

ClimateChange

Ontario's electricity system could be the envy of the world on climate change action

By Don MacKinnon
President
Power Workers' Union

The current Copenhagen climate change talks are generating lots of heat but little light. Media coverage is awash with the dire environmental consequences of failing to adopt the latest



paragon offered by "green" energy advocates. Politicians who question the feasibility of the activists are harshly criticized. The time has come to return some balance to the discussion on how best to protect our environment and ensure our economy is strong.

Clearly, Canada needs to do its part to reduce global

greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Our actions should be commensurate with our contribution to global emissions. Canada represents about two per cent of the global energy-related GHG emissions. On a per capita basis, Canadians compare poorly because of our vast geography; relatively small, widely distributed population; colder climate; and eco-

name structure. Exports of coal, oil and natural gas account for more than 80 per cent of Canada's GHG emissions. For example, Canada is the largest source of U.S. natural gas and is among their top sources of oil.

In Ontario, nuclear and hydroelectric generation supply over 70 per cent of the province's electricity and cre-

ates one of the lowest-cost and lowest-carbon systems in the world. Historically, this low-cost energy has helped make Ontario the centre of Canada's industrial heartland. However, unlike Quebec, Ontario has little remaining hydroelectric potential. That is one of the reasons Ontario partnered with the federal government to develop CANDU nuclear technology.

Ontario is investing heavily in intermittent, expensive wind and solar generation, which is to be continuously backed up by new CO₂-emitting natural gas plants. Concerns about the higher cost and price volatility of natural gas generation have been consistently downplayed, but already Ontarians are beginning to see their electricity bills increase.

Recent reports from Spain, Denmark and Germany show that wind generation, does not deliver the anticipated electricity or environmental benefits, creates higher costs, with consumers in these countries paying up to three times more for electricity than Ontarians; necessitates the subsidization

Nuclear and Biomass: Two Proven "Made in Ontario" Energy Solutions that Work

Ontario can lead the world in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate the economy by using two of its assets:

- Building "Made in Ontario" proven and improved, emission-free CANDU reactors now.
- Using "Grown in Ontario" carbon neutral biomass wastes in our coal and natural gas plants.

The Benefits:

- Secure, reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity for a growing economy and population.
- Create tens of thousands of high-skilled, high-paying manufacturing jobs right here in Ontario.
- Stimulate major investments in infrastructure, agricultural, forestry and mining sectors, as well as support services to these sectors.
- Generate billions of dollars in government revenue.
- Reduce the impact of climate change on our environment.
- Diversify our energy supply to ensure long-term energy security.

The Time is Now

Ontario is the centre of Canada's annual \$6.6-billion nuclear industry, and benefits from hosting most of more than 130 CANDU nuclear supply chain companies, tens of thousands of well-paid, high-skill workers, and R&D investments at Ontario universities and colleges.

of industrial electricity prices; and generates "green" jobs that are only sustained by large subsidies.

Ontario continues to delay the decision to build new emission-free nuclear reactors while the province's coal plants are being closed and replaced with natural gas-fired plants. The delay in building the new Darlington reactors means more CO₂ emissions will come from fossil fuel generation, much of which will be imported from U.S. coal plants.

Ontario is the centre of Canada's annual \$6.6-billion nuclear industry, and benefits from hosting most of more than 130 CANDU nuclear supply chain companies, tens of thousands of high-paid, high-skill workers, and R&D investments at Ontario universities and colleges. Ontario also receives reliable, low-cost, greenhouse gas emission-free, nuclear base-load electricity to power our economy and has no opportunity to export this clean energy to our energy-hungry neighbours.

In addition, accelerating investments in supply infrastructure in Ontario's agricultural and forestry sectors should enable the implementation of large-scale, carbon-neutral, biomass waste-fuelled generation at Ontario's existing coal generating stations. This would further reduce GHG emissions, provide reliable renewable generation, create jobs and increase Ontario's energy security.

Ontario's first priority should be to focus on what we are good at and on what works. This means acting now to build proven and improved "Made in Ontario" CANDU reactors, invest in a "Grown in Ontario" biomass supply chain and become a partner in Canada's world-class carbon capture and storage (CCS) program. It's the best way for Ontario to ensure a clean, reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible and secure electricity supply. It is a plan that's better for both the economy and the environment.



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