

THE BIG DEBATE

Becoming a sustainable energy powerhouse

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Estimates predict the world's energy needs will rise by up to 35 per cent by 2035. With advantages like a wealth of resources and expertise in bringing big projects to fruition, Canada has the potential to become a sustainable energy powerhouse, a challenge presented by the Canadian Academy of Engineering in its book on this topic. Realizing this vision requires tackling technological and strategic issues alongside societal and environmental goals. This special feature – produced in partnership with the **Bowman Centre** at the Western-Sarnia-Lambton Research Park – will explore new energy pathways and provide a blueprint for Canada to become a sustainable energy powerhouse.

Among its topics, this feature will discuss:

Electric power. Globally, two billion people have limited or no access to electric power. With a vast potential to increase hydroelectric and nuclear power, Canada could become a major producer of low greenhouse-gas emitting energy for North America. What actions are required for making this clean energy vision a reality?

Value-added products. Many believe that Canada is losing billions of dollars annually by exporting its oil resources unrefined. Yet it is reported that single company economics show that exporting raw bitumen from the oil sands provides the best return on investment. Canada needs to do more to understand the forces behind this debate and define the actions needed to capture the full benefits of our resources.

Manufacturing. Canada's automotive manufacturing industry has been diminished with impacts on the economy, particularly in Eastern Canada. Yet much of the equipment needed for Canada's energy industry is imported, in oil and gas, in power generation

and transmission, and many other sectors. Canada needs to improve its understanding of critical supply chains and find ways to re-energize Canada's manufacturing sector. Where will the leadership come from?

Natural gas. New shale gas discoveries in the western USA and new discoveries of "tight gas" in Alberta and British Columbia are adding to a global competition for international contracts among natural gas producers. What must Canadian producers do to secure long-term deals?

Low-carbon energy sources. Canada has potential for major increases in energy generation from its renewable resources. Nuclear energy now produces 2.5 per cent of Canada's total energy production with bio, wind and solar adding a further 2.1 per cent. What is the likely future of these resources and what needs to be done to increase their share of total production?

Transitioning to a low-carbon technology. Clean technologies can be applied across a broad range of Canada's energy sector. Improving the efficiency of processes that produce or use energy represents low hanging fruit for enhancing Canada's energy system. Building energy resilient cities presents exciting high pay out opportunities

All this and more in this special feature.



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