

A rising power bill isn't the worst thing that could happen to the province

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Re: Get ready to pay more for power. A lot more, editorial, Oct. 16

You might expect the Clean Energy Association of B.C. to be heartened by the headline on this editorial and, to a point, we are.

The editorial criticizes Ontario's multi-billion-dollar feed-in-tariff (FIT) program as a subsidy and drain on the economy.

What is only partially explained is that B.C. hasn't gone down the same path as Ontario for the very reasons noted.

The FIT program contemplated for B.C. will be a modest \$25-million-per-year program to give incentives to clean-energy technologies, including solar, biogas, geothermal, wave and tidal (but excluding hydro and wind).

We absolutely need price signals to help get all of us (industrial, commercial and residential ratepayers) to reduce our profligate energy consumption.

We have, and will continue to have, among the lowest rates in the world and we are among the highest users. Today we import coal-fired electricity and our transportation systems are very fossil-fuel-dependent.

This isn't a sustainable proposition. We need the clean-energy sector to produce more clean energy.

Clean Energy BC doesn't want subsidies.

Rather, its members prefer having the true costs of energy on the table for all to see.

The economy that will emerge from this transition will take us into a healthier future, I hope sooner rather than later.

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