

Standing Committee on Natural Resources/Ressources naturelles

Canada's Electrification, Energy Self-Sufficiency and Domestic Energy Security

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Thank you for this invitation to speak with the committee.

Powering Canada Strong² policy paper suggests that building transmission lines between provinces will provide energy security, reliability and affordability.

Look at Europe. Belgian physicist Pierre Kunsch writes, “Decarbonizing electricity in the European Union is a programmed failure demonstrated by the figures.”³ A full-scale laboratory has existed for about twenty years. It allows you to form an unbiased opinion of what is possible and what is not.”⁴

Spain and Portugal experienced national blackouts in April of 2025, due to grid instability caused by renewables.⁵ Norway no longer wants to be the hydro battery of Europe.⁶ Germany has lots of wind and solar but powers the country on domestic coal and nuclear from France. Wind, solar and transmission lines have driven up electricity costs.⁷ Due to Germany's expensive electricity and lack of domestic energy, industry is collapsing and moving to the US or China.^{8 9 10}

Net zero is the “Pursuit of the Impossible.”¹¹

¹ <https://friendsofscience.org/>

² <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-sources/electricity-infrastructure/powering-canada-strong-national-strategy-electrified-canadian-economy>

³ <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2022/06/16/decarbonizing-electricity-in-the-european-union-a-programmed-failure-demonstrated-by-the-figures/>

⁴ <https://trends.levif.be/a-la-une/politique-economique/decarboner-lelectricite-dans-lunion-europeenne-un-bilan-chiffre-annonceur-dechec/>

⁵ <https://clintel.org/blackout/>

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/norway-will-drill-arctic-regardless-eus-position-says-energy-minister-2026-08-24/>

⁷ Wind and Solar Power in Europe: Lars Schernikau's Warning

⁸ <https://www.dw.com/en/are-german-companies-leaving-the-country/a-77875399>

⁹ <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/4901511-europe-climate-policy-risks/>

¹⁰ <https://www.prweb.com/releases/wall-street-must-save-the-world-from-esg-and-climate-totalitarianism-with-a-net-zero-2030-exit-plan-302267550.html>

¹¹ <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2022/11/28/the-pursuit-of-the-impossiblematerials-constraints-and-realities-for-the-net-zero-utopia/>

Like Europe, Canada's net-zero emissions targets cannot be met with current technologies by 2030 or 2050, as clearly stated by Prof. Emeritus Vaclav Smil.^{12 13 14} Energy revolution? He calls it a crawl.¹⁵

In our recent open letter to banking regulators,¹⁶ we explain that the push for net zero was based on catastrophic climate scenarios - the best known is RCP 8.5.¹⁷ These scenarios were officially retired as **implausible**, this spring. Environment Canada continues to use them in CCCR2026, misleading policy makers. There is no climate emergency.

Likewise, there is no material supply chain or capacity to build out critical mineral mines to meet net zero, as shown by Prof. Simon Michaux.¹⁸ At 2019 rates of production, it would take 189 years to mine sufficient copper and over 9,000 years to mine sufficient lithium.

Is the solution to emissions to electrify everything?

The government's Sankey diagram shows that electricity meets only 18 per cent of Canada's energy demand.¹⁹ Fossil fuels constitute 93 per cent of domestic energy supply; renewables only 7 per cent.²⁰

Can wind, solar and grid scale batteries provide reliable, affordable power?

"At 2021 prices, the batteries needed to ensure a reliable supply of electricity from wind and solar generators [for Alberta alone] would cost almost two trillion dollars."²¹

Canada's seasonal weather extremes mean that solar and wind are often 'dead' when additional power is most needed.²² Wind is not always blowing 'somewhere.'

Wind and solar devices can operate reliably for about 15 to 20 years; grid scale batteries for about 10 years – then they must all be replaced at the same cost or greater.²³ The old devices cannot easily be recycled, creating garbage dumps.²⁴

¹² <https://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/research-ideas/publications-and-policy-insight/policy-brief/what-we-need-to-know-about-the-pace-of-decarbonization.php>

¹³ <https://vaclavsmil.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/HALFWAY.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://a.co/d/0jf3UvNg> 2050 - POURQUOI UN MONDE SANS CARBONE EST PRESQUE IMPOSSIBLE

¹⁵ <https://youtu.be/5guXaVwQpe4>

¹⁶ <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2026/09/30/open-letter-to-the-office-of-the-superintendent-of-financial-institutions-osfi-and-the-network-for-greening-the-financial-system-ngfs-on-material-changes-in-climate-scenarios/>

¹⁷ Three high-emissions scenarios were retired as implausible SSP3-7.0, SSP5-8.5, RCP 8.5. RCP 8.5 had been presented as the "business-as-usual" case for years, when it was always implausible.

¹⁸ https://tupa.gtk.fi/raportti/arkisto/42_2021.pdf

¹⁹ <https://energy-information.canada.ca/en/resources/canadian-energy-flow-sankey-diagram>

²⁰ <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2025/09/25/insights-from-a-sankey-diagram/>

²¹ <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/04/25/the-true-cost-of-wind-and-solar-electricity-in-alberta/>

²² <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/10/20/what-you-really-need-to-know-about-renewable-energy-that-the-pembina-institute-wont-tell-you-parts-a-and-b/>

²³ <https://www.instituteofenergyresearch.org/renewable/wind-turbines-and-solar-panels-are-aging-prematurely/>

²⁴ <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2026/08/21/the-biggest-garbage-heaps-in-human-history/>

Conventional power plants can operate for about 60 years, hydro dams and nuclear generators for about 100 years.

Canada and the US rely on each other for north-south exchange of electricity.²⁵ This provides excellent reliability for both nations. British Columbia's drought meant it has had to import about 20% of its power from the US. Due to Quebec electrification of home heating and drought, at times Quebec Hydro has found itself unable to export to US markets.

The cost of net zero for Quebec would be \$400,000 per citizen over the next 24 years.^{26 27}

Canada must build more conventional power generation.

Transmission lines between provinces does not solve the problem. Interties are useful for limited and specific exchanges of electrical power.

Europe is cited as a highly networked model; it is densely populated. In Canada, there is no city over 1 million people between Toronto and Calgary to underwrite the cost of transmission lines.

"Clean" energy is a misnomer. Wind, solar, batteries demand more energy and critical minerals for manufacture – the emissions are in China which runs on coal.²⁸

Hydrogen is touted as a solution, but the pitfalls, costs and dangers are many.^{29 30}

Geothermal is limited by geology.³¹

Thank you.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=63684>

<sup>26</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2026/09/01/le-cout-de-lobjectif-zero-emissionnette-de-co2-pour-le-quebec/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2026/09/01/the-cost-of-net-zero-to-quebec/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://spectrum.ieee.org/to-get-wind-power-you-need-oil>

<sup>29</sup> <https://a.co/d/0dnyCi8r>

<sup>30</sup> <https://a.co/d/03uqlXuf>

<sup>31</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2019/08/13/geothermal-for-canada-questions-and-challenges/>