

Why not export green energy to pay off provincial debt?

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Dear Editor,

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is currently travelling around the province seeking input on the upcoming 2011/12 provincial budget; and last week I appeared before the committee on behalf of B.C. Citizens for Green Energy (BCCGE).

In my presentation, I urged the committee to consider the enormous revenue generating and debt reduction potential of B.C.'s unparalleled, and largely untapped, renewable green energy resources.

Servicing the provincial debt costs B.C. taxpayers more than \$2.2 billion per year; money that could otherwise be spent on vital services like health care and education and the dozens of other services and benefits that people expect from government.

It is our group's sincere belief that public revenue generated by green energy exports could play a major role in wiping out the province's debt and perhaps eventually even replace the revenue currently being raised through the province's share of the Harmonized Sales Tax.

As we outlined in our BCCGE "Triple Legacy" report--released last March and available as a PDF on our BCCGE website at www.greenenergybc.ca -- B.C.'s potential for generating renewable green electricity from a variety of wind, run-of-river, geothermal, biomass, wave and tidal sources could easily be equal to the current clean generating capacity available from BC Hydro's heritage hydroelectric dams, and potentially two to three times this amount if not more.

Given the immense but largely untapped renewable green energy resources we possess in this province, and the amazing economic and environmental legacy that these vast green energy resources could provide to future generations, why would we not pursue the export and other opportunities available to us, and why would the people of B.C. not support doing so? We have everything to gain.

David Field, Co-spokesperson - B.C. Citizens for Green Energy