

June 30, 2026

To:

The Honourable Tim Hodgson, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources,
Sir William Logan Building
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y7

Submitted via email to: electricity-electricite@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Re: David Suzuki Foundation submission to Natural Resource Canada's engagement on *Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy*

Dear Minister Hodgson,

The David Suzuki Foundation welcomes the opportunity to submit our comments, analysis and feedback on the ***Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy*** document during this important moment in Canada's electricity system transformation. This transformation will be a significant but worthwhile challenge for Canada and stands to bring significant benefits in terms of health, jobs, affordability and energy security — all while playing a foundational role in Canada's contributions to mitigating the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

This is a once in a generation opportunity, and we're excited to be part of the work of seizing that opportunity, while avoiding prominent pitfalls and missteps. We acknowledge the time, thought and consideration put into this discussion paper and the opening of this engagement. We also acknowledge the recent work of the Canada Electricity Advisory Council, Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous communities, national Indigenous organizations and other stakeholders in recent years to evolve Canada's work on broad electrification and on building and upgrading Canada's electricity system.

The David Suzuki Foundation strongly supports Canada's move toward a zero-emissions electricity system as soon as is feasible, and the equally important move toward electrifying everything; that is, moving our energy needs away from fossil fuel end uses and toward an affordable, reliable, clean electricity system. The details, research and recommendations within this submission support our view that the federal government can and should play an important role in making that energy future a reality.

Our comments, analysis and feedback in this submission cover a range of issues, and two appendices of featured David Suzuki Foundation research and resources are also included. Where possible, specific content is correlated to specific "Areas for action" provided in [the May 2026 strategy document](#) for this engagement.

VANCOUVER (HEAD OFFICE)

219–2211 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 4S2
604 732 4228

TORONTO

102–179 John Street
Toronto, ON M5T 1X4
416 348 9885

MONTRÉAL

540–50, rue Ste-Catherine Ouest
Montréal QC H2X 3V4
514 871 4932

We look forward to continuing these important conversations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the David Suzuki Foundation directly.

Sincerely,

Stephen Thomas

Clean Energy Manager
David Suzuki Foundation



Contents

Overall approach to meeting Canada's electricity goals:	4
Specific policy recommendations and considerations	6
Building the electricity system	6
Financing the build and increasing regional integration.....	7
Improving regulatory certainty and speed	9
Building capacity across the value chain	10
Ensuring the skills and labour needed	11
Managing demand and modernizing the system	11
Indigenous clean energy leadership	11
Appendix A: Additional David Suzuki Foundation reports, analysis and resources	12
Report: Shifting Power	12
Report: Keeping the Lights On	14
Report: Decarbonizing Electricity and Decolonizing Power	16
Study: Economic Impact of a National East-West Electricity Transmission System	17
Landscape Analysis: Empowering Communities	18
Appendix B: Resources on affordability	19



Overall approach to meeting Canada's electricity goals

The David Suzuki Foundation welcomes the federal government's commitment to a net-zero emitting electricity system, and the policy movement toward clean electrification economy-wide. These targets are foundational for meeting Canada's climate obligations and are shared by our international allies.

The global momentum on energy is away from fossil fuels and toward clean electrification. It is a structural shift driven by improved technologies and cost reductions that are reshaping energy markets and driving new economic opportunities. The International Energy Agency describes an emerging ["Age of Electricity,"](#) and this month Canada joined the global effort behind ["Electrify Now"](#) with other leading countries and agencies. Later this year, at COP31, there will be a specific focus on new targets to [raise the share of final energy demand met by electricity from just over 20 per cent today to 35 per cent by 2035](#). Electric technologies also convert far more energy into useful work than burning fossil fuels, cutting total energy demand dramatically. The more an economy electrifies with low-cost, zero-emission electricity, the more competitive and productive it becomes.

Moving to more ambitious pathways — that is, electrifying sooner while achieving net-zero emitting electricity well before the year 2050 — can provide even further benefits, and is clearly outlined by the [International Energy Agency](#) as a necessary and foundational goal for an advanced economy like Canada to be on track for economy-wide decarbonization by 2050.

Visioning, planning and collaboration are also crucial as we expand electricity's role in Canada's energy systems. As we move toward affordable, reliable, clean abundance in our electricity sector, Canada must also make wise choices about the kinds of supply and demand that are incentivized. New clean electricity generation, new interprovincial transmission links, new energy storage capacity and many more pieces of technology are needed to meet the needs of Canadian households and businesses. It is a wasted opportunity, for example, to instead put this [new infrastructure and capacity to work for expanding fossil fuel extraction](#) or other dead-end pathways.

We regretfully acknowledge the federal government's weakening of electricity-sector goals to move away from supporting and regulating electricity-sector decarbonization by 2035 and toward less clear net-zero in the electricity sector by 2050. Still, we believe that the sooner we achieve broad and deep electricity sector decarbonization and economy-wide electrification, the sooner Canadians will see the benefits.

We agree that the true prize in affordability, reliability and emissions reductions isn't only in Canada's decarbonization of electricity generation but also in the electrification of fossil fuel energy end uses across the economy in Canada. This too takes specificity in coordination, planning and goal-setting to achieve the policy clarity and to open the door to long-term collaboration within and between provinces, territories, utilities, developers, Indigenous nations and other stakeholders.

We are encouraged by the emergence of a plan for clean electrification in Canada. The potential suite of complementary funding and policy measures outlined in the ["Powering Canada Strong"](#) discussion paper released in May 2026 could be transformational in Canada's move away from fossil fuels and toward clean electricity.

This fall, Budget 2026 will be a test that Canada must not fail. We must see significant investment in clean electricity, with tens of billions of dollars in the coming years to support key actions. As Canada's provincial and territorial electricity systems are forecast to invest over \$1 trillion between now and 2050, the federal government must step into its limited but important role in supporting keystone investments to

make the energy system of the future a reality, particularly when it comes to interprovincial transmission links, energy efficiency, labour supports and supports for Indigenous clean energy ownership and leadership.

Clean electricity is enduringly and consistently popular among Canadians from coast to coast to coast — both with respect to [specific renewable technologies](#) and to [achieving nationwide clean energy goals](#).

One major concern has to do with the suite of flexibilities, loopholes and extensions that have been put in place to accommodate expanded and prolonged use of natural gas on the electricity system, particularly with the projected amendments and weakening of the Clean Electricity Regulations. Taken together, these deviations erode the strength of Canada's approach to the point where the country risks significant unabated emissions in the electricity sector in 2040 and beyond, and costly stranded asset risks.

The discussion paper makes clear that too much policy work, time and energy has been spent considering how best to accommodate natural gas generators.

More affordable, more durable [pathways](#) exist that prioritize low-cost wind and solar generation, and complementary zero-emissions technologies like energy storage, energy efficiency, interprovincial and inter-regional transmission upgrades and other balancing services and system upgrades. We believe that scarce public resources should be spent supporting and planning for these no-regret pathways rather than on near-term accommodations for the natural gas industry.

Canada is ahead of many countries on electricity decarbonization. However, significant work remains to clean up some high-emissions provincial electricity systems, and collaborative work is needed everywhere in Canada as electricity needs are set to [double or even triple in the coming decades](#). As global electricity generation is set to be more than [50 per cent renewable by 2030](#), and as investments in clean electricity are already far outpacing investments in fossil fuel-based electricity, Canada risks being left behind if too many concessions are awarded to fossil fuel electricity in the years ahead.

Access to affordable, reliable electricity is fundamental for everyone living in Canada. Renewable sources such as wind and solar are now the [lowest-cost sources of electricity in history](#), well [below the price of natural gas](#). Multiple Canadian studies have shown that as we move to zero-emissions electricity, [household energy spending goes down for everyone, enhancing energy equity](#).

To get there, we must avoid all new fossil fuel electricity and provide policy and regulatory certainty that Canada's electricity system can deliver affordable, reliable, non-emitting electricity for an increasing share of Canada's overall energy end uses.

Specific policy recommendations and considerations

These policy recommendations and considerations are structured using the framework offered in the “Areas for action: Seeking input” section of the [Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy](#) discussion document.

Building the electricity system

Optimizing federal-provincial-territorial support toward realizing the full potential of Canada’s electricity system is crucially important. New and upgraded interprovincial, intra-provincial and inter-regional electricity transmission projects will bring to significant economic, reliability and operational benefits to Canada’s electricity systems.

Canadian modelling efforts consistently show that scenarios and pathways that utilize new transmission system upgrades add affordability and reliability benefits to Canada’s electricity system.

The David Suzuki Foundation’s May 2022 “[Shifting Power](#)” report showed that pathways that embrace interprovincial transmission are more reliable, affordable and secure in their ability to integrate low-cost renewables. Similar national modelling studies from [Canada’s Energy Modelling Hub](#) (2023), the [Canadian Climate Institute](#) (2022), the [International Energy Agency](#) (2023) and the [University of Regina](#) (2018) also show the importance of supporting upgraded grid infrastructure and transmission projects.

The David Suzuki Foundation also views transmission upgrades as a clear area where federal spending can support provinces in their electricity transformations and directly reduce the requirement for capacity from fossil fuel generation while keeping electricity system costs affordable.

Similarly, energy efficiency, energy conservation, demand-side management, storage and strategic implementation of distributed energy resources such as residential energy storage, time-of-use billing and vehicle-to-grid infrastructure each have potential to offer system reliability benefits. By considering these additional zero-emissions electricity system upgrades, additional cost and reliability benefits can be realized without relying as heavily on natural gas generation or other fossil fuel generation sources.

We believe that the federal government has a foundational role to play in convening of provinces, utilities and key stakeholders for planning and engagement processes on federal-provincial and cross-provincial collaboration on electricity system upgrades and strategic cross-jurisdiction electricity transmission projects.

One key concern from the discussion document is the inclusion of plans to “encourage technologies and efficiency that reduce the emission impact of natural gas.” Spending public money on new natural gas capacity or retrofitting existing natural gas capacity with carbon capture technologies would be a costly mistake. **Rather than spending billions of public and private dollars on incremental improvements in natural gas emissions impacts, resources should instead be put toward the transition away from natural gas altogether and toward zero-emissions electricity generation pathways.**

Financing the build and increasing regional integration

The David Suzuki Foundation strongly supports increased regional integration and cooperation as a necessary element of Canada's electricity system transformation. We support the federal government's specific role in supporting the finance of some strategic electricity infrastructure during this period of broad electricity transformation.

The David Suzuki Foundation has been active in advocating for federal financing support for interprovincial transmission, key labour supports and support for Indigenous clean energy leadership for more than five years.

This advocacy includes the [Green Budget Coalition's 2026 recommendations on electricity](#) (which build on similar recommendations from 2021 through 2025), the [Green Economy Network's recommendations on electricity](#), a [2025 joint letter with more than 100 organizations](#) and multiple in-person advocacy efforts on these topics.

Directionally, we support the federal government developing a framework for generational investments in electricity infrastructure, with a focus on interprovincial transmission. Some inter-regional transmission and intra-provincial transmission projects may also prove important, but careful planning and conditions must be put in place before federal resources are spent at scale on these projects, too.

We highlight the 2026 Green Budget Coalition recommendation for emphasis here:

1. ***Transmission and Canada's East-West Grid: Amend the Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit to provide an enhanced 50% Investment Tax Credit for interprovincial transmission projects using Canadian content.*** *This adder would incentivise investment in sectors hard-hit by American trade disruptions such as Canadian steel and aluminium manufacturing. This aligns with the Canada Electricity Advisory Council's (CEAC) 2024 recommendations, which positions interprovincial transmission as the core nation-building investment that would enable transition in other economic sectors.*

*Although electricity generation clearly falls within provincial jurisdiction, the federal government has an essential role in convening stakeholders, strategic planning, and sending a clear signal of federal priority and funding to ensure valuable projects that can benefit the transmission and distribution system are brought forward. **To support the most impactful use of this investment, the Green Budget Coalition recommends that the federal government set aside \$500 million to develop comprehensive regional plans** and cost-allocation and benefit-accrual frameworks that integrate grid innovation and new technologies, in partnership with provincial governments, Indigenous leadership, and regional stakeholders.*

The Green Budget Coalition estimates that these enhanced ITCs and aligned federal government action on interprovincial transmission links will cost up to \$20 billion over five years.

2. ***Efficiency and demand-side management: \$6.5 billion over five years to match provincial funding for demand-side management projects.*** *This support will focus on demand-side management initiatives that reduce customer bills, optimize grid and generation resource use, enable greater adoption of distributed energy resources, and lead to incremental emissions reductions.*
3. ***The Green Budget Coalition also recommends \$5 billion over five years to advance Indigenous-owned and Indigenous-led clean energy projects through grants and Indigenous Loan Guarantees.***

We support the development of a **standard cost allocation mechanism, data sharing and regional grid modelling** and **new formal collaborations between provinces, territories, the federal**

government, Indigenous nations and stakeholders on interprovincial transmission links and other key pieces of electricity infrastructure. We further support a new comprehensive **Transmission InterConnect Investment Strategy**. In addition to the Major Projects Office, Natural Resources Canada should have direct involvement and support to ensure resources and government focus support this timely strategic effort.

Please also see the recommendations from “[Shifting Power](#),” highlighted in Appendix A of this submission.



Improving regulatory certainty and speed

There is no question that Canada must achieve unprecedented speed and scale in the build-out of electricity generation and other key electricity infrastructure. Our “Shifting Power” study showed that the amount of wind and solar electricity in Canada would increase more than 18-fold by 2050 to meet our high electrification scenario.

One reason the pathways shown in our research prioritized wind and solar is for exactly this reason: speed and scale. Wind, solar and energy storage are proven at scale, and can be very quick to permit, finance and build in Canada — especially compared to natural gas or bulky baseload from nuclear generation stations or new large hydro dams.

If regulatory certainty, speed and scale are the goal, renewables must be prioritized.

A major concern for us in the discussion document is the proposed amendments to the Clean Electricity Regulations to enable more natural gas generation build-out. We see two important risks in this approach.

First, weakening these regulations risks incentivizing the wrong kind of generation that will lead to added costs, stranded assets and wasted resources. It will take billions of dollars to build new gas plants or retrofit existing ones with costly carbon capture systems. At a time of great need paired with fiscal constraint, we must put our limited capacities and resources toward no-regret pathways that will support affordability and economic growth for decades to come.

Second, important time, attention and regulatory resources would be wasted amending the Clean Electricity Regulations. This would create more regulatory uncertainty when policy clarity and focus are needed to prioritize affordable, reliable, clean electrification through non-fossil fuel electricity generation in Canada.



Building capacity across the value chain

Broadly, we agree that there are significant supply chain and value chain opportunities for Canada when it comes to the technologies and components needed for economy-wide clean electrification. In addition to the examples given in the discussion paper related to transformers, cables, batteries, switchgear, semiconductors, control panels, generators and smart technologies, we'd like to highlight to other important opportunities.

Renewable electricity generation components and inputs

Virtually every modelling scenario — from the [Canada Energy Regulator's "Canada's Energy Future" 2026 report](#) to our [own modelling and analysis](#) — shows that between now and 2050 the vast majority of new electricity generation built in Canada will be wind and solar. These are the cheapest forms of new electricity generation and can be deployed relatively quickly and at scale.

The scale of these investments varies by modelling scenario and policy horizon, but [could lead to an electricity sector in Canada](#) that adds more than 220 GW of wind, 45 GW of solar and 35 GW of storage, for a combined investment of over \$330 billion by 2050.

If Canada finally steps into an era of predictable, consistent procurements of renewable electricity at scale, this could be the foundation on which OEMs can make the investments necessary to set up wind and solar component manufacturing in Canada. Today, while wind project development has significant local economic benefits from site development, road construction, foundation works, crane operations and other major construction elements, there is virtually no Canadian manufacturing for major components like blades, towers and generators. Wind turbine components — including blades, steel towers and even generator components — could be made in Canada. Solar panel racking systems and components could similarly be sourced in Canada where they are otherwise imported.

We recommend that the Government of Canada work with the renewable energy industry to seize this opportunity to scope, prospect and support manufacturing of wind, solar and other renewables manufacturing capacity in Canada.

High voltage transmission components and inputs

Similarly, there is broad consensus that Canada requires significant new investments and upgrades to its electricity transmission infrastructure, with specific needs for new interprovincial and inter-regional links connecting different provinces, territories and major balancing areas. This is a major opportunity for Canada's aluminum and steel sectors.

In June 2026, the David Suzuki Foundation released "[Economic Impact of a National East-West Electricity Transmission System](#)." This study explores the economic and employment benefits of one particular scenario that sees \$30.6 billion to build new transmission interties between provinces by 2035. An input-output model is used to estimate the economic impact of capital spending on the transmission system. The model was constructed using Statistics Canada's most recent (2022) supply-use tables.

Additionally, this study looks at the specific economic and employment benefits to Canada's steel and aluminum sectors if the major inputs for these projects come from Canadian materials and components. Replacing imported iron, steel and aluminum with domestically produced products boosts years of work by 2,800 over the construction period to nearly 29,500 years of work for primary and fabricated metal manufacturing workers.

See Appendix A for more details, and see the link above for the full study.

Ensuring the skills and labour needed

In addition to the specific recommendations in the above sections from the Green Budget Coalition and Green Economy Network efforts, we support and wish to highlight the detailed policy recommendations and thinking on workers' rights, skills training and other labour supports within the submission to this consultation from the Canadian Labour Congress.

Managing demand and modernizing the system

Recognizing the crucial importance of energy efficiency and demand-side management in Canada's clean electrification pathways, we support and wish to highlight the detailed policy recommendations and thinking on demand-side management to the submissions to this consultation from the [Pembina Institute](#) and [Efficiency Canada](#).

Indigenous clean energy leadership

Indigenous communities are already leaders in clean electricity generation and related electricity infrastructure projects throughout Canada. Indigenous-led organizations are doing important work in highlighting this leadership, outlining recommendations and identifying supports in this space.

We support and wish to highlight many of the detailed policy recommendations and thinking on Indigenous clean energy leadership, Indigenous energy sovereignty and specific support for Indigenous-led clean electricity from [Indigenous Power Coalition](#), [First Nations Major Project Coalition](#), [Sacred Earth](#) and [Indigenous Clean Energy](#).



Appendix A:

Additional David Suzuki Foundation reports, analysis and resources

The David Suzuki Foundation would like to submit for your consideration a number of reports that our organization has authored or commissioned that have specific relevance to the development of *Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy* and to Canada's work of achieving affordable, reliable, zero-emissions electricity by 2035. Five of our reports are outlined below.

Report: Shifting Power

In May 2022 the David Suzuki Foundation released “**Shifting Power: Zero-Emissions Electricity Across Canada by 2035.**” The report is the result of a four-year partnership with the University of Victoria's SESIT Lab, led by Madeleine McPherson (now co-lead of Canada's Energy Modelling Hub). The report was the first Canadian modelling study to explore pathways to zero-emissions electricity by 2035. The analysis uses purpose-built electricity modelling to explore reliable, affordable pathways that prioritize wind, solar, energy storage, energy efficiency and interprovincial transmission, while also accounting for a growing economy and aggressive electrification up to 2050. The report demonstrates pathways without relying on expensive and sometimes unproven and dangerous technologies like small modular nuclear or fossil gas with carbon capture and storage.

Full report link: <https://davidsuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/Shifting-Power-Zero-Emissions-Electricity-Across-Canada-by-2035/>

Policy recommendations from “**Shifting Power**”:

1. **Prioritize proven, affordable, scalable and zero-emissions technologies like wind and solar generation, energy storage, energy efficiency and improved transmission.**
 - a. Renewable electricity sources are technically mature and the cheapest form of new electricity available. They, along with enabling technologies and policies, should be prioritized as the primary source of new electricity generation.
 - b. Governments, utilities, businesses and households need to prioritize energy efficiency and conservation since in many cases the cheapest source of energy is the energy saved through efficiency.
 - c. To deliver early emissions reductions and to avoid new fossil generation assets being locked in or stranded, the federal government should put in place a stringent clean electricity standard and ensure that the electricity sector is fully exposed to carbon pricing.
 - d. Terminate federal and provincial public financing of fossil fuel generation with carbon capture, utilization and storage and new small modular nuclear reactors and redirect public funds toward renewable electricity and the technologies that enable it.
2. **Maximize the value that the electricity system can deliver by taking a whole-system approach,** recognizing how the flexible operation of Canada's existing hydroelectric fleet; new energy storage capacity; new interprovincial and inter-regional transmission capacity; complementary energy efficiency and diversity of wind and solar resources can all contribute to achieving grid flexibility and reliability.
3. **There is no time for delay.** The build-out of renewable generation must start immediately if we are to achieve 100 per cent zero-emissions electricity by 2035 throughout Canada. Concurrently, electrification across the economy must be accelerated to wean society off of fossil fuels and to reach climate targets.

4. **Collaboration is key and reforms are needed in utility regulation.**
 - a. Mandates are needed for electric utilities and system operators that give clear direction for electricity sector decarbonization by 2035, to promote interprovincial collaboration and connections and to harness the electricity sector's role in economy-wide decarbonization by 2050.
 - b. Electricity system governance (from utility commissions to electricity markets) must evolve quickly to support the deployment of renewable and enabling technologies.
 - c. Higher levels of interprovincial transmission are beneficial, and collaboration between system operators and provincial governments will be necessary to update policies and mandates that allow for mutually beneficial, cross-jurisdiction electricity planning and operation.
 - d. The new Pan-Canadian Grid Council should support interprovincial electricity trade, regulatory reform and knowledge sharing toward high levels of renewable electricity.
5. **Prepare the workforce.** Canada must develop and properly fund training and retraining programs for the significant labour requirement needed in renewable electricity generation, energy efficiency and clean electrification.
6. **A national energy poverty strategy** and federal support for regulatory solutions to energy poverty are required. As end uses increasingly switch to the electricity sector, more energy poverty considerations will fall under the electricity sector's umbrella. Focused programming for low- and moderate-income and equity-seeking households must be a priority.
7. **Mobilize money and unlock opportunities.** Building out renewables, expanding interprovincial transmission, modernizing the grid, incorporating new storage technologies and electrifying the economy will require redirecting investment flows from carbon-intensive sectors **to markedly increase the level of investment** in the electricity sector and in economy-wide electrification. Governments can play a role in de-risking investments, correcting market failures and enabling Indigenous ownership and community-owned renewables.



Report: Keeping the Lights On

In October 2022, the David Suzuki Foundation released “**Keeping the Lights On: Ensuring energy affordability, equity and access in the transition to clean electricity in Canada**,” authored by Runa R. Das and Mari Martiskainen.

Full report link: <https://davidsuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/keeping-the-lights-on-ensuring-energy-affordability-equity-and-access-in-the-transition-to-clean-electricity-in-canada/>

This report focuses on energy poverty in the context of a people-centred transition in Canada. Calls have been made for energy transitions to be equitable so they do not cause unnecessary burdens and risk distribution. Some people and households are particularly vulnerable in the current energy system. Almost one in 10 Canadian households spends more than 10 per cent of their income on energy bills. Many experience energy poverty, struggling to have a sufficient level of energy services. This can have damaging effects on health, resiliency, social relationships and, in extreme cases, survival.

To mitigate energy poverty in the context of a clean energy transition, this report makes policy recommendations in four areas: national energy poverty strategy; universal clean energy service; affordable energy; and decarbonizing and efficiency for the residential sector.

Policy recommendation matrix from “**Keeping the Lights On**”:

Key policy topic	Subsections	Recommendations	Key actors
Energy Poverty Strategy	➤ A National Energy Poverty Strategy for Canada	- Energy justice as a guiding approach - Energy poverty advisory group - Household energy data - Energy poverty definition, indicators and targets	Federal government Provincial government Civil society
Universal Clean Energy Service	➤ Consumer protection and access to energy services	All-season energy disconnection ban	Provincial government Municipal government
	➤ A right to cool (and heat)	Access to cooling services	Utilities Social service agencies
Affordable Energy	➤ Bill-assistance programs	- Lifeline rate - On-bill credits/discounts - Seasonal programs - Emergency assistance	Provincial government Utilities Social service agencies
Decarbonizing and Efficiency for the Residential Sector	➤ Energy efficiency resources standard	Utility targets	Provincial government Utilities Social service agencies
	➤ Energy efficiency	- Building-sector targets - Low-income energy efficiency funding - Multi-residential and landlord-owned buildings programs	Federal government Provincial government Municipal government

	➤ Renewable energy programs	• Free heat pump programs • Free electric water heater programs	Federal funding Provincial government Municipal government Utilities Social service agencies
	➤ Education and collaboration	• Community outreach and education delivery • Diverse and inclusive stakeholder engagement	Provincial government Municipal government Utilities Community organizations



Report: Decarbonizing Electricity and Decolonizing Power

In May 2022 the David Suzuki Foundation released “**Decarbonizing Electricity and Decolonizing Power: Voices, Insights, Perspectives and Priorities from Indigenous Clean Energy Leaders,**” authored by Neegan Burnside and Dean Jacobs of Walpole Island First Nation.

All existing and future energy projects in Canada are located on either unceded Indigenous territories or treaty lands. A transition to zero-emissions electricity by 2035 must ensure benefits flow to communities and will only succeed with full Indigenous consent and participation that upholds Indigenous rights and title. The report authors interviewed more than a dozen Indigenous clean energy leaders across Canada. The report offers key insights and case studies and sets out six principles for upholding Indigenous rights and ensuring community benefits in the transition to clean renewable electricity.

Full report link: <https://davidsuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/decarbonizing-electricity-and-decolonizing-power-voices-insights-and-priorities-from-indigenous-clean-energy-leaders/>

Policy recommendations from “**Decarbonizing Electricity and Decolonizing Power**”:

Despite current successes and future opportunities for Indigenous-led clean energy development, several significant and institutional barriers to entry and expansion exist. Challenges include but are not limited to regulatory, policy and program barriers; political barriers; lack of capacity and lack of access to equitable financing opportunities.

Through thoughtful and insightful interviews with Indigenous clean energy leaders, we have identified six broad themes that need to guide planning and development to achieve 100 per cent clean electricity in Canada by 2035:

1. Indigenous world views and knowledge need to be incorporated and respected within broader societal and economic value systems;
2. Meaningful, rights-based and consent-based consultation needs to be mainstreamed for all clean energy projects;
3. Existing Indigenous leadership needs to be honoured and advanced through support for capacity, ownership opportunities and jobs;
4. Indigenous leaders require a seat at decision-making tables, as decarbonizing electricity must also mean decolonizing power structures;
5. Solving systemic infrastructure gaps for Indigenous communities through focused just transition measures must be prioritized as part of the clean energy transition; and
6. Economic reconciliation must be central to the clean energy transition by removing barriers to accessing financial capital, ownership and other project benefits.

These six foundational themes must be applied to decolonize existing power structures held by Crown corporations and utilities, and to empower Indigenous communities to advance their interests through meaningful and sustained involvement in the clean energy transition. This includes not only advancing Indigenous-led, -owned and -controlled clean energy projects, but also engaging in and directing regulatory, planning and policy processes at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Study: Economic Impact of a National East-West Electricity Transmission System

In June 2026, the David Suzuki Foundation released “**Economic Impact of a National East-West Electricity Transmission System**,” authored by Robin Somerville of Quantitative Economic Decisions Inc. (QED Inc.), a partner of the Centre for Spatial Economics (C4SE).

Full study link: <https://davidsuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/economic-impact-of-a-national-east-west-electricity-transmission-system/>

This study builds on the David Suzuki Foundation’s 2022 report “Shifting Power: Zero-Emissions Electricity Across Canada by 2035,” which provides a pathway to secure a fast transition to an efficient, zero-emissions electricity system by investing \$400 billion (2018 dollars) by 2035 to expand electricity generation, storage, transmission and operation and maintenance spending in a “Zero Plus” scenario.

This study explores the economic and employment benefits of one particular scenario that sees \$30.6 billion to build new transmission interties between provinces by 2035. An input-output model is used to estimate the economic impact of capital spending on the transmission system. The model was constructed using Statistics Canada’s most recent (2022) supply-use tables.

Additionally, this study looks at the specific economic and employment benefits to Canada’s steel and aluminum sectors if the major inputs for these projects come from Canadian materials and components.

Iron, steel and aluminum sector impacts include:

- Electricity grid enhancements boost fabricated metal years worked over the construction period by up to 26,300 and primary metal jobs by 3,100 if domestic steel and aluminum are used.
- Replacing imported iron, steel and aluminum with domestically produced products boosts years of work by 2,800 over the construction period to nearly 29,500 years of work for primary and fabricated metal manufacturing workers.



Landscape Analysis: Empowering Communities

In December 2025, the David Suzuki Foundation released “**Empowering Communities: a landscape analysis of renewable electricity ownership, benefits and research gaps**,” authored by Christina Hoicka, associate professor of Geography and Civil Engineering at the University of Victoria, and the Canada Research Chair in Urban Planning for Climate Change.

Full study link: <https://davidsuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/empowering-communities-a-landscape-analysis-of-renewable-electricity-ownership-benefits-and-research-gaps/>

This report supports the work to better understand the barriers to community- and Indigenous-led renewable electricity projects in Canada. This report seeks to:

- Show where Canada is in terms of community ownership, and to highlight community benefit flows with renewable electricity projects – and identify gaps in this data.
- Identify the scale of opportunity for community and public ownership of renewable electricity projects.
- Highlight the importance of impacts and benefits of renewable electricity projects to justice and social acceptance.
- Identify known provincial regulatory and other barriers to community involvement in grid-connected renewable electricity projects.
- Identify other institutional barriers and research gaps for further study.

“Empowering communities” provides important information to foreshadow these outputs by exploring the potential and current state of community-owned renewable electricity as one means of empowering communities. It focuses on community ownership of renewable electricity by cooperatives, community economic development investment funds (CEDIFS) and municipalities in Canada and considers other models of community ownership that may be advantageous to communities in Canada.



Appendix B:

Resources on affordability

As Canada moves to clean electricity, it harnesses the opportunity for more affordable energy. Significant energy efficiency savings are inherent in electrification, as energy end uses move away from fossil fuels and transition to affordable, reliable clean electricity. Studies and reports outlined below demonstrate clean electricity's economic and affordability advantage. However, no matter the energy source, we know that specific and focused supports are needed to address energy poverty in Canada, and we are pleased to offer some resources and solutions for this crucial problem as well.

Keeping the Lights On | David Suzuki Foundation | October 2022

<https://davidssuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/keeping-the-lights-on-ensuring-energy-affordability-equity-and-access-in-the-transition-to-clean-electricity-in-canada/>

- See Appendix A for main findings and recommendations on solutions and approaches for energy poverty in Canada.

Clean Electricity, Affordable Energy | Canadian Climate Institute | June 2023

<https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Clean-Electricity-Affordable-Energy.pdf>

- Main finding on affordability: “Our analysis finds that Canadians will spend **12 per cent less on energy** than they do today when they switch off fossil fuels to power their homes, vehicles and businesses with clean electricity.”

A Clean Bill | Clean Energy Canada | September 2023

<https://cleanenergycanada.org/report/a-clean-bill/>

- Main finding on affordability: “A family that adopts a few common clean energy solutions — including EVs and heat pumps — could knock \$800 off their monthly energy bills compared to one that is largely reliant on fossil fuels.”

Shifting Power | David Suzuki Foundation | May 2022

<https://davidssuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/Shifting-Power-Zero-Emissions-Electricity-Across-Canada-by-2035/>

- Main finding on affordability: “Clean electricity pathways that achieve zero-emissions electricity in Canada by 2035 through prioritizing wind, solar, energy storage, existing hydroelectric capacity, significant new interprovincial transmission, high-electrification and high energy efficiency are cost-comparative to the BAU in 2025-2030 and can achieve a lower levelized cost of energy when compared to BAU pathways between 2035-2050.”

Towards a Clean Atlantic Grid | Pembina Institute | Jan 2022

<https://www.pembina.org/pub/towards-clean-atlantic-grid>

- Main finding on affordability: non-emitting clean electricity “portfolios” that provide the same grid services and reliability can reduce consumer costs when compared to natural gas-fired electricity.

Unveiling the CER and EMH's Policy Impact Assessment Tools – Presentation | Energy Modelling Hub | October 2023

<https://cme-emh.ca/en/unveiling-the-clean-electricity-regulation-emhs-impact-assessment-tools/>

- Main finding on affordability under illustrative scenarios: “The CER is only marginally more expensive than BAU scenarios, and cheaper by 2050” and comes with “substantial emissions savings.”

Electricity Affordability and Equity in Canada's Energy Transition | Canadian Climate Institute, Brett Dolter, Jennifer Winter | June 2023

<https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Electricity-and-equity-canadas-energy-transition.pdf>

- Main finding on affordability: as electricity spending and consumption rise with household electrification, household energy spending goes down among all income quintiles.

2023 Levelized Cost of Energy + | Lazard | April 2023

<https://www.lazard.com/research-insights/2023-levelized-cost-of-energyplus/>

- Main finding on affordability: The levelized cost of energy for various applications of wind and solar electricity are well below the levelized cost of energy for new gas peaking plants, new nuclear plants, new coal plants and new combined cycle natural gas plants — and in many cases new wind and solar electricity is cheaper than existing nuclear, coal and gas capacity.

