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It's Time For Alberta To Grow Its Own  
Green Energy Manufacturing Industry

Much has been written about the many solar and wind projects proposed by the Alberta NDP government at tremendous cost to the taxpayer. Common sense, practicality, and truthfulness of horrendously costly mathematics to Albertan taxpayers are seemingly irrelevant factors.

Albertans must be told the truth about much higher future electrical and home heating costs when the NDP's plan is fully enacted. Ontario's similar green energy efforts caused their hydro electric costs to more than triple – so will Alberta's electric power costs to homeowners. The NDP government must clearly lay out Alberta's future costs for home heating and home electricity.

Heavily subsidizing with Alberta taxpayers carbon tax money importing massive amounts of solar and wind farm equipment from carbon polluting Asian countries that manufacture these devices, is short-sighted and illogical. Where is the Alberta manufacturing advantage? Then to purchase this power at much higher than present electricity costs regardless of provincial energy needs is ridiculous and dangerously mirrors the disastrous approach of the Ontario government.

It is said that it takes 5 tons of metallurgic coal to build one windmill. The solar panels made in China are also made by burning massive amounts of coal. It's China and other Asian countries doing the polluting, making toasters, televisions, solar panels, and now our low energy light bulbs. The government of Canada should have a carbon tax on China's products imported into Canada. The carbon footprint of the manufacture of windmills and solar panels is extensive. They should be carbon taxed. They also both have to be replaced after 20 years, batteries even in ten years, and the cycle of reliance on foreign manufactured products with an extremely high carbon footprint continues unabated.

Going green is a laudable goal. I've replaced all light bulbs with low energy bulbs, dropping our home's power usage substantially. But the low energy bulbs are made in Asia. Why are we locked in the thought pattern that Alberta businesses cannot manufacture light bulbs?

Having had my own manufacturing company in electrical/electronics low voltage and solid state LED lighting and distribution systems, I am reasonably well versed in electronic

manufacturers and power distribution costs and benefits. With only a fraction of the funding to subsidize purchases of material from Asia, I'm sure that Alberta's electronics manufacturers would step up to manufacture low energy LED lights. We must go green with our eyes wide open as to costs and benefit to the climate, to the taxpayers, and to the economy.

Why build solar and windmill farms at any cost?

The person or company that wishes to do so should on their own ticket, not on the taxpayer's teat. Presently the technology is not there to produce wind or solar farms as viable businesses selling or offsetting power cost without massive subsidies which, frankly, Alberta can little afford today, when Alberta has hundreds of years supply of relatively clean natural gas and other fossil fuel energy that is landlocked by pipeline protestors and true green hydro electric energy potential that could be developed if electrical energy needs expand as well as nuclear power possibilities.

Going green is laudable but, wantonly spending hundreds of millions importing all equipment to do so from carbon polluting countries, at a time that our manufacturing industry needs stimulating and our resource industry is suffering, is an unconscionable act by government of any sort. Blind idealism must be set aside at times of need, or the tenure of the insensitive elected will be short as "one-term wonders."

Are Alberta taxpayers ready for the upcoming sticker shock of Alberta's NDP green policy on electricity? Massive taxpayer subsidy costs purchasing offshore the solar arrays and windmills with substantial carbon footprints is the initial cost. What are the ongoing costs going to be to operate? Are there commitments by the Alberta government to purchase excess power, at higher than market prices, regardless of needs, as they were in Ontario.

Alberta should look at what happened in Ontario. Ontario's Liberal government spent billions of dollars to subsidize the building of noisy wind farms and acres of solar farms that, both, have a life expectancy of only 20 years, and then agreed to purchase the power output regardless of need.

Ontario went from the lowest cost of electricity for consumers across Canada to the highest:

Cost of Ontario hydro generated power today– 4 cents kwh

Cost of Ontario nuclear generated power today – 5 cents kwh

Then Ontario added greened power:

Cost of Ontario wind generated power today – 13 cents kwh

Cost of Ontario solar generated power today – 80 cents kwh

Cost to consumer today in Ontario in evening – 18 cents kwh

Cost to consumer today in Alberta in evening – 5 cents kwh

Because of the high cost of wind and solar today, and the fact that Ontario hydro takes all wind and solar output regardless of whether they need it, the cost of electricity to Ontario homeowners is 18 cents kwh. Cost today to Alberta homeowners is 5 cents kwh. Wait until Alberta's NDP green energy plan catches up to Ontario.

**Ontario's electricity cost is 3 times higher than Alberta**, and Ontario generates mostly by clean free water generators that last 100 years before overhauling, and low cost and clean nuclear power. Ontario has the capacity to generate much more truly clean hydroelectric power but do not.

The reason why is simple. There are no green bucks for former politicians if Ontario hydro builds more hydro water electrical projects. But there are green bucks for all, except taxpayers, in the massively subsidized solar and wind farm businesses.

The outrageously high cost today in Ontario is the result of blind greening efforts, politically driven, being mirrored now in Alberta by zealots purposefully fudging the cost and benefit numbers!

A recent shamefully misleading article declared that the \$5,000,000 solar taxpayer granted project announced recently would create 13,000 mwh per year with enough energy to power 18,000 homes.

The average homeowner in Alberta consumes approximately 1000 kwh per month. 13,000 mwh of electrical power per year is enough for 18,000 houses to power just one light bulb when the sun is shining.

So much for the Alberta's NDP's math of "proven programs". Just like the Ontario Liberal math on their "proven programs".

13,000 mwh per year might power not 18000 homes but 1000 homes at a cost of \$5,000 per home except the solar grids don't produce when the sun doesn't shine, which is not much in peak evening usage hours and not at all in darkness. Those 18,000 homes will have power for 1 light bulb only during the bright sun shining days, unless they also are additionally provided with immense storage batteries at several times the cost of the project that have a life expectancy of 10 years to 15 years. Now there's planning! Most people much prefer to be able to have lights on after dark rather than on bright sun shining days.

Spending \$5,000,000 of taxpayers' money for 13,000 mwh of electrical energy that costs \$650,000 now per year, even if all was efficiently utilized, will never be cost effective to recover costs, and, after 20 years the entire arrays will need to be replaced. The only real profiteers will be the Asians selling this carbon intense equipment and, as in Ontario, the

former political promoters who have shares in the new green heavily taxpayer subsidized industry.

As stated above, the cost to Ontario electrical users for “green” power implementation is enormous. They are producing too much at the wrong time of need. The risk of repeating this “proven plan” in Alberta is frightening.

Do Albertans really want to pay more than 3 times the present rate for electricity, plus billions more in tax money, subsidies, grants, from carbon taxation, which is really people taxation, to build?

If the NDP in Alberta repeats Ontario’s boondoggle that literally is scaring businesses out of Ontario and condemning Ontario homeowners to brutal monthly electricity bills, it will force far too many here in Alberta as it did in Ontario to choose between food or electricity. My electricity bill for a small house in Ontario in April, a relatively warm month, was \$600.00!

Additionally and not insignificantly, where are the 20 year end of life disposal of waste provisions for both massive solar farms and 300 foot tall wind tower project equipment, and, who cares about the tens of thousands of migratory birds chewed up by the blades each year?

If Alberta is going to tax and invest billions in greening our province, it should invest in truly diversifying our economy and providing real innovative manufacturing jobs, developing and manufacturing solid state light emitting diode (LED) products that, if millions were installed throughout Alberta, power consumption and generation could be reduced by the 30% goal without massive wind and solar farms, and also would be an export product to other provinces and countries. LED lights, replacement for 60 watt bulbs, can be designed to draw only 2 watts. Costs can drop if millions of bulbs are supplied firstly to Albertans at token prices or free to achieve the green goal of a 30% lessening of Alberta’s electrical energy consumption. Now that’s an investment for Alberta’s future worth doing. Isn’t it time for Alberta to stop Asian heavy carbon footprint manufactured energy products and to grow its very own green energy equipment manufacturing industry?

Bring prosperity and electronic manufacturing job opportunity to Alberta to help balance its resource-based, agricultural-based industries and wean itself from the teat of Asian carbon polluting manufacturers.

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