



Clean Technology & The Renewable, Sustainable Energy Sector In Canada

DESCRIPTION

Canada needs to move beyond the limited focus on traditional industries and make Canada a global leader in all aspects of the new emerging global green economy. As an example, the government needs to make clean technology, including renewable energy production and the manufacture of renewable energy producing products (like solar panels, wind turbines, etc.), a high priority in an effort to grow a diversified 21st century economy.

This strategy should be broad and to be successful would have to address the following challenges:

- build a stronger industrial structure, i.e. larger SMEs and more large firms entirely dedicated to the environment and green technology;
- develop and accelerate the marketing of homegrown technologies;
- capitalize on local markets to stimulate growth in the environmental and green technology industry;
- increase exports and acquire a strong position in buoyant niches in international markets; and
- achieve the convergence of the efforts of all players in the sector.

BACKGROUND

The scope of the clean technology and renewable energy opportunities are poorly understood. While investments in renewable energy are well underway in many jurisdictions, the scope of change required will be well beyond electricity generation. Innovation in terms of new technologies and new practices will be required in a range of other areas.

Much of the recent energy dialogue has focused on the price of oil and the impact this is having on federal and provincial budgets. This misses the fact that a more fundamental shift is occurring in the global economy. For the first time in more than a century, multiple signs suggest that the dominance of fossil fuels is beginning to decline.

It should be recognized that some Canadian and international governments have already begun placing a direct focus on the green economy. "Technology and Green Economy" forms a part of the B.C. Jobs Plan. In addition, the British Columbia Provincial Government has also developed "B.C.'s Green Economy – Growing Green Jobs". Nova Scotia has created a rebate programs for a variety of solar and energy efficient



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