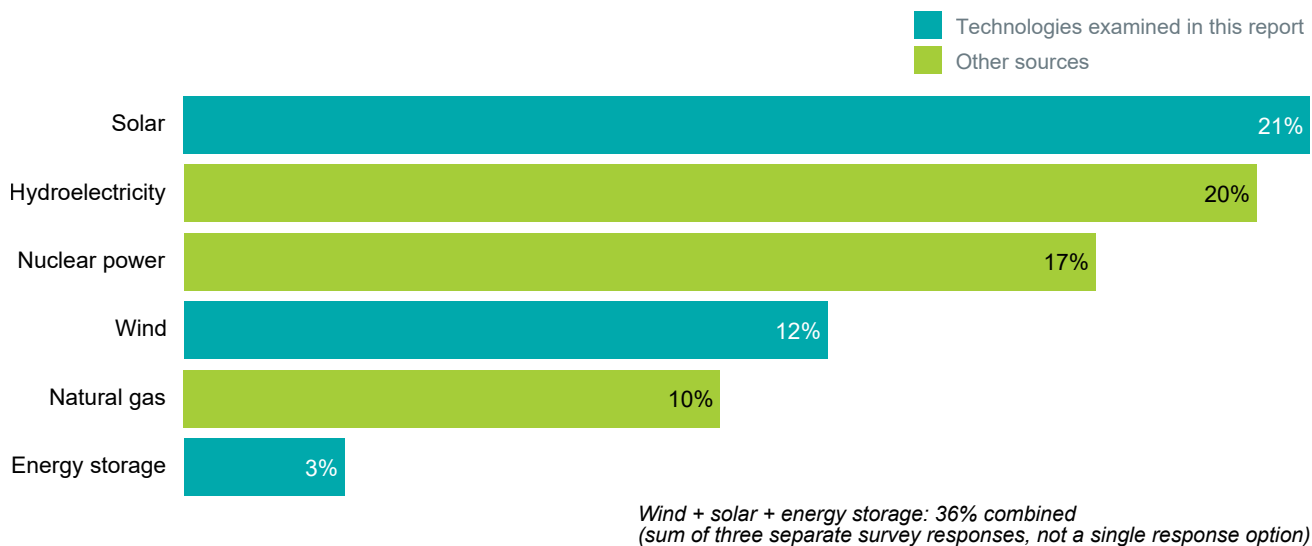
Source: Innovative Research Group, survey conducted for CanREA, September 4–18, 2026.

Canadians are divided on how governments should consider cost when choosing new electricity supply. The largest group, at 41 per cent, says governments should generally choose the lowest-cost options while ensuring the system remains reliable, and 40 per cent say the choice depends on the costs and benefits. A much smaller group, 11 per cent, is prepared to pay more for options that provide other important benefits.¹

Wind, solar and energy storage have significant support as Canada builds new electricity supply.

Combined, the three technologies examined in this report were selected by 36 per cent of Canadians, more than any other individual source. Solar was selected by 21 per cent, wind by 12 per cent and energy storage by 3 per cent. Among other sources, hydroelectricity was selected by 20 per cent, nuclear power by 17 per cent and natural gas by 10 per cent.¹

Canadians support a range of new electricity sources



Source: Innovative Research Group, survey conducted for CanREA, September 4–18, 2026.

Canadians are less confident about the affordability of future electricity than its reliability. While 58 per cent are confident Canada will have enough reliable electricity to meet future demand, 49 per cent are confident it will remain affordable. Views are more mixed on whether the country is prepared for the growth ahead: half say Canada is prepared to meet electricity demand over the next 10 to 20 years, while 35 per cent say it is not and 15 per cent are unsure.¹

3. CANADA NEEDS MUCH MORE ELECTRICITY

Several factors are increasing Canada's electricity needs at the same time, including population growth, new housing and manufacturing investment, critical minerals development, the electrification of transportation and buildings, and new data infrastructure. The Canada Energy Regulator's long-term scenarios project that national electricity demand will grow by between 26 and 85 per cent by 2050.

The range depends largely on the pace of electrification. Wind accounts for the largest share of new generation capacity in the regulator's scenarios.²

Canada starts from a strong position. About 80 per cent of the country's electricity is already generated from renewable and non-emitting sources, including hydro, nuclear, wind and solar.¹² The opportunity is to build on that foundation as electricity demand grows.

Growing electricity demand is not unique to Canada. Electricity currently accounts for 23 per cent of the energy used worldwide. The International Energy Agency estimates that wider use of technologies that are already economically competitive could increase that share to 33 per cent by 2035, while its High Electrification Scenario reaches 35 per cent, in line with the COP31 Presidency's global "35-by-35" goal.¹³

CanREA's market analysis estimates that meeting the forecasted growth could require up to 64 gigawatts of new wind, solar and energy storage capacity by the mid-2030s,³ an investment opportunity of up to \$200 billion.⁴ Canada had approximately 25 gigawatts of wind, solar and energy storage capacity operating at the end of 2025, based on CanREA's tracking.⁵ Active or announced procurements across the country account for a further 24.3 gigawatts, representing more than \$45 billion in investment.⁶ Wind, solar and energy storage will be part of a broader electricity mix.

Other resources will meet the rest of Canada’s growing demand, with the mix varying by province. Wind, solar and energy storage can be built quickly, making them an important source of new supply as electricity demand grows. The federal government’s National Electricity Strategy, Powering Canada Strong, similarly finds that Canada must substantially expand its electricity supply in the years ahead, with wind, solar and energy storage identified among the resources needed to meet that growth.¹⁴

Canada will need substantially more wind, solar and energy storage



Sources: CanREA market analysis and tracking, 2026.

4. THE AFFORDABLE WAY TO MEET GROWING DEMAND

Canada’s existing provincial electricity systems rely on different mixes of resources. Hydroelectricity is central in British Columbia, Quebec, Manitoba, and Newfoundland and Labrador, while other provinces draw more heavily on nuclear, natural gas and other generation sources. Wind is already a major source of electricity supply in some provinces: it produced about 98 per cent of the electricity generated within Prince Edward Island in 2023.¹⁵ Wind, solar and energy storage can add new supply across all of these systems.

Homeowners installing rooftop solar and battery storage can reduce the amount of electricity they draw from the grid. Commercial and industrial systems can also reduce demand, particularly during peak periods. Utility-scale wind, solar and energy storage will still provide the largest share of the new capacity examined in this report.

Ontario’s most recent competitive procurement provides one Canadian example. Wind and solar were contracted at a weighted average of \$87.80 per megawatt-hour.⁷ Ontario is a single province with its own resource mix and cost structure, so this result is presented as a provincial example and not as evidence about the cost of new generation nationally.

International benchmarks provide a broader comparison. The International Renewable Energy Agency found that 91 per cent of new renewable energy capacity commissioned worldwide in 2024 was more cost-effective than the new generation alternatives in its comparison.⁸ Lazard’s 2026 benchmark of the levelized cost of new electricity generation in the United States puts unsubsidized utility-scale solar at \$40 to \$98 per megawatt-hour and onshore wind at \$37 to \$99 per megawatt-hour, against \$51 to \$129 for new natural gas and \$175 to \$255 for new nuclear generation, all in U.S. dollars.⁹ These figures reflect the cost of generating electricity. What customers ultimately pay also depends on transmission and distribution, on the resources needed to keep the system reliable when wind and solar output is low, and on regulated charges.

Wind and solar output fluctuates with weather and time of day. Electricity demand also varies, but generally less than wind and solar output and not necessarily at the same times. Battery storage helps match variable generation with electricity demand by storing electricity when supply is abundant and releasing it when demand is higher. Storage allows wind and solar generation to serve more hours of demand and gives system operators another tool to maintain reliability.

Ontario's contracted prices and the international benchmarks cited above demonstrate that wind and solar can provide competitively priced new electricity. Battery storage can complement these resources by helping match variable generation with demand and supporting system reliability.

5. A MAJOR CANADIAN ECONOMIC AND SUPPLY CHAIN OPPORTUNITY

Building more wind, solar and energy storage can create jobs, support Canadian industry and grow the economy. Some components could realistically be manufactured in Canada in the near term. Manufacturing others would require companies to make significant new investments. These findings draw on research CanREA commissioned from Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors, combining trade data with a survey of more than 70 CanREA member companies and interviews with wind, solar and battery storage manufacturers, developers and equipment suppliers.¹⁰

Canada's trading relationships are also changing. Tariffs and other trade measures are increasing costs and uncertainty for Canadian businesses. Governments and companies are looking for ways to strengthen domestic production and diversify supply chains.¹⁶ Canada can manufacture more of the components it can produce competitively while continuing to rely on diversified international supply chains and trusted trading partners for the rest.

Canadian manufacturing potential

Wind, solar and battery storage components fall into three categories, based on their potential for manufacturing in Canada. Components with strong domestic manufacturing potential represent an estimated market of approximately \$35 billion through 2035. These components include wind towers, foundations, solar racking, nacelle assembly, inverters and power transformers.

A second group of components could be manufactured in Canada with additional investment. These conditional or strategic opportunities represent an estimated market of approximately \$63 billion through 2035 and include components such as wind blades, solar module assembly, battery energy storage system assembly, battery materials and supporting electrical equipment. Together, the strong and conditional categories represent nearly \$100 billion in potential Canadian manufacturing opportunities through 2035.

A third group, representing approximately \$18 billion in market value through 2035, is not considered feasible for domestic manufacturing this decade. These typically include components such as polysilicon and wafers, solar cells, wind gearboxes and large castings, and battery electrolyte and separators, whose global production is concentrated in a small number of very large, specialized plants that would take many years and major capital investment to replicate in Canada. The \$18 billion is therefore excluded from the manufacturing-potential calculation described below.

Nearly \$100 billion in potential Canadian manufacturing opportunities



*\$35B + \$63B = nearly \$100B in potential Canadian manufacturing opportunities.
The \$18B category is not included in that figure.*

Source: Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors research commissioned by CanREA, 2026.



If the manufacturing potential identified in the first two categories were achieved, Canadian-made components could account for up to 30 per cent of the capital spent on new wind, solar and battery storage projects through 2035.

The 30 per cent figure represents the maximum manufacturing potential identified through the research. It assumes Canadian manufacturing capacity is developed for every component considered feasible for production in Canada. The actual share will depend on future demand and whether Canadian-made components can compete on cost.

Canada currently manufactures much less wind, solar and storage equipment than the Dunskey research indicates could be manufactured domestically. Nearly 90 per cent of surveyed CanREA members rated the country's existing wind, solar and storage supply chain as "weak" or "niche." The trade data examined through the Dunskey research indicate that Canadian-made components currently account for approximately 19 per cent of capital spending on wind, solar and battery storage projects.

What Canada can realistically manufacture

Wind towers, solar racking, power transformers, inverters, foundations and nacelle assembly offer the strongest prospects for near-term manufacturing in Canada. Canada already has the industrial capacity to produce them. The technical and intellectual property barriers to entering these segments are relatively low, because they do not require an original equipment manufacturer's proprietary design. For towers and foundations specifically, the components are heavy and expensive to ship, so transportation costs already favour building them close to where projects are located.

Quebec's existing tower manufacturing has capacity for 1.5 to 2 gigawatts a year, and Ontario's steel and aluminum fabrication base already supplies solar racking. Given a firm order, existing racking capacity could expand within months. A new tower facility could be built within roughly two years, where demand and logistics support it.

Wind blade manufacturing would be difficult to build domestically unless strategic policies were put in place. It requires larger, more specialized production facilities and more capital and labour, which makes it slower and more expensive to establish. Some blade manufacturing capacity exists today or has existed in the past, but new investment depends on a specific manufacturer committing to long-term production, and that commitment has not been made.

Manufacturing battery cells would be considerably more difficult to establish domestically. There is currently little or no commercial-scale production of these components, and the capital cost and technical barriers are substantially higher than for wind towers, solar racking, transformers, inverters and foundations.

Conditions required for investment

Manufacturers surveyed for the Dunskey research said they need roughly five to 10 years of predictable, multi-gigawatt demand before committing capital. Demand in Canada for a single component may be too small to support a competitive factory. Manufacturers also need to see enough procurement volume to justify an investment.

Cost and competitiveness

The Dunskey research also found that many components currently cost more to manufacture in Canada than to import. The size of the cost disadvantage varies considerably by component. This reinforces the importance of focusing public policy on components Canada can manufacture competitively or where targeted support could help establish competitive domestic production.

Support for domestic manufacturing can increase electricity project costs, and Canada will continue to rely on international suppliers for components that are not manufactured domestically.

Expanding Canadian manufacturing would support jobs in manufacturing, electrical and construction trades. Those jobs are concentrated for now in the existing fabrication bases of Ontario and Quebec, with new investment also emerging in Alberta and British Columbia.

Canada has implemented domestic-content policy before, with varying results. Quebec's wind procurements from 2003 to 2015 targeted heavy, logistics-sensitive components such as towers and blades and provided repeated procurement over several years. A regional manufacturing cluster developed, and some of that capacity remains today.

Ontario's domestic-content rules produced faster manufacturing growth from 2009 to 2014, including for solar modules, but much of it was concentrated in final assembly, which was more exposed to global competition and easier to relocate. Several facilities closed after the rules were withdrawn following a World Trade Organization challenge.¹⁷ The experience in Quebec and Ontario suggests manufacturing is more likely to remain in Canada when governments focus on components that can be produced competitively and manufacturers can count on sustained demand. Policy that rewards demonstrated cost competitiveness, rather than mandating domestic content across the board, is more likely to produce lasting manufacturing capacity. Past experience points to the need for predictable demand, targeted incentives and sufficient transition periods if Canada wants to expand domestic manufacturing without unnecessarily increasing project costs or delaying new electricity supply.

6. BUILDING THE SUPPLY CANADA NEEDS

Wind, solar and energy storage projects are already being procured and financed across the country. CanREA is tracking approximately 24.3 gigawatts of capacity in active or announced procurement, as described in Section 3.⁶ Bringing these projects into service depends in part on approval timelines, available transmission and grid-interconnection capacity, and early engagement with Indigenous and local communities.

Wind, solar and energy storage projects are generally approved through provincial and local processes.

However, expanding the electricity system requires transmission and other enabling infrastructure, which can also require federal approvals.

The Government of Canada's own review found that federal decisions needed before construction have often taken more than five years, citing duplication, poor coordination between departments and difficult consultation processes.¹⁸ Independent analysis by the C.D. Howe Institute found that only one major project had fully cleared the federal Impact Assessment Act process at the time of its review.¹⁹ Federal and provincial governments share responsibilities that can affect the approval and development of electricity infrastructure. Provincial governments, utilities and system operators have primary responsibility for transmission planning and grid connections. Approval requirements vary by project and jurisdiction.

The International Energy Agency similarly concludes that generation, grids, storage and system flexibility need to develop together as electricity demand grows. Its 2026 electrification analysis identifies anticipatory grid investment and faster permitting among the measures that can accelerate connections and make better use of existing networks.¹³

Projects can also be delayed by a lack of transmission and grid-interconnection capacity. Provincial system operators and utilities are responsible for this capacity. New generation projects can clear

every regulatory approval and still wait for a physical connection to a grid that does not yet have capacity where it is needed, a bottleneck reported in several provinces.

Indigenous communities are also taking significant ownership stakes in new electricity projects. Nine of the 10 projects selected through BC Hydro's 2024 Call for Power have 51 per cent First Nations equity ownership, representing an estimated \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion in First Nations ownership.²⁰ Manitoba requires projects under Manitoba Hydro's wind call for power to be majority Indigenous-owned. Ontario's most recent long-term storage procurement awarded three battery storage projects totalling 640 megawatts, each with 50 per cent Indigenous equity ownership.²¹ These projects show that significant Indigenous equity ownership is already being incorporated into major electricity projects.

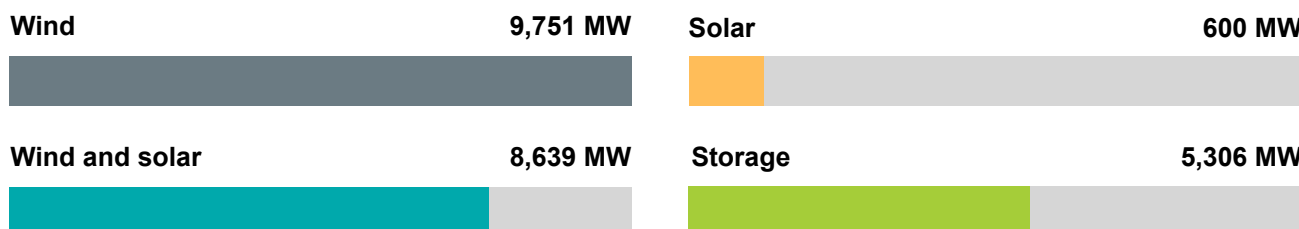
Indigenous and local communities have a direct interest in how projects are developed and how the benefits are shared. National research by Re.Climate and Carleton University found that support for wind and solar remains strong but can dip during project siting before recovering once projects are operating. The research found that fair benefit-sharing, trust in the process and tangible local benefits were the main factors affecting support.²² A 2026 Probe Research survey similarly found that two-thirds of Albertans, including 59 per cent of rural Albertans, want more wind and solar built in or near their communities.²³ Involving Indigenous and local communities early can help address concerns about projects and ensure communities share in the benefits.

Renewable energy procurement in Canada

24,296 MW
Total capacity

Capacity by technology

Procurements open to more than one technology are counted as a single combined category, not split



Source: CanREA's clean energy procurement calendar, 2026.

7. CLEAN POWER NATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Building an even stronger Clean Power Nation will require action at different scales, from utility-scale projects to businesses and homes. These recommendations would help advance the objectives of Powering Canada Strong, including financing the electricity buildout, improving regulatory certainty and speed, and strengthening Canadian value-chain capacity. CanREA recommends the following actions by governments, utilities and system operators.

LARGE SCALE: UTILITY-SCALE WIND, SOLAR AND ENERGY STORAGE

Recommendation 1: Provide federal tax and financing certainty

Wind, solar and storage projects are financed and developed over long timelines. Certainty about tax incentives and how claims are processed helps keep financing costs down. Predictable timelines for tariff-remission decisions can also help keep projects on schedule.

- Extend the Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits to 2040 and reduce the time the Canada Revenue Agency takes to process claims, including by issuing partial payments once a return is filed and before a full audit is complete.
- Designate clean electricity generation and storage components as a priority category for tariff remission, with a standard three-month turnaround for projects already under contract or in procurement.
- Publish clear, standardized guidance on labour and apprenticeship requirements and other administrative questions under the Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits, so proponents are not left to interpret eligibility rules project by project.

Recommendation 2: Support predictable procurement and Canadian manufacturing

As explained in Section 5, sustained demand and the ability of Canadian-made components to compete on cost will determine how much of this equipment can be manufactured domestically.

- Utilities and system operators should publish procurement roadmaps covering five to 10 years by technology and region, so manufacturers can assess expected demand across jurisdictions before investing in a new or expanded facility.
- The federal government should introduce a domestic-content adder to the Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits that provides an additional incentive when projects use eligible Canadian-made components. The adder should apply only to the components identified in Section 5 that can be manufactured in Canada now or with additional investment, start at a modest level and phase down on a fixed schedule as domestic capacity becomes established, and apply only to components that can be produced competitively in Canada. Publishing the phase-down schedule in advance would provide manufacturers with a predictable demand signal while giving project developers a clear timeline for the incentive.
- Governments should pair that adder with direct production support for the manufacturers building these components, such as a per-unit production incentive or a negotiated production agreement. Canada has used similar tools to attract manufacturing investment in other sectors. The United States also provides a production tax credit for domestic clean technology manufacturing. Production support would go directly to manufacturers, while the domestic-content incentive would support projects purchasing Canadian components.
- Any domestic-content requirement should have a clear, multi-year transition period and grandfather projects with signed power purchase agreements or advanced procurement contracts already in place. It should also include exemptions or waivers where qualified domestic supply is unavailable or capacity-constrained, so a shortage of a single component does not delay an entire project.
- Governments should reduce the transportation and permitting barriers that currently raise the cost of moving Canadian-made components between provinces, including by harmonizing provincial oversize-load permitting rules and closing gaps in how steel tariffs and freight costs are treated for domestic manufacturers.

Recommendation 3: Speed up approvals and strengthen financing for the transmission Canada needs

As explained in Section 6, lengthy approvals and insufficient transmission and grid-interconnection capacity can delay new electricity supply from coming into service.

- The federal government should continue moving toward a single, coordinated permitting process for major transmission and other enabling electricity infrastructure projects where federal approval is required. This would help prevent projects from being assessed sequentially by multiple departments applying overlapping requirements.

- Federal and provincial governments, together with provincial system operators, should commit to a joint transmission and interconnection strategy that puts new transmission capacity in place ahead of procurement decisions.
- Project developers can face significant increases in interconnection costs after a project is already under development, creating financing gaps that can delay or stop otherwise viable projects. The Canada Infrastructure Bank should offer a financing instrument that helps absorb the risk of interconnection costs coming in higher than a system operator's initial estimate. Individual projects currently bear this risk, which can delay projects that already have financing and a customer.
- The federal government should expand Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit eligibility to include bulk transmission and grid-capacity infrastructure, including transmission within provinces as well as transmission between provinces.

Recommendation 4: Expand Indigenous access to early-stage capital

Indigenous partners can have difficulty raising capital for feasibility studies, environmental assessments and early engineering work before a project has succeeded in a power procurement process and has revenue or a contract to borrow against.

- The federal government should broaden the Canada Infrastructure Bank's mandate to finance early-stage Indigenous project costs directly, including feasibility studies, environmental assessment work and early engineering. The change would extend federal financing for Indigenous participation to the development stage.

MID-SIZED: COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

Recommendation 5: Restore a federal funding pathway for commercial and industrial clean energy projects

A 2024 reorganization of the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program removed the funding stream available to commercial and industrial clean energy projects developed by businesses rather than utilities. This left a funding gap for projects in the 100-kilowatt to 5-megawatt range, including behind-the-meter battery storage.

- The federal government should restore a funding pathway within the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program for commercial and industrial clean energy projects in the 100-kilowatt to 5-megawatt range, including behind-the-meter battery storage. The restored funding should be eligible alongside the Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit.

SMALL SCALE: RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY

Recommendation 6: Expand access to affordable financing for home clean energy

Up-front costs and limited access to affordable financing are significant barriers for homeowners.

- The federal government should create a self-sustaining low-interest loan program to help homeowners finance residential solar, battery storage and other home electrification investments.

8. CONCLUSION

Electricity demand is expected to grow substantially in the coming decades. Affordability is the leading priority as governments and utilities decide how to meet that demand. Wind, solar and energy storage can provide new electricity at competitive cost as part of each province's broader electricity mix.

Building more wind, solar and energy storage also creates an opportunity to produce more of the equipment Canada needs at home, with the potential to support Canadian manufacturing, jobs and investment. Expanding domestic electricity supply and manufacturing can also strengthen Canada's energy security as international trading relationships change.

New electricity supply will come from residential, commercial and industrial, and utility-scale projects of different sizes. Meeting Canada's growing demand affordably and reliably will depend on predictable investment and the timely development of the transmission and other infrastructure needed to connect new supply. Canada has the resources and opportunity to build an even stronger Clean Power Nation, with an electricity system that can meet the country's needs for decades to come.

ENDNOTES

1. Innovative Research Group, national online survey conducted for the Canadian Renewable Energy Association, September 4–18, 2026. The survey included 2,818 Canadian citizens aged 18 and older, with the final sample weighted to n=1,500 using Statistics Canada Census data.
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3. CanREA market analysis, 2026.
4. CanREA, Watts at Stake: Canada's \$200-Billion Clean Energy Investment Opportunity (2026).
<https://renewablesassociation.ca/report-canada-poised-to-capture-up-to-200b-in-clean-energy-investment-but-has-work-to-do/>
5. CanREA analysis, 2026. National installed wind, solar and energy storage capacity as of 2025.
6. CanREA analysis, 2026. Approximately 24.3 gigawatts of wind, solar and energy storage capacity in active or announced procurement across Canada, representing more than \$45 billion in investment. An additional 2 gigawatts of onshore wind energy procurement is proposed in Newfoundland and Labrador, subject to ratification of the Churchill Falls agreement. These figures describe capacity in active or announced procurement, not capacity under construction; CanREA's analysis separately tracks approximately 8.3 gigawatts under construction or in advanced development nationally as of Q3 2026.
7. Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), Long-Term 2 Request for Proposals results, 2025.
8. International Renewable Energy Agency, Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2024 (2025).
9. Lazard, 2026 Levelized Cost of Energy+ (LCOE+) report (2026).
10. Dunskey Energy + Climate Advisors, Renewable energy manufacturing and supply chain research and analysis commissioned by the Canadian Renewable Energy Association, 2026.
11. Abacus Data, Canadians See Rising Energy Costs as a Problem (2026, fieldwork April 1–14, 2026).
12. Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2025 Progress Report on the 2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, using Statistics Canada Table 25-10-0015-01. The source reports that 79.4 per cent of Canadian electricity generation came from renewable and non-greenhouse-gas-emitting sources in 2024.

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