



Energizing our economy: B.C.'s Clean Power Action Plan

MAY 2025



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



Powering a sustainable future: Our clean energy commitment

British Columbia, renowned for its abundance of natural resources, stands as one of the most resource-rich and sustainable regions globally. For generations, BC Hydro has powered our communities, fueling growth and prosperity across the province. From remote towns to thriving urban centers, the steady supply of clean, reliable electricity has been a foundation for our economic and social stability. Now, our clean energy advantage must be put to work even harder by rapidly expanding to support our industries, enable our priority critical projects, and create stable, sustainable jobs for skilled workers in every corner of B.C. Our growth and security depend on expanding access to affordable, renewable energy to bolster our local economy. We are committed to creating stability and new opportunity for growth for communities across B.C. while protecting our environment. With our abundant resources, vast land, and skilled workforce, we are poised to achieve this vision rapidly and responsibly.



B.C.'s clean energy advantage

98% of our electricity is generated from clean and renewable resources making us a leader in North America

We have an opportunity before us to showcase British Columbia's innovation, resilience and perseverance—qualities that have defined our province throughout its history. BC Hydro, with its long legacy of service, has played a crucial role in driving B.C.'s economic development by ensuring homes and businesses have the power they need to thrive. Today, we're in a unique position to turn global trade uncertainty into momentum for growth and transformation. In support of our commitment to strengthen our economy and diversify our trade, we are introducing additional measures through our made-in-B.C. Clean Power Action Plan. This plan ensures our electricity system—built on the strong foundation of BC Hydro's service—is equipped to enable stability and strong economic growth, increase supply for new homes, businesses, and industries, create jobs for British Columbians, and maintain affordable rates for customers. With a legacy of innovation and a forward-looking vision, we are ready to power the future.

Clean power actions in motion

BC Hydro has a number of actions underway to meet the growing demand from population growth and housing construction, business and industrial development, and transportation. Together, these actions will power economic growth and support our climate ambitions in the coming years. This includes:



Adding the Site C hydroelectric project, which will boost supply by 8% and power 500,000 new homes,



Adding 10 new renewable energy projects in the coming years through the 2024 Call for Power, which will increase supply by 8% and power 500,000 new homes,



Investing in energy efficiency, which is expected to result in 2,000 gigawatt hours per year of electricity—or enough to power 200,000 new homes.

These three actions will power the equivalent of more than one million new homes in the coming years. But we know more is needed to meet the growing demand in the future and that's why we are taking action today.



Introducing our Clean Power Action Plan

To further fuel our economic growth, it's essential to expand access to made-in-B.C. renewable power sources both now and in the coming decades. This ensures that British Columbians have the energy they need when they need it.

That's why the Province and BC Hydro are advancing energy security, resilience, and clean power expansion to drive economic growth and climate action through our Clean Power Action Plan. This includes:

- Expanding clean electricity supply and capacity to meet growing demand for affordable, reliable energy.
- Driving investment in major infrastructure projects to support economic growth and market diversification.
- Reducing emissions by increasing clean power usage.

The Clean Energy Action Plan includes five new transformative initiatives:



Second call for power: Building on the 2024 Call for Power, we are acquiring additional clean energy in partnership with First Nations and independent power producers.



Increasing capacity: Issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest to explore the development of capacity projects and firm, baseload electricity projects to meet peak demand and back-up intermittent energy resources.



Advancing energy efficiency: Issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest to identify innovative clean-tech partners who can deliver cutting-edge, market-ready technologies to help people and businesses conserve energy.



Strategic investments: Over \$12 million from the B.C. Innovative Clean Energy Fund will support homegrown clean technologies to fight climate change and create jobs.



Accelerating connections: Streamlining access to electricity for new and growing homes and businesses, and reducing costs.

Launching a second call for power

Through its 2024 Call for Power, BC Hydro has selected 10 renewable energy projects—nine wind projects and one solar project—that will diversify our generation mix and provide approximately 5,000 gigawatt hours per year of electricity—or enough to power half a million new homes—boosting BC Hydro's supply by 8%. B.C. is well positioned to add more intermittent renewables, like wind and solar, to the electricity grid as its integrated, flexible system of hydroelectric dams act as batteries when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

These projects are geographically diverse, representing almost every region in B.C. There are five in the southern interior, two in the central interior, another two in northern B.C. and one on Vancouver Island.

Their development and construction will generate between \$5 billion to \$6 billion in private capital spending throughout the province and create approximately 2,000 jobs annually on average during construction. Nearly all of the projects have First Nations majority ownership (eight out of 10 have 51% equity ownership)—representing up to \$3 billion of asset ownership by First Nations.

2024 Call for Power projects

10

new wind and solar projects

Up to

\$3B

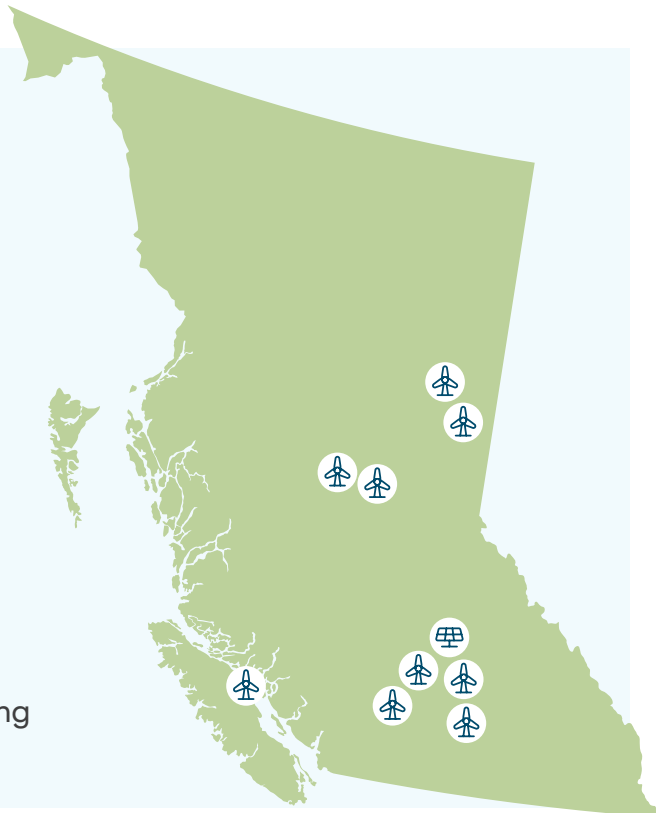
in First Nations asset ownership

5,000

gigawatt hours—
or enough to power
500,000 new homes

\$5–6B

in private capital spending



Building on the success of the 2024 Call for Power, BC Hydro is moving forward with a second call for power for clean and renewable projects, ensuring the continued delivery of affordable electricity to people, business and industry in growing communities across B.C. The 2025 Call for Power is being planned to acquire around 5,000 gigawatt hours per year from large, clean or renewable projects in partnership with First Nations and independent power producers—enough to power 500,000 new homes. The target will be informed by the 2025 Integrated Resource Plan that is in development.

The 2025 Call for Power will follow a similar approach to the 2024 Call for Power with BC Hydro intending to work closely with First Nations and industry partners to ensure that the design of the call and the First Nations equity and non-equity elements remain top priorities. BC Hydro intends to issue the next call for power this summer, with electricity purchase agreements targeted to be awarded in early 2026.

Outside of the 2025 Call for Power, BC Hydro will also be exploring the potential for new, strategic partnership opportunities directly with First Nations for renewable energy projects in B.C.

Accelerating timelines

To support these measures, the Province is taking action to reduce regulatory processes that can delay the construction and operation of urgently needed renewable energy projects. To accelerate the approval and permitting of renewable energy projects and bring them into operation as quickly and efficiently as possible, the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions introduced legislation in May 2025 that will:

- remove the environmental assessment requirement for the nine wind projects selected to advance from BC Hydro's 2024 Call for Power, the North Coast Transmission Line project and related transmission lines; and,
- establish the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) as the primary permitting agency for certain renewable energy projects and transmission lines and enable BCER to establish a new rigorous regulatory framework for renewable energy projects.

These actions will ensure a stable, resilient, made-in-B.C. energy supply for the province, supporting economic growth, new housing, businesses, industries, and job creation, while maintaining affordable rates for customers and preserving B.C.'s world-leading environmental standards.

Capacity-focused Request for Expressions of Interest

In addition to the second call for power, BC Hydro is opening up the opportunity to explore B.C.'s power potential this spring through a capacity-focused Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI). This RFEOI is designed to address the critical need for ensuring British Columbia continues to meet peak power demand, particularly as energy consumption patterns evolve over time.

Through this initiative, BC Hydro will invite responses for the development of capacity and/or baseload energy projects, which could include geothermal energy, pumped storage, hydroelectric resources and others. For example, exploration is underway by a local First Nation on a potential development of a significant hydroelectric storage project on the Homathko River. By exploring diverse and scalable generation, BC Hydro aims to build a resilient power system that meets the province's needs while contributing to sustainability and economic development. The RFEOI will launch in spring 2025 and close in summer 2025. In keeping with the Clean Energy Act, BC Hydro will continue to meet its energy objectives without the use of nuclear power.

Boosting clean technology and innovation

Government and BC Hydro are dedicated to driving the development of new technologies to help people and businesses save electricity, reduce their energy costs, combat climate change and create sustainable jobs. As part of this effort, the Clean Power Action plan outlines key initiatives to foster innovation and accelerate the growth of made-in-B.C. clean energy technology.

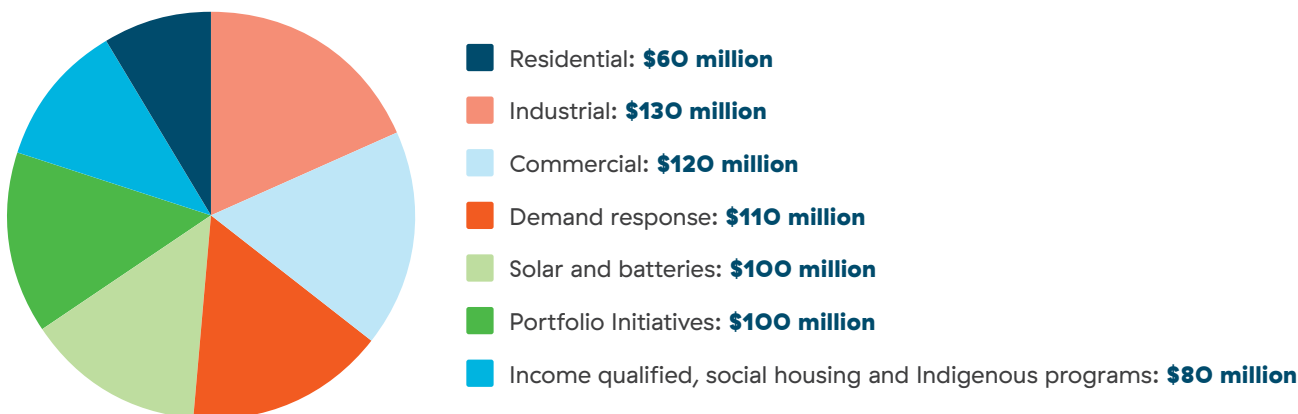
PowerSmart Request for Expressions of Interest:

This spring, BC Hydro will issue a Request for Expressions of Interest to identify partners capable of delivering market-ready technologies that can significantly advance energy efficiency across B.C. By partnering with industry leaders and forward-thinking organizations, BC Hydro aims to enhance opportunities for British Columbians to save both energy and money.

The Power Smart Request for Expressions of Interest complements BC Hydro's \$700 million expanded Energy Efficiency Plan, which increases investments in tools, technology, programs, and rebates for customers over the next three years. These efforts are designed to encourage more energy-efficient choices and help customers reduce their energy consumption.

BC Hydro's Energy Efficiency Plan will save customers \$80 million annually and achieve over 2,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity savings by 2030—enough to power more than 200,000 homes. The plan includes \$60 million in new investments for residential programs and \$80 million for income-qualified, social housing and Indigenous programs.

\$700 MILLION ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN INVESTMENT



Targeted Call for Clean Energy Innovation:

The Province is investing more than \$12.3 million through the Innovative Clean Energy Fund in a targeted, three-year call to support the development of B.C.-based, innovative clean energy technology solutions. These projects will help to meet CleanBC climate targets and increase the availability and affordability of clean energy solutions for people across the province.

The first targeted call, issued in May 2024, allocated \$3.335 million to projects focussed on Clean Energy Optimization and Management and Buildings Innovation. Funding has been awarded to four projects developing new technology:

- EVextrix EV Solutions, Vancouver (\$600,000): A cost-effective and streamlined electric vehicle charging load management system for condominiums and fleets.
- FUTURi Power, Vancouver (\$1.4 million): A modular, all-in-one energy solution integrating residential and industrial solar energy generation, energy storage, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- GreenMatters Technologies, Langley (\$735,000): Heat recovery systems that repurpose waste heat from air conditioning chillers, district energy, geothermal or ambient air to meet 100% of a building's hot water needs.
- SISA Energy, Vancouver (\$600,000): An online platform simplifying energy auditing for property managers overseeing multi-unit residential buildings, commercial properties, and institutional facilities.

Building on this success, the Province has launched the second targeted call. In 2025 it will allocate, up to \$9 million from the ICE Fund for projects aligned with electricity affordability and efficiency, and utility energy management. This call is focussed on technology solutions that:

- reduce the cost and/or increase the feasibility to electrify residential, commercial, and institutional energy use; and,
- optimize electrical utility energy management using innovative and emerging technologies.

Successful candidates will be offered funding by November 30, 2025.



New residential construction in Colwood.

Speeding up connections

Over the last four years, BC Hydro has experienced a significant rise in customer connection requests, driven by the demand for new housing developments and the growth of businesses. This demand is expected to continue increasing, making faster connections to the electricity grid a top priority. To advance this priority work, the B.C. Utilities Commission recently approved important updates to BC Hydro’s Distribution Extension Policy that take effect in July 2025.

BC Hydro’s Distribution Extension Policy, which has not been updated since 2008, sets out how costs are allocated between new and existing non-industrial customers for new or upgraded connections to BC Hydro’s system. Under the current policy, new or upgraded connections that require system upgrades must be completely paid for upfront by the initial customer that makes the request.

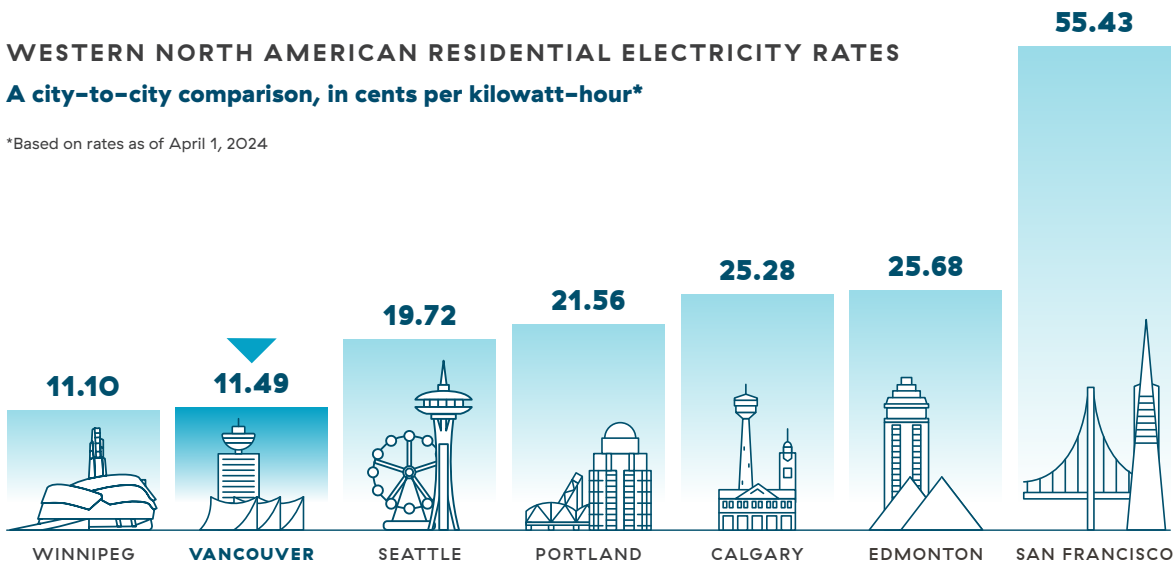
Under the updated policy, BC Hydro will eliminate system improvement costs for all new customers—except in extraordinary circumstances—and increase BC Hydro’s maximum contribution to offsetting extension costs. These improvements will lower the cost of connections for many customers and provide greater cost certainty, speed up connection timelines, and better balance cost sharing when initial customer infrastructure investments enable others to connect at a later date.

Updating the Distribution Extension Policy is one of many important actions underway to make connections easier and more affordable, including significant capital investments, scaling planning resources to keep up with the demand, and actively collaborating with municipalities to speed up timelines and coordinate major construction projects to minimize disruption and costs.

These actions support B.C.’s growing communities and businesses by streamlining upgrades and reducing the cost of new customer connections to the electricity grid.

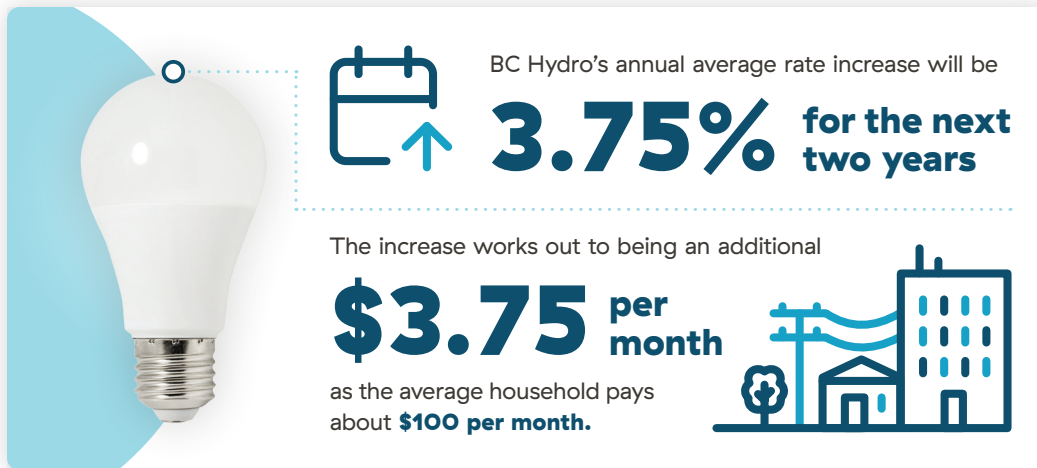
Keeping rates stable, predictable, and affordable

Amid the economic turbulence resulting from the trade policies of the U.S. government, it is imperative that the B.C. government and BC Hydro take urgent action to protect all British Columbians from the uncertainty brought about by rising costs, while simultaneously building a strong, robust and resilient electricity system to ensure long-term energy independence for British Columbia.



To achieve this, on March 17, 2025, the Province delivered an electricity rate stability directive to the B.C. Utilities Commission to set BC Hydro’s rate increases for the next two years. This will provide certainty and reaffirm the government’s commitment to keeping electricity rates below the cumulative rate of inflation.

BC Hydro has the third-lowest electricity rates in North America. The rate stability direction to the BCUC will help maintain that advantage by setting BC Hydro's annual average rate increase at 3.75% for the next two years (effective April 1, 2025, and April 1, 2026). For the average residential household, which currently pays approximately \$100 a month, this equates to an additional \$3.75 per month.



BC Hydro's annual average rate increase will be **3.75%** for the next two years

The increase works out to being an additional **\$3.75 per month** as the average household pays about **\$100 per month**.

The rate changes reflect rising operating costs due to inflation, the needed Site C hydroelectric project coming into service, and investments in the critical work required to build the local and provincial renewable energy infrastructure and supply needed to bolster B.C.'s economy. The directed rate increases will maintain the financial sustainability of BC Hydro, while keeping rate increases below cumulative inflation for seven consecutive years. BC Hydro's cumulative rate increases between 2017-18 and 2026-27 will be 12.4% below cumulative inflation.

Helping households reduce electricity costs

BC Hydro is offering residential customers more billing choices to shape their electricity use and save money. As part of the Clean Power Action Plan, BC Hydro has expanded its rate options to include a new optional flat rate effective April 1, 2025. The current residential rate structure features two-tier pricing, with a lower energy charge (Step 1) for an initial amount of energy consumed, and a higher energy charge (Step 2) for consumption over a certain threshold. The new optional flat rate (in between the current Step 1 and Step 2 rates) can provide customers with a single charge as their electricity use increases by switching to clean electricity alternatives. Customers who choose this option could see average annual savings of around \$60, depending on their individual energy use.

BC Hydro also offers customers optional time-of-day pricing, which can be combined with two-tier energy charges or the flat rate. This option allows residential customers to save money on their bills by shifting their electricity use to periods when demand for electricity is lower and there is more system capacity. Customers in non-EV household can save up to \$40 per year, and customers with an EV can save up to \$125 per year.



Save up to **\$60 per year** with our flat rate



Save up to **\$125 per year** with our time-of-day rate

BC Hydro provides a rate estimator on its website that helps customers choose the rate option that's best for them based on past usage.

Supporting vulnerable families

Providing support to BC Hydro customers that are vulnerable or in crisis also remains a top priority during these uncertain times. A key resource for supporting customers is BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund, which offers grants for those in temporary financial crisis. The government of B.C. has taken direct action to ensure an additional \$1.9 million will be added to the fund, which is expected to help about 4,700 households between now and April 2026.

For customers not eligible for the Customer Crisis Fund, BC Hydro also offers equal payment plans that spread out the cost of winter bills, and flexible payment plans. In addition, BC Hydro's low-income conservation programs have delivered approximately \$6 million in annual electricity cost savings to customers over the past four fiscal years.

Lowering electricity costs for remote communities

BC Hydro serves 14 non-integrated communities across B.C. that are not connected to its main electricity system. These are primarily First Nations communities who have historically paid more for their electricity service because they are served off-grid, in most cases by higher cost diesel generators.

To support reconciliation, and with the advancement of clean electricity solutions in these communities, BC Hydro is eliminating these higher rates for residents living in non-integrated areas that are not connected to the electricity grid. This will help to reduce their bills by up to \$160 per year.

Building out the grid

BC Hydro is investing \$36 billion through its 10-Year Capital Plan to expand and strengthen community and regional electrical infrastructure to ensure clean power can be delivered to new homes, businesses, and industries when and where they need it. These important investments create economic opportunities across the province, including around 10,000 jobs for skilled workers, and economic growth for First Nations and communities.



Transmission tower installation with helicopter assistance.

BC Hydro's capital plan focuses on sustaining existing capital assets and addressing load growth through system upgrades and expansion. BC Hydro's plan is flexible and is revised as needed in response to changing conditions and new information.

Projects under the plan include:

- investments to connect new wind generation projects selected from the 2024 Call for Power in the Prince George, Fraser Lake, Fort St. John, Taylor, Logan Lake, Kelowna, and Campbell River areas;
- new substations in Vancouver, Burnaby, Langley, Surrey, and Langford to support load growth driven by rising population, new housing and increasing electrification;
- upgrades to transmission lines and new infrastructure to serve industrial customers in the North Coast area, including mines, ports, LNG and hydrogen facilities;
- transmission capacity upgrades to support growth in West Kelowna and Westbank, and electrification at the Highland Valley Copper mine;
- investments in power lines and related infrastructure to support residential growth in Bear Mountain and Langford Heights, Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Saanich and Nanaimo; and,
- investments toward dam safety and to maintain continued reliable operation at facilities on the Columbia and Bridge River systems, and to the John Hart, Strathcona and Ladore dams on Vancouver Island.
- investments to expand B.C.'s electric vehicle fast-charging network, including building more hub sites with multiple chargers along highway corridors and urban communities; and,
- investments to support load growth and renewable energy integration within BC Hydro's Non-Integrated Areas—14 communities across B.C. that are not connected to the main (integrated) electricity system.
- BC Hydro will be taking a more active development role in renewable resources in B.C., starting with larger onshore wind projects.

Unlocking economic growth on the North Coast

BC Hydro's capital plan includes the North Coast Transmission Line project, which will twin the existing 500 kilovolt transmission line from Prince George to Terrace to meet growing demand for power in the north coast region from critical mineral and metal mining, port electrification, hydrogen and fuel processing, and shipping projects. To advance the project, the Province introduced legislation in May 2025 that will enable the BC Energy Regulator to be the primary regulatory authority for authorizations associated with the construction of the North Coast Transmission Line project and other high-voltage electricity transmission projects.

Seizing our energy potential, securing our energy future

Now is the time for decisive action. By leveraging our clean energy advantage through our Clean Power Action Plan, we will unlock critical opportunities for economic development and security. Together, these actions will:

- increase the secure supply of clean electricity in B.C. to support homes and business in growing communities;
- foster the growth of industries and the economy;
- create high-paying jobs for skilled workers in every corner of the province;
- support the development of innovative B.C.-based technologies that optimize the use of clean energy to make electrification affordable and accessible for households and businesses and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- encourage innovation and partnership with First Nations and other stakeholders;
- upgrade and expand community infrastructure to provide greater opportunities to save energy and money and to connect new homes and businesses faster; and,
- keep electricity rates affordable, certain, and stable and provide increased support for vulnerable customers or customers in crisis.

By taking these bold steps, we are committed to securing a sustainable and prosperous future for British Columbia. Our plan not only aims to meet the immediate energy needs of our province, but also sets the foundation for long-term economic growth, job creation and environmental stewardship. Together, we will build a resilient, made-in-B.C. energy system that supports our communities and ensures a better future for all British Columbians.

