

Renewables - Wind & Solar Energy

What is Renewable Energy?

Renewable energy comes from natural, sustainable sources. Since they naturally replenish, they're considered limitless, or 'renewable'.



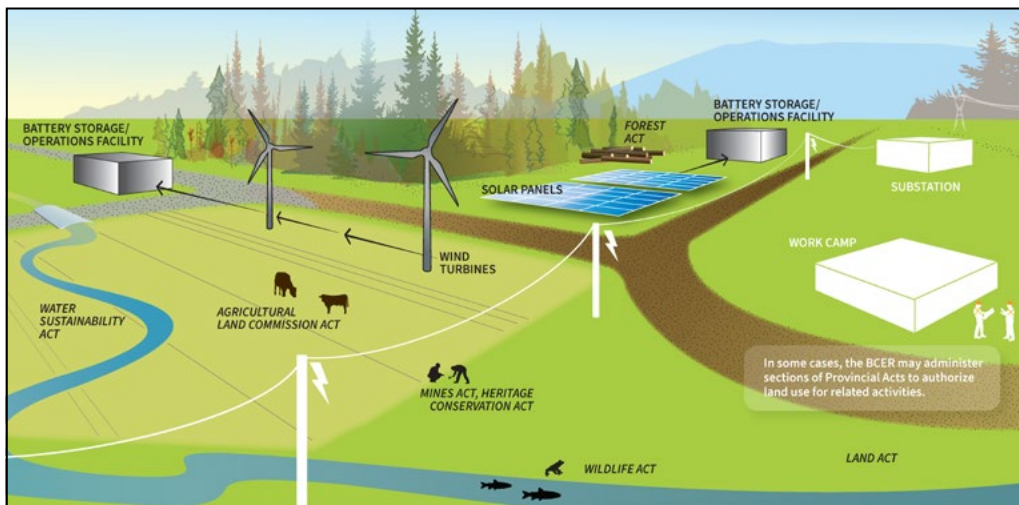
There are various forms of renewable energy resources, including biomass, biogas, geothermal heat, hydro, solar, wind or ocean energy.

Why is Renewable Energy Important?

Renewable energy sources generally have a lower impact on the environment when compared to other finite energy sources. They can also be captured and used without depleting the source, such as the sun or wind, and used to generate essentials like heat and electricity.

Who Oversees Renewable Energy Projects?

The [Renewable Energy Projects \(Streamlined Permitting\) Act](#) (REPA) came into effect on July 1, 2025, expanding our authority as the single-window regulator to include wind and solar projects, with the potential to regulate additional types of renewables in future. It allows for an efficient permitting and development pathway for renewables while still maintaining robust regulatory standards. When reviewing applications, we consider important values such as heritage features and the protection of wildlife, water and agricultural land use.



Should a project be approved, we will work to ensure safe operations that adhere to strict environmental standards.

Our [Renewables](#) web page houses the graphic on the left, comparing our intended scope of authority over wind and solar projects to infrastructure managed by [BC Hydro](#) and the [BC Utilities Commission](#) (shown in white).

Our initial focus will be on wind and solar power projects in BC Hydro's [2024 Call For Power](#).

A list of proponents, projects and community locations are available on the BC Hydro website [here](#).



Illustration credit: [BC Hydro](#)

How Will the BCER Regulate Renewable Energy Activities?

We have new delegated authorities for natural resource authorizations related to land, water, wildlife, forests, heritage conservation and - related to energy projects - aggregate mining. This gives BCER staff the ability to manage and lead assessments for renewables quickly and efficiently, coordinating with other agencies and interested parties to ensure decisions are evidence-based and informed by First Nations and rights holders.



To read more about our delegated authorities for natural resources and how we carry out work related to streamlined projects, see our [Supplemental Delegations on bc-er.ca](#) under [How We Regulate](#).

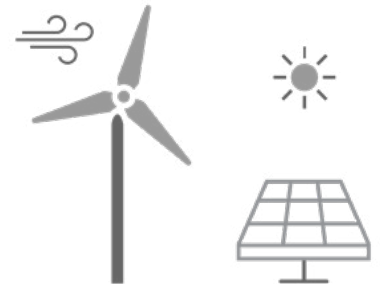


Updates to regulations related to energy resource development may be found on our [Regulatory Updates web page](#).

We are currently engaging on development of BCER-specific regulations for wind and solar projects. Interim [guidance materials](#) are available on our website to support proponents of renewable energy projects by helping provide greater clarity and early direction on what is required of them. These materials include such information as how to apply, engagement expectations, the application review process and environmental and cultural considerations.

Our Expertise

The BCER is an experienced organization, with more than 300 staff in seven offices across the province, that has demonstrated success getting projects moving quickly while providing robust regulatory oversight for the life cycle of projects. [Environmental protection](#) and [collaboration with First Nations](#) remain fundamental to every decision the BCER makes.



For more specific information and timelines on regulating Renewables, please visit [Integrating Wind & Solar into the BCER's Regulatory Framework | BC Energy Regulator \(BCER\)](#).



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