



## Just and Reasonable

Promoting good governance in BC's energy sector

Welcome to the Just and Reasonable newsletter.

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"The Editor"

### Feature article



## BC Hydro's electricity shortage just got more serious

BC Hydro now forecasts it does not have the capacity to meet peak demand by 2030, and that's not including electricity required for the North Coast Transmission Line. Are we heading for winter evening blackouts?

[Read the article](#)

### In other news

BC Hydro's residential net metering program will close July 1, 2026, and be **replaced** with a scheme that pays participants \$0.10 per kilowatt hour for the energy they provide to BC Hydro. The previous program was causing increasing subsidies from non-participants (current participants will have a ten-year transition period). A new Community Generation Service Rate was approved for multiple customers using shared generation facilities.

The City of Richmond **failed** in its bid to challenge the BCUC's inquiry into municipal utilities. The BC Court of Appeal agreed with the BCUC that only municipalities themselves are unregulated; energy companies in BC are regulated by the BCUC, even if they're owned by municipalities.

The BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) **approved** a request from BC Hydro to spend \$105 million upgrading its distribution management software. SAP's Enterprise Asset Management and AutoCAD's Automated Utility Design will replace existing "fragmented and obsolete" software.

The BCUC also **approved** new rates for customers of Creative Energy's South Downtown district cooling system. The utility was directed to start a five-year transition away from levelized rates, whereby customers in later years subsidize rates in the start-up years, to a pay-as-you-go approach. The BCUC cited "past inaccurate forecasting" and risk of future rate rises "even higher than those Creative Energy is already forecasting". Capacity charges will nearly double over the transition period.

Other thermal energy systems' rates also increased. Effective April 1, variable charges for customers of Corix's Dockside Green system will **increase** 17.5 percent; variable heating and cooling charges for Oakridge Energy's customers will **rise** 17.5 and 21.5 percent respectively.

BC's **snow survey results** are in for April, when 97 percent of the snowpack has typically accumulated. The results for the Peace and Upper Columbia regions are above normal, the reverse of the situation at this time last year, which is good news for BC Hydro's hydro-electric generation next year. Unfortunately the same isn't true for Vancouver Island, where the snowpack is at only 44 percent of normal.

The US generated a record 17 percent of its energy from wind and solar in 2025, according to a **report** from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), up from less than one percent in 2005. Natural gas production also **reached** a new record.

The EIA also **published** its 2026 Annual Energy Outlook. In every one of the 11 cases modelled, the two most prevalent fuels consumed in the US in 2030, 2040 and 2050 will be natural gas and petroleum.

An expert panel **attributed** last year's Iberian blackout to "a combination of many interacting factors". Spain's high penetration of renewable generation was not directly blamed for Europe's worst such event in twenty years, but the report contains recommendations for improving grid reliability.

## Recent articles



### Is CleanBC doomed?

After a bureaucratic reshuffling, reports of CleanBC's death might not be exaggerated.

[Read the article](#)



## The BC government plans to ration electricity – there might be a better alternative

Rationing electricity for new data centres and artificial intelligence businesses is bad for our economy. The government should be bolder, and expand the opportunities for private sector generation.

[Read the article](#)

## Diversion

A spicy variant on the classic Manhattan:

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 shots Bourbon
- 1 shot sweet Vermouth
- 1/2 shot Chili Liqueur
- Dash of Angostura bitters

### Instructions:

1. Stir ingredients with ice
2. Strain into a chilled glass
3. Garnish with cocktail cherry

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