



Ready when you are

How we're ensuring British Columbians will have the power they need, when they need it—today, tomorrow, and for decades to come.

FEBRUARY 2026

 **BC Hydro**
Power smart

About this document

For more than six decades, our electricity has enabled growth and unlocked opportunity across the province. Today, we are proud to safely and reliably deliver some of the cleanest power on the continent to millions of customers.

But new challenges loom. British Columbia faces a rising demand for electricity, amid threats to our economy. BC Hydro has a critical role to play—to foster economic development for the province, grow our energy supply, and build a resilient grid.

More of our customers are choosing to electrify their homes and businesses with our clean power. We're now processing more than 40,000 requests to connect to our grid each year; such requests have grown in recent years by 30%.¹ And it's not just urban expansion underpinning the demand: a variety of proposed industrial projects would require significant quantities of power.

We have a plan in place to serve this demand, and we're acting on it. We're steadily growing our electricity supply, strengthening and expanding our grid, and rolling out new high-capacity cables to connect fast-growing communities. We've increased our investment in energy efficiency by 60% above previous levels, helping our customers save money, while reducing demand on our system. We're pursuing innovative partnerships and supporting customers with new technologies. And we're doing all this while creating stable, sustainable jobs for skilled workers in every corner of British Columbia.

We prepared this special report in a response to recent questions from local governments and the communities they represent. It summarizes the actions we're taking, the investments we're making, and the partnerships we're forming to ensure we'll be there when communities need us—no matter what comes our way.



¹ Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2025a. "Faster, cheaper power connections planned for new homes, businesses." <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025EC0028-000651>.

Highlights

Keeping our system operating 24/7 is mission-critical—but so is keeping an eye on the horizon. It takes time to acquire new renewable power and expand our grid, so we plan years and decades ahead to ensure we're ready to meet new demand when it's needed.

- We use a robust, regulator-reviewed process to forecast future electricity needs.
- Our current projections show power consumption rising above today's level by about 15% by 2030 due to electrification, new housing construction, and planned industrial facilities—among other demand drivers.
- Our now-fully-operational Site C project is already serving a good portion of that growth. The facility produces enough power to meet the needs of half a million new homes.
- We are also partnering with independent power producers (IPPs) to supply us with additional renewable electricity.
- We invite IPPs to submit proposals to build new facilities via a competitive process known as a call for power. Successful proponents build the projects, and we buy the electricity they produce via electricity purchase agreements.
- Following our 2024 Call for Power, we signed 10 such agreements with wind and solar power developers, and we followed up with another call for power in July 2025.² First Nations and IPPs would co-own all the new facilities. If completed as proposed, the facilities would produce enough power to meet the annual needs of about one million homes.
- Around the same time, we also issued two Requests for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI):
 - The first sought information on future capacity and baseload energy projects, including geothermal, pumped storage, and hydroelectric resources.³ This process resulted in 106 submissions representing 19 gigawatts of potential new electricity capacity.⁴
 - The second RFEOI identified potential new partners who could empower our customers to save energy and money via innovative technologies.⁵
- As power producers begin building their facilities, we're expanding our system to ensure our customers can readily access the new electricity they'll be generating. This system expansion is the centerpiece of a \$36 billion capital plan.
- We're investing more than \$700 million in tools, technologies, and programs designed to help our customers make more energy efficient choices.
- Between Site C, our electricity purchase agreements, planned expansions of our existing facilities, including a sixth unit at Revelstoke Generating Station adding 500 MW of capacity, and our energy efficiency investments, we're on track to meet our forecasted power consumption increase.^{6,7}
- We've also reduced the fees that new customers pay to connect to our service, and updated policies that dictate who pays when we need to extend our system to serve customers in a new area. The first customers to connect to such a grid extension no longer need to shoulder the lion's share of its development costs.

² Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2025b. "Province takes energy action to electrify economy, increase resilience." <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025ECS0018-000412>.

³ Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2025c. "BC Hydro launches new actions to power B.C.'s clean-energy future." BC Gov News. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025ECS0022-000539>.

⁴ BC Hydro. 2025a. "Powering B.C.'s future: Market signals strong interest in providing new capacity resources." https://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2025/capacity-rfeoi.html

⁵ BC Hydro. 2025b. "Request for expressions of interest (RFEOI) for Power Smart Partnerships." <https://www.bchydro.com/work-with-us/suppliers/2025-rfeoi-power-smart-partnerships.html>.

⁶ Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2024a. "New wind projects will boost B.C.'s affordable clean-energy supply." <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024ECS0048-001643>.

⁷ Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2024b. "BC Hydro expands clean-energy supply with new solar project." <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024ECS0072-001678>.

How we’re lessening the need for new electricity supply

	Power saved per year	Equivalent homes powered per year
Efficiency programs	2,800 GWh	280,000

How we’re increasing the supply of electricity

	Power generated per year	Equivalent homes powered per year
Site C Project	5,100 GWh	500,000
2024 Call for Power	~5,000 GWh	500,000
2025 Call for Power	~5,000 GWh target	500,000
Total	15,100 GWh	1.5 million

Thinking about tomorrow

By planning for multiple scenarios, we'll be ready for whatever the future holds.

There's no such thing as an energy-planning crystal ball—we can't predict exactly how much electricity our customers will need in the future. But we do have the next best thing: dedicated teams that analyze a wide range of data to forecast electricity demand across multiple possible futures.

- We gather data from dozens of sources to forecast how much power our residential, commercial, and industrial customers will need.⁸
- We model the projected impact of federal and provincial government policies, local government policies such as the Zero Carbon Step Code, and programs such as our Power Smart energy efficiency incentives at various participation levels.
- We plan for uncertainty by considering a variety of possible futures, summarized as follows:
 - A **reference scenario**, which is based on established relationships between load and external variables, new loads that have a reasonable level of certainty—for example, industrial projects that have reached a given milestone—and load that is an anticipated outcome of government regulations.
 - A **high scenario**, under which growth exceeds the reference scenario, primarily due to additional large industrial development reflecting economic growth and diversification of trade; and
 - A **low scenario**, where growth is lower than the reference scenario due to a slower pace of electrification, lower industrial activity, and lower economic activity.
- We also generate focused scenarios or sensitivities to demonstrate the potential electricity demand of specific sectors, such as mines and liquefied natural gas facilities, and regions—such as Northwest B.C., where we're building the North Coast Transmission Line.
- We use these scenarios to plan investments in new power generation, grid expansions and upgrades, and energy management programs, to ensure that we'll have sufficient power available for customers when they need it.
- Our regulator, the British Columbia Utilities Commission, scrutinizes all these projections, providing a crucial additional layer of independent oversight.
- We collaborate with our industrial customers to understand their future electricity requirements. We assess proposed projects and existing loads and apply probability weightings to anticipate how much power we'll need to provide, and where it will be needed.
- We regularly compare our available resources with the range of forecast scenarios; if we see a future need, we take action to meet it. A few of many potential options include scaling up conservation and energy management programs, adding new electricity supply, and incorporating battery storage.
- For decades, this process was straightforward. British Columbia's electricity demand grew gradually and predictably, and, as a result, we updated our long-term plan for our integrated system every five years.⁹
- Now, with increased uncertainty around the pace of growth of the province's population and economy—and with electrification of industry, buildings, and vehicles ramping up—we're updating our plan more frequently. For example, we released the current version just two years after its predecessor, and we'll time future updates to changing conditions rather than a fixed schedule.

What is load?

The term load describes the amount of electrical power required by our customers, or a group of customers.

⁸ To name just a few examples, we monitor housing stock and population forecasts from the Conference Board of Canada, housing starts from the province, and ICBC electric vehicle registrations. We also look further afield, for example, to the energy efficiency and market share projections from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

⁹ By "integrated system" we mean our main system that connects and centrally manages power generation, transmission, and distribution. In contrast, "non-integrated areas" are remote or isolated communities that rely on local power sources.

Bringing new generation online

Beyond Site C, we're upgrading two of our generating stations, and we've awarded contracts for 10 new power projects—with more on the way.

Site C is now fully operational, adding 5,100 GWh to our system each year, or enough power to supply the annual needs of about 500,000 homes. The facility will produce clean, reliable, and affordable electricity for more than a century.

- As noted, in 2024 we announced the results of our first call for power in 15 years.
- In July 2025 we issued another call for power to acquire up to an additional 5,000 GWh of electricity each year from large, clean or renewable projects. As with the 2024 Call for Power, First Nations and independent power producers would co-develop these projects, with First Nations holding a minimum of 25% equity ownership.¹⁰
- We received a strong response to the 2025 call for power, with 14 proposals totaling more than 9,100 gigawatt hours per year—nearly double the amount we'd targeted.¹¹ We'll announce the results in the coming months.
- If completed as planned, the facilities contracted under the two power calls would produce enough electricity to meet the annual needs of about one million British Columbia homes.
- We also issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) to seek information regarding potential future capacity and baseload energy projects, including geothermal, pumped storage, and hydroelectric resources.¹²
- Capacity and baseload projects such as hydroelectric facilities deliver a steady supply of power. As such, they are ideal partners to other renewable sources, such as wind and solar, that rely on variable weather conditions or the time of day to produce electricity.
- At the Revelstoke Generating Station on the Columbia River, we're preparing to add a sixth generating unit that will provide 500 megawatts of cost-effective capacity to meet peak demand, support integration of renewable energy sources, create over 450 jobs, and generate approximately \$60 million in local spending. Construction is planned to begin in spring 2026, with completion expected by December 2032.¹³
- Upgrades to the G.M. Shrum Generating Station's Units 1 to 5 on the Peace River will add another 100 megawatts of renewable hydroelectric capacity.
- We'll issue additional calls for power as needed.



¹⁰ Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2025d. "B.C. boosts clean-energy supply, drives economic growth." BC Gov News. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025EC0033-000724>.

¹¹ Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2026. "Increasing B.C.'s electricity supply with new clean-energy proposals." BC Gov News. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026EC0003-000056>.

¹² Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2025c. "BC Hydro launches new actions to power B.C.'s clean-energy future." BC Gov News. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025EC0022-000539>.

¹³ BC Hydro. 2025a.

New generation contracts awarded

2024 Call for Power

Legend



Wind



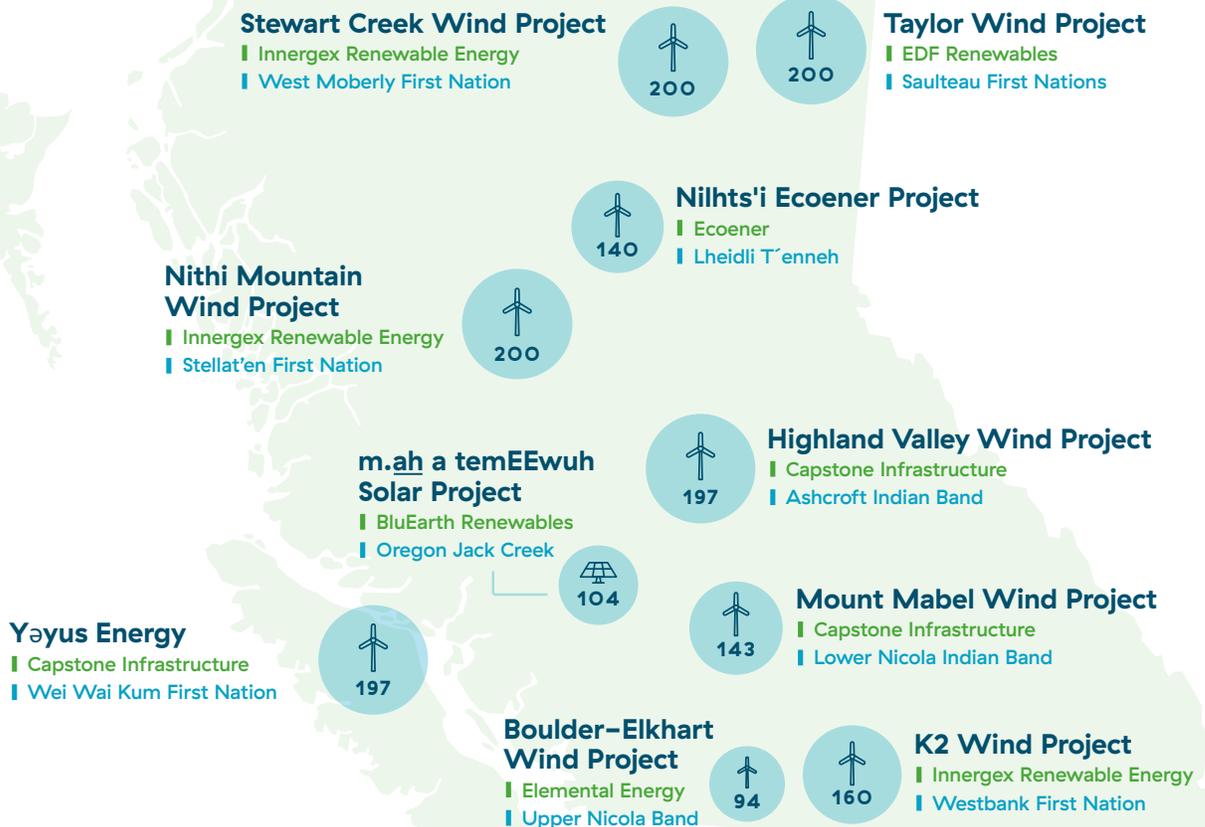
Solar

■ Project Size (MW)

■ IPP Partner

■ First Nations Partner

Once up and running, these **10** wind and solar projects will together meet the electricity needs of **half a million** homes.



Locations shown are approximate.

Meeting today's clean power demands

Existing Generation Resources



2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan (Feb 2023). Locations shown are approximate.

Building, upgrading, and maintaining infrastructure

We're deep into one of our largest grid buildouts in decades.

We're investing nearly \$36 billion to keep our system running smoothly, modernize our grid, and strategically expand it to serve the province's growing demand for power.¹⁴

Our Capital Plan will fund:

- New and upgraded transmission lines, substations, and distribution feeders—wires that move power out of our substations and into growing neighbourhoods and commercial districts.
- Infrastructure to connect the forthcoming wind and solar facilities to our grid.
- Support for anticipated industrial development and economic growth in the Northwest via the North Coast Transmission Line and across British Columbia.
- The ongoing expansion of our network of electric-vehicle fast-charging stations.
- Support for increased electricity demand and the replacement of diesel generators with renewable energy in communities that are currently beyond the reach of our main transmission grid.
- The proactive replacement of aging transformers, power lines, and other critical components.

We're building out our grid in areas experiencing rapid residential development, such as Metro Vancouver and southern Vancouver Island, and where we anticipate rapid electrification of homes, public transit, and industrial facilities.

Our to-do list includes:

- Seven new substations and five substation redevelopments and expansions.
- Expanding the capacity of transmission systems in three regions of the province.
- More than 50 new feeders which together will have enough capacity to meet the power needs of roughly 200,000 new homes.¹⁵

In summary, we're not only renewing our system, but we're also expanding it to meet growing demand.



¹⁴ BC Hydro. 2024a. Power Pathway: Building B.C.'s Energy Future. January 2024. <https://www.bchydro.com/toolbar/about/strategies-plans-regulatory/supply-operations/capital-plan.html>.

¹⁵ Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. 2025a.

Going all in on energy management

We're helping our customers save money, use less electricity, and ease pressure on the grid.

We've long known the value of energy efficiency; it allows us to defer additional infrastructure investments while adding additional flexibility to our grid. Since 2008, our Power Smart programs have cumulatively saved enough electricity to meet the annual energy needs of more than 700,000 homes.¹⁶ And we're just getting started.

- We've increased our energy-management investment by 60%, to more than \$700 million. We expect the outlay will offset the electricity demand of 200,000 homes while collectively saving our customers about \$80 million each year.
- We developed a Peak Saver program to reward customers who voluntarily reduce their electricity use in peak times. This allows us to serve more customers without needing to continually increase the size of our system.
- We doubled the number of Peak Saver participants between October 2024 and May 2025. More than 130,000 customers have so far collectively saved a quantity of energy that would meet the annual charging needs of more than 40,000 electric vehicles.¹⁷
- Meanwhile, our new and similarly popular solar and battery programs are also lessening demand for our power. By 2043, we expect they will have saved enough electricity to meet the needs of around 130,000 homes.¹⁸
- We also offer heat-pump rebates to condominium owners and landlords, to reduce electricity use from baseboard heaters while providing cooling.
- Community solar, which allows multiple households to share the benefits of a single renewable-energy project, could save an additional 440 gigawatt-hours.¹⁹
- We offer a wide assortment of rebates on everything from smart thermostats to large appliances, and we recently went out to the market to identify partners with fresh ideas to help expand our energy efficiency initiatives.²⁰



¹⁶ BC Hydro. 2024b. Power Smarter: Enhancing energy efficiency to support British Columbians. <https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/corporate/electrification/report-energy-efficiency-plan.pdf>.

¹⁷ BC Hydro. 2025c. "BC Hydro debuts advanced virtual power plant project in B.C. homes." https://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2025/virtual-power-plant.html.

¹⁸ BC Hydro. 2025d. BC Hydro net metering service rates: Net metering evidentiary update. British Columbia Utilities Commission. https://docs.bcuc.com/documents/proceedings/2025/doc_80685_b-8-bch-netmetering-evidentiary-update.pdf.

¹⁹ BC Hydro. 2025d.

²⁰ BC Hydro. 2025b.

Streamlining connections and lowering costs

We've made it cheaper and easier to connect new developments to our grid.

- We recently updated our Distribution Extension Policy for the first time in 15 years, reducing the fees that new customers pay to hook up to our grid.²¹
- The new policy makes costs more predictable and fairer in situations where we need to extend our system to serve customers in a new area. The first customers to connect to such a grid extension no longer need to shoulder the lion's share of its development costs.
- We've hired more than 100 new connection designers to keep up with growing customer demand and created new design teams dedicated to EV charging stations and other specialized connections. We've streamlined our work at every step of a customer's project—from the first phone call, through to design, estimating, permitting, and construction.
- A builder will now pay as little as \$64 to connect a new single-family home to our grid, down from more than \$800. Similarly, the connection fees for a 13-unit new townhouse project have dropped by about \$16,000.
- Finally, we've been actively collaborating with local governments to identify friction points in our service connection timelines and coordinate major construction projects to minimize disruption and costs.²²

Delivering clean power with confidence and care

For decades, we have safely, reliably, and affordably delivered electricity to millions of British Columbians. And while the landscape is changing, our commitment to you is not.

With strategic investments, partnerships, and programs, and with thoughtful forecasting, we will continue to meet our customers' needs through this period of growth, and beyond.

We've updated policies and practices across the board—and keep multiple planning scenarios and tools at our fingertips—to ensure we can quickly pivot, if needed, in response to shifts to our economy and energy system.

In short, we'll be there for you. No matter what.

²¹ BC Hydro. 2025e. "Distribution extension policy changes: Connecting customers to our grid." <https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/electrical-connections/distribution-extension-policy.html>.

²² BC Hydro. 2024c. "BC Hydro and local government collaborations." <https://www.bchydro.com/community/local-government-support/local-government-collaborations.html>.

Questions?

This report provides a high-level overview of the actions, investments, and partnerships we're pursuing—and the contingencies and redundancies we have in place—to ensure we can reliably, safely, and indefinitely serve communities.

If you are a local government elected official or staff person and would like to learn more about an aspect of our work outlined in this resource, please contact localgov@bchydro.com. We'd love to hear from you!

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