

BACKGROUND

Clean Power Nation Report: Key Findings and Recommendations

October 2026

Survey results:

The Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA) commissioned national polling on Canadians' priorities as governments and utilities plan for growing electricity demand.

- Affordability was Canadians' leading priority when asked what matters most in building new electricity supply, ahead of reliability, how quickly new supply can be built, economic growth, energy security and reducing emissions. It was selected by 33 per cent, more than twice any other individual priority.
- Affordability ranked first in every region, with 42 per cent of rural Canadians selecting it as their highest priority, compared with 29 per cent of urban Canadians.
- Canadians are divided on how governments should consider cost when choosing new electricity supply. The largest group, at 41 per cent, said governments should generally choose the lowest-cost options while ensuring the system remains reliable, while 40 per cent said the choice depends on the costs and benefits.
- When asked which source they would most like to see used to build more electricity supply, 36 per cent of Canadians collectively selected wind, solar or energy storage, 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.
- 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.
- Innovative Research Group conducted the online survey for CanREA from September 4 to 18, 2026, with 2,818 Canadian citizens aged 18 and older. The final sample was weighted to n=1,500 using Statistics Canada Census data. Additional polling results are available in Innovative Research Group's [backgrounder](#).

Electricity demand and new supply:

- Canada Energy Regulator scenarios project national electricity demand will grow by 26 to 85 per cent by 2050, depending on how quickly electrification proceeds.
- About 80 per cent of Canada's electricity is already generated from renewable and non-emitting sources.
- CanREA estimates meeting growing demand could require up to 64 gigawatts of new wind, solar and energy storage by the mid-2030s, representing an investment opportunity of up to \$200 billion.

- Canada had approximately 25 gigawatts of wind, solar and energy storage capacity operating at the end of 2025, with 24.3 gigawatts in active or announced procurement, representing more than \$45 billion in investment.*

*An additional 2 gigawatts of wind energy procurement is proposed in Newfoundland and Labrador, subject to ratification of the Churchill Falls agreement.

Canadian manufacturing opportunity:

Research conducted for CanREA by Dunskey Energy + Climate Advisors identified nearly \$100 billion in potential Canadian manufacturing opportunities as wind, solar and battery storage development grows through 2035.

- Strong domestic manufacturing opportunities represent a market of approximately \$35 billion through 2035. These include components such as 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 a market of approximately \$63 billion through 2035 and include wind blades, solar module assembly, battery energy storage system assembly, battery materials and supporting electrical equipment.
- Components not considered feasible for domestic manufacturing this decade represent a market of approximately \$18 billion through 2035. These typically require highly specialized, large-scale manufacturing facilities that would take significant time and investment to establish in Canada.
- Under favourable conditions, Canadian-made components could account for up to 30 per cent of project capital through 2035. The figure is an upper limit, not a forecast.
- Manufacturers surveyed said they need roughly five to 10 years of predictable, multi-gigawatt demand before committing to new production.

Recommendations:

CanREA recommends action across utility-scale, commercial and industrial, and residential clean energy projects:

Large scale: utility-scale wind, solar and energy storage

1. Provide federal tax and financing certainty

- 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.

2. Support predictable procurement and Canadian manufacturing

- Utilities and system operators should publish procurement roadmaps covering five to 10 years by technology and region.
- Introduce a domestic-content adder to the Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits for components that can be produced competitively in Canada, starting at a modest level and phasing down on a fixed schedule published in advance as domestic capacity becomes established.
- Pair the domestic-content adder with direct production support for manufacturers building these components.
- Apply clear, multi-year transition periods to any domestic-content requirement, grandfather projects with signed power purchase agreements or advanced procurement contracts already in place, and allow exemptions or waivers where qualified domestic supply is unavailable or capacity-constrained.
- Reduce transportation and permitting barriers that raise the cost of moving Canadian-made components between provinces, including inconsistent oversize-load permitting rules and gaps in how steel tariffs and freight costs are treated for domestic manufacturers.

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

- Continue moving toward a single, coordinated federal permitting process for major transmission and other enabling electricity infrastructure projects where federal approval is required.
- Federal and provincial governments, together with provincial system operators, should develop a joint transmission and interconnection strategy that puts new transmission capacity in place ahead of procurement decisions.
- 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.
- 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.

4. Expand Indigenous access to early-stage capital

- Broaden the Canada Infrastructure Bank's mandate to finance early-stage Indigenous project costs directly, including feasibility studies, environmental assessment work and early engineering.

Mid-sized: commercial and industrial clean energy projects

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, and ensure the restored funding can be claimed alongside the Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit.

Small scale: residential clean energy

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.