



# Hey, Alberta!!

Climate change. Melting glaciers, Prairie droughts, and the pine bark beetle. Smog. Acid rain. Threats of power blackouts and a strained transmission grid. Billions of dollars spent on new high-voltage transmission lines, regardless of questions and opposition by landowners, citizen groups, and taxpayers.

## But do we have any options?

### ... You're joking, right?

Clean, renewable and transitional energy resources in Alberta are more than capable of meeting future demand in the province, even if electricity consumption doubles over the next 20 years. Alberta can harness this energy with proven technologies already in use in Alberta and elsewhere.

Pembina Institute, "Greening the Grid", 2009

We produce 74% of our electricity burning coal. With current off-the-shelf technology and practices already cost-effective and reliable, we could replace coal with renewables in 20 years, meeting all projected power demands, without nuclear power. <http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/greeningthegrid-report.pdf>

For detailed information on the potential for "Green jobs" in Alberta, check out the June '09 report by the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and the Alberta Federation of Labour, at [http://www.sierraclub.ca/prairie/greenreport/Greenjobs\\_v4.0.pdf](http://www.sierraclub.ca/prairie/greenreport/Greenjobs_v4.0.pdf)

WADE Canada, an industry association and chapter of the World Alliance for Decentralized Energy, says that we can make robust and efficient upgrades to our transmission grid far more cheaply than has been proposed. Consumption at or close to the point of generation reduces load on the grid. [www.wadecanada.ca](http://www.wadecanada.ca)

Germany has become the world's leader, producing 15% of their nation's power with renewables, and in 6 years they created 250,000 jobs. CBC's "The Fifth Estate" did a video piece on Germany's renewable revolution in [http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/2008-2009/the\\_gospel\\_of\\_green/](http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/2008-2009/the_gospel_of_green/) and Calgary author Chris Turner wrote them up in The Walrus: <http://www.walrusmagazine.com/articles/2009.01-environment-solar-panel-energy-chris-turner/3/>

With more wind and more hours of sunshine than Germany, could we bring their most effective tool to Alberta? To cast a vote for the feed-in-tariff, go to <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/alberta-implement-a-green-energy-feed-in-tariff/signatures.html>

Does this man never rest? Chris Turner brings it home, writing about microgeneration in the July / August issue of Alberta Views magazine: "Kill (Your) Bill", at [http://www.albertaviews.ab.ca/TurnerJul\\_Aug09.html](http://www.albertaviews.ab.ca/TurnerJul_Aug09.html)

### WHO ARE THE LEADERS?

The following motion was moved June 1st by Lethbridge Mayor Bob Tarleck and Alderman Margaret Simmons, and carried: "BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor's Office write a letter to the Provincial Government encouraging them to initiate A Renewable Power Expert Panel and a subsequent Renewable Power Consultation with Albertans." Since then, Leduc County Council, the Town of Peace River, and the City of Grande Prairie have sent letters to the Province and citizens are now speaking up across Alberta, asking their Cities and Towns to join in the growing chorus for a serious assessment of our renewable power potential. How about YOU?

### Conservation and Energy Efficiency

Whatever our power source, we need to manage our energy appetite. Why have lights lit up all day on porches and restaurant patios under bright sunlight? Why walk into an electronics store, to find 80 TV screens and computer monitors turned on? Why should microwaves and DVD players, over the course of a year, use more power in standby mode than during the time they're actually used? Here's a look at the good, bad and ugly of how we use energy, from TIME Magazine. <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1869224-1,00.html>

