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Letters to the Editor

In 2011 think renewable green energy

The new coat of paint may still be wet on 2011 but that's no reason not to kick the year off with a fresh look at the economic, environmental and social benefits of developing B.C.'s renewable green energy resources.

For starters, developing our renewable energy resources would eliminate the need for B.C. to import electricity from coal-fired generators in Alberta and the U.S.A. and create jobs for the people of B.C. It would also reduce the need for hundreds of polluting diesel generators in remote regions of B.C.

Developing B.C.'s renewable green energy resources would also create economic activity for the people of B.C., especially in rural communities and for B.C.'s First Nations. It would provide much-needed new revenue for B.C. municipalities located near green energy projects.

Exporting clean renewable electricity from B.C. to coal-burning regions of Alberta and the U.S.A. would help reduce GHG emissions in North America and generate revenue for the people of B.C.

This revenue would help to pay for healthcare, education and public infrastructure and could also allow B.C. to reduce its debt load and eventually even eliminate the need for provincial sales tax revenue, as is the case in Alberta.

In short, developing our renewable green energy resources would allow B.C. to once again be a world leader in clean energy with relatively little environmental impact. And by encouraging renewable energy producers to develop our province's renewable green energy resources, BC Hydro ratepayers and B.C. taxpayers would be shielded from the financial risks, which are assumed by the producers.

The reasons to support the development of B.C.'s renewable green energy resources speak for themselves: It's environmentally and economically unacceptable that an energy rich province like B.C. has to import electricity. We need to start tapping into the wealth of run-of-river, wind, biomass and other renewable green energy resources we have right here in this province.

I invite all those interested in this important subject to visit our BCCGE website at www.greenenergybc.ca and join the green energy discussion on our [BCCGE Livewire Blog](#).

David Field, Co-spokesperson

B.C. Citizens for Green Energy