

Electricity Markets

Andrew Leach

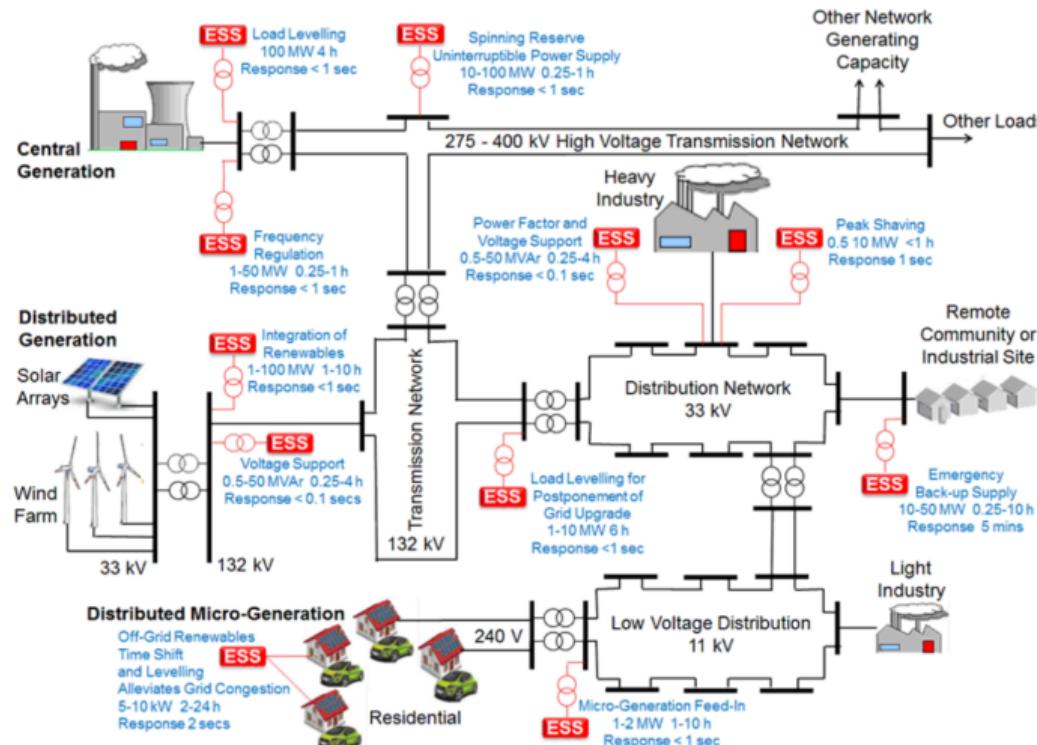
University of Alberta

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Why aspiring lawyers should care about electricity and what you need to know

- Regulatory complexity:
 - Complex regulation, even in *deregulated* jurisdictions
 - Each part of the market has its own set of regulatory constructs (distribution, transmission, generation, retail)
- New technology means evolving market structures:
 - Electricity is, arguably, changing faster than any other energy market
 - Alberta's electricity market in the midst of a period of market- and regulatory-driven transition
- Economics 101 in action
 - Supply and demand curves determine prices every hour in Alberta's power market
- The next constitutional battleground?
 - Fed/prov issues, environmental policy, section 125 jurisprudence, the oddity that is section 92(10) including the declaratory power, and POGG all come into play!

Grid Energy Storage Systems (ESS) and Applications



Source: http://www.mpoweruk.com/grid_storage.htm

Market Participants

- Generation
- Transmission
- Distribution
- Ancillary Services
- Load
- Storage
- Microgeneration

Market Regulation in Alberta

- Generation is a competitive market
- Transmission is regulated on a cost-of-service basis
- Distribution (local wires) is regulated on a cost-of-service basis, but retail (billing) is competitive.
- Ancillary Services is competitive
- Load (i.e. customers) may contract for electricity supply
- Storage (Still a lot TBD)

Energy units - electricity

- Watts: measure of capacity (instantaneous production, installed capacity, or instantaneous demand)
 - Alberta system demand: 7,200-10,700 MW (megawatts or million watts)
 - Capital Power's Genessee 3 power plant has a nameplate capacity of 450 MW
- Watt hours: measure of energy (production or demand during a given period of time; i.e. flow through)
 - Production over a day, week, month, year
 - A 7.5W LED bulb on all day (24hr) uses 180Wh of electricity (.18kWh)
- Volts: measure of the electrical potential or the ability to convert charge to power (Watts=amps x volts)
 - Transmission lines: 150-765 kV
 - Distribution lines: 13,800 Volts
 - Household wiring: 120-240 Volts

Energy Prices

- Electricity prices: expressed in power delivered over time
 - Cents/kilowatt-hour (c/kWh)
 - Dollars per megawatt-hour (\$/MWh)
 - Levelized costs of electricity (supply costs) in \$/MWh
- Capacity costs are expressed in a cost per megawatt or cost of capacity
 - Genessee 3 cost approximately \$1.5 million/MW or \$1.50 per watt to build
 - Solar panel prices have declined to now lie under \$1/W of capacity
 - Balance of system costs imply that a solar system costs \$2-3/W of installed capacity
- Other prices matter for electricity markets as well
 - Renewable energy credits (usually prices in \$/MWh)
 - Emissions credits or permits (\$/tonne)
 - Capacity payments (\$/MW)
 - GHG or other emissions permits or credits (\$/tonne)

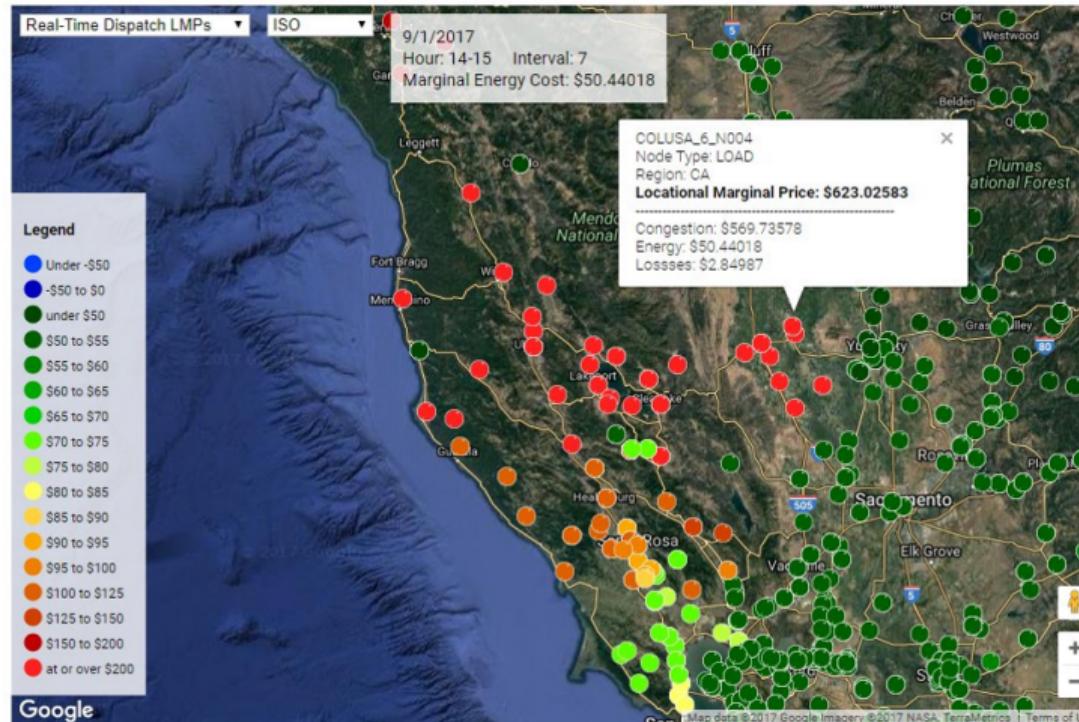
Regulatory characteristics

- Rate-regulated or state-owned utilities
 - EPCOR (legacy) or BC Hydro
 - PG & E in California
- Competitive markets
 - Energy only markets: ERCOT and Alberta
 - Energy and capacity markets: MISO, PJM
 - Real-time vs day-ahead prices: PJM and others have day-ahead market and then a real-time differences market
 - Many other design characteristic differences between restructured or competitive markets

Alberta Wholesale Energy Market Design

- Energy-only market
- Real time, spot pricing, no day-ahead market
- Single node
- Capacity market was contemplated, but not pursued
- Transmission
 - Regulated monopoly
 - Congestion free (no nodal pricing)
 - No transmission rights
 - Paid for (mostly) by load (consumers)
- Ancillary services: separate, competitive market for operating reserves, transmission-must-run, load-shed and black start

Nodal Pricing Example

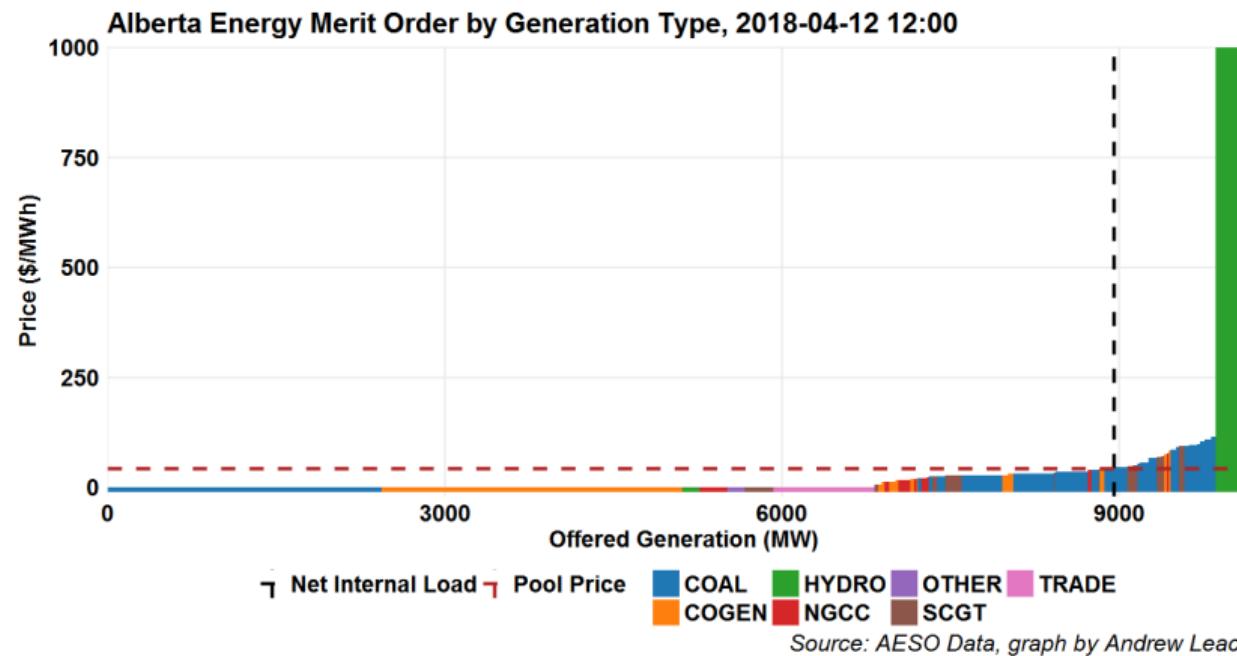


Source: CAISO

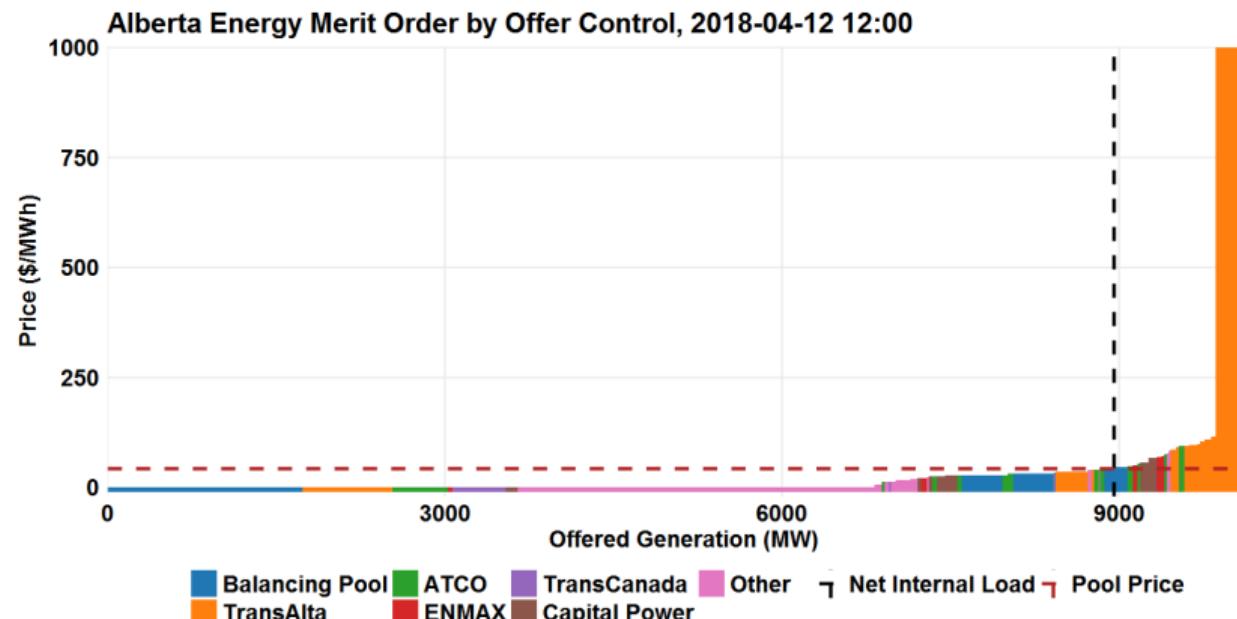
The Alberta Wholesale Market

- Suppliers place offers of power at particular price[-5em]
- Demand-side bids placed for power with a maximum price
- Supply offers are sorted from low to high
- Demand offers are sorted from high to low
- Marginal price is set at the price which equates supply and demand - economics 101 at work!
- Import and renewable supply is bid-in at \$0, but everyone receives the market price
- Export demand is bid-in at \$999, so they do not set the price directly but pay the marginal price
- Consumer default bid allows AESO to go up merit order to meet observed demand

The Merit Order

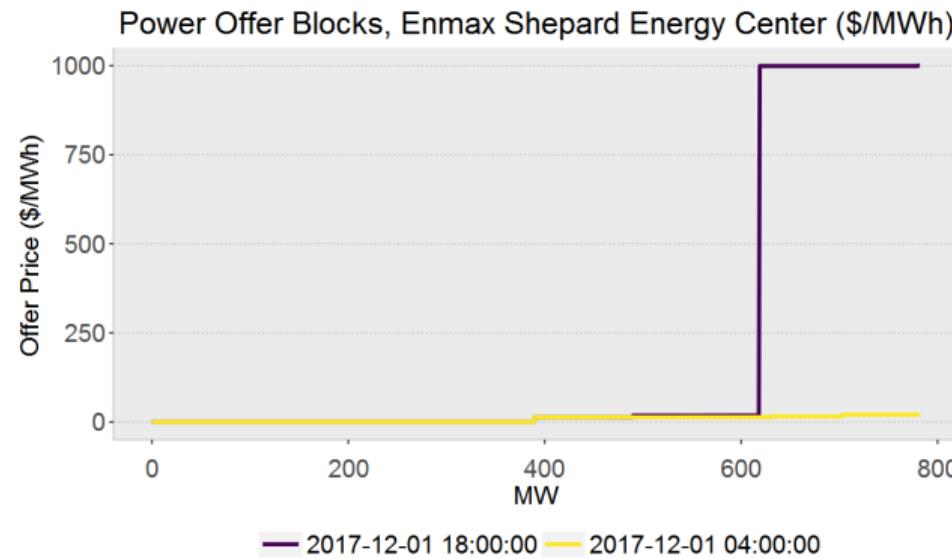


The Merit Order



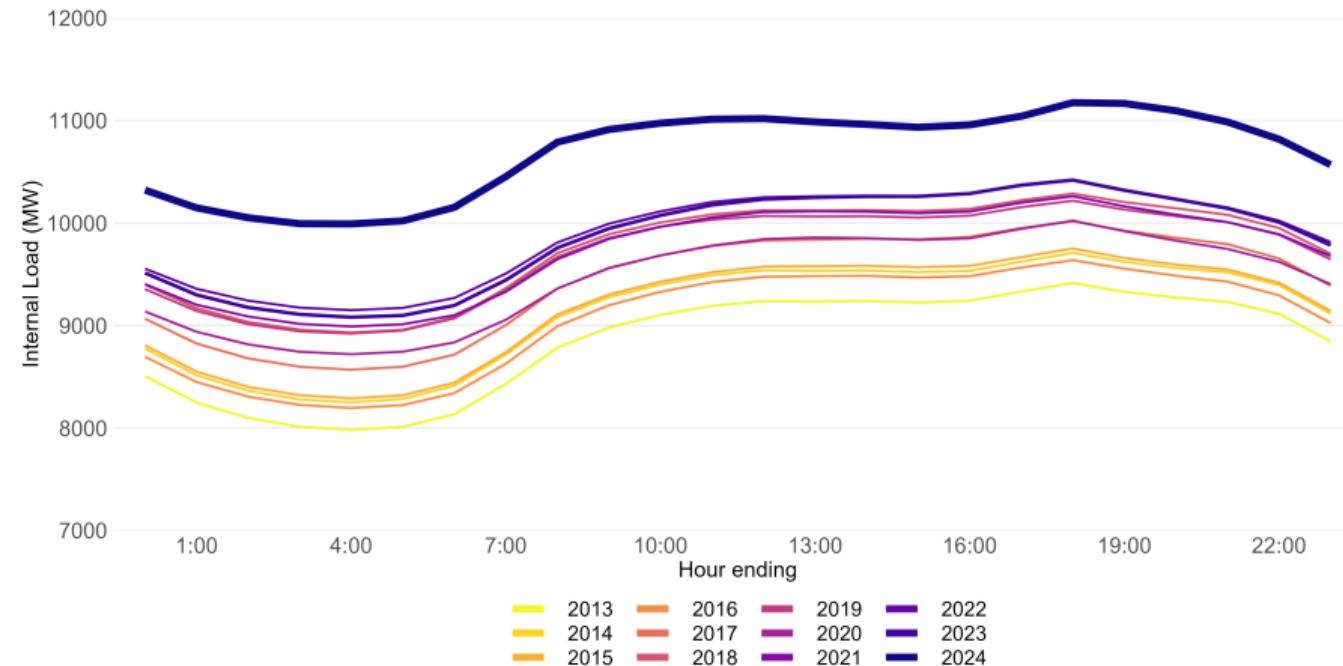
Source: AESO Data, graph by Andrew Leach.

Offers

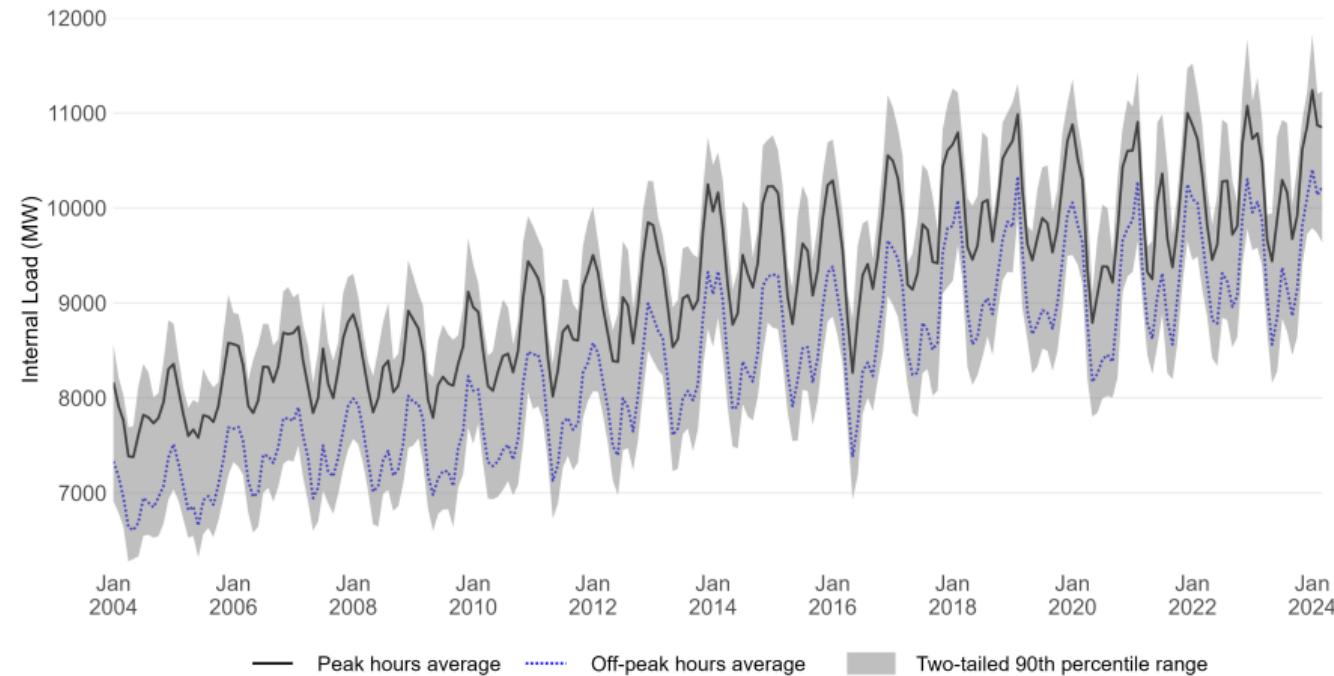


Source: AESO Data, Graph by Andrew Leach

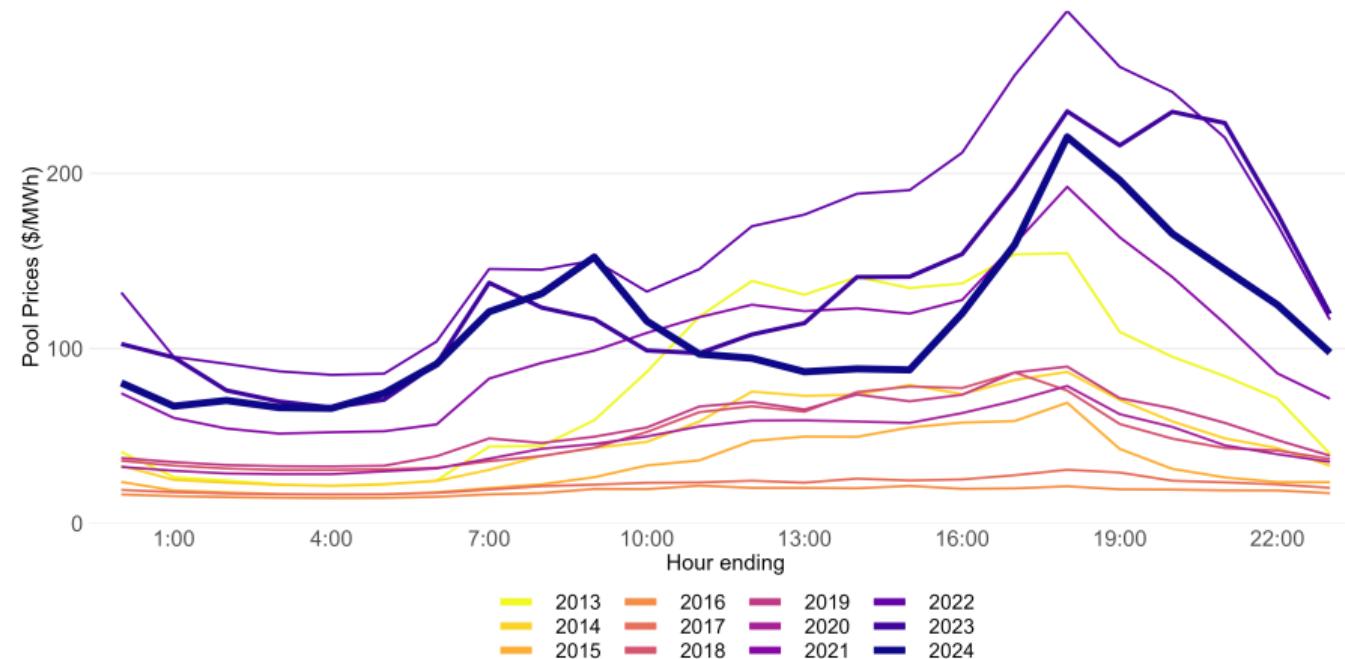
Hourly Loads



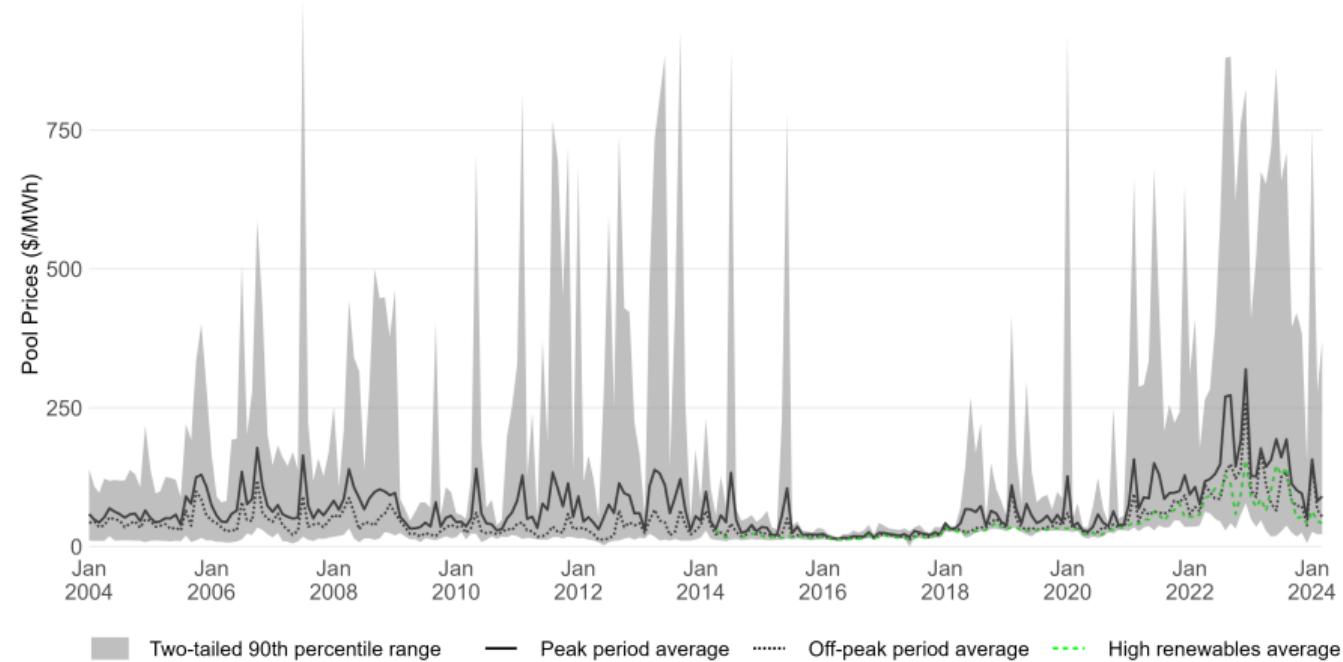
Peak and Average Loads



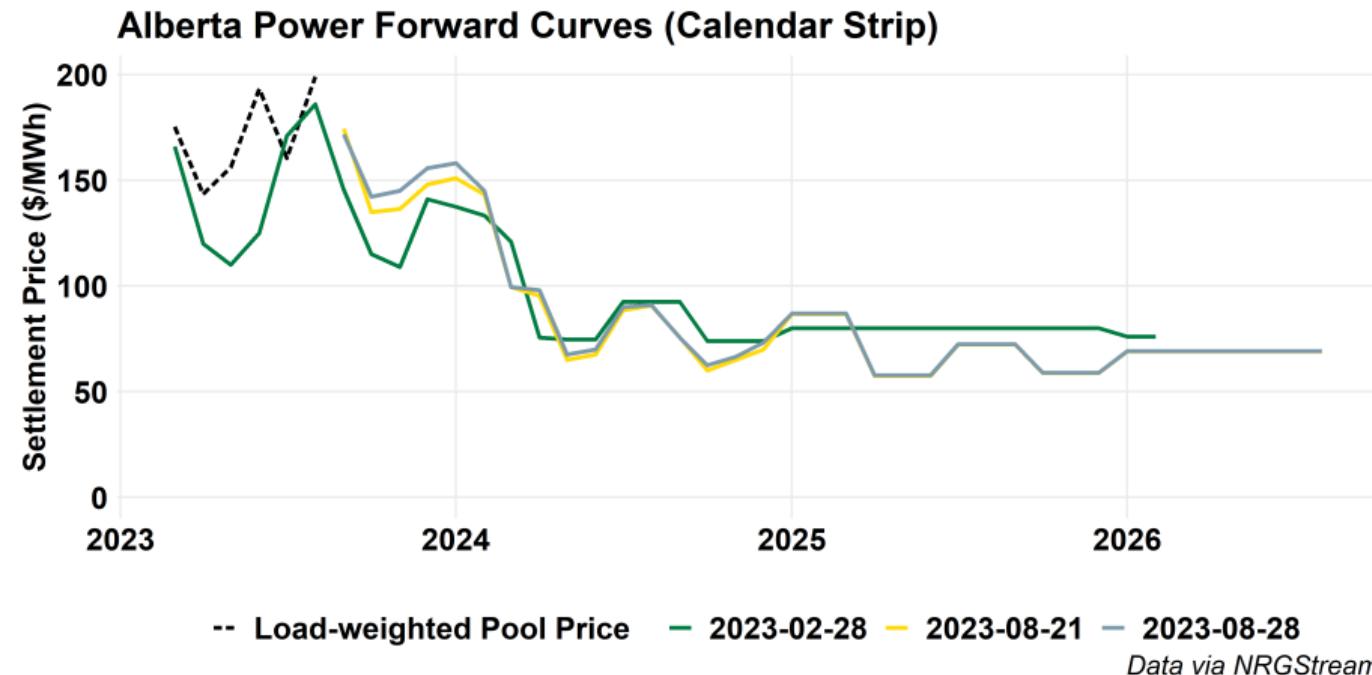
Hourly Prices



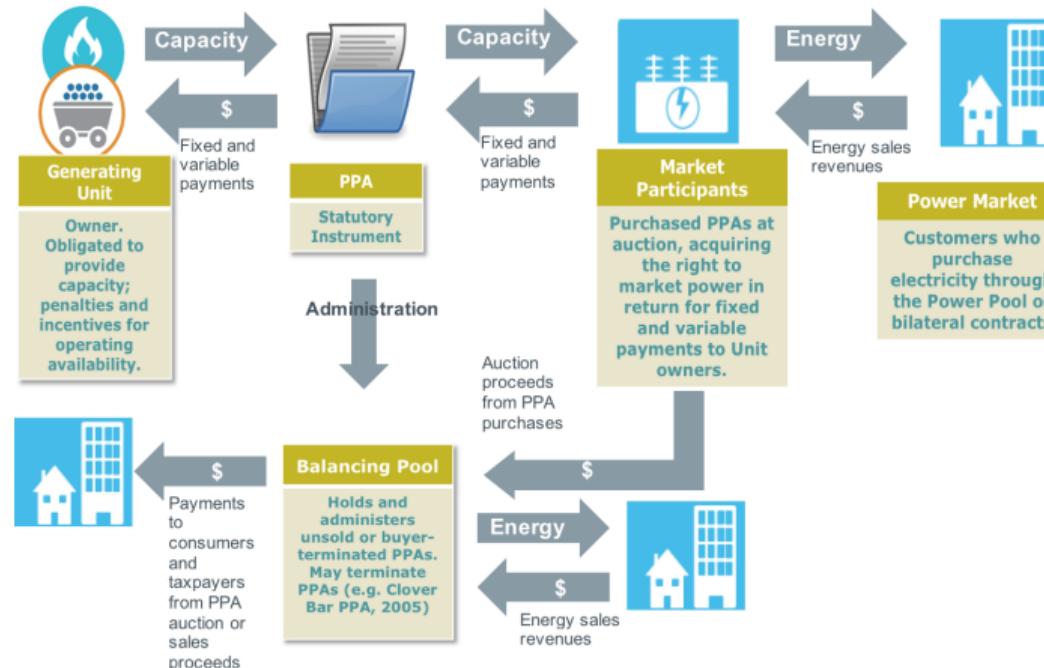
Prices over time



Forward Markets



The Balancing Pool: What on earth does/did it do?



Source: Capital Power

Alberta's Evolving Electricity Market

- Capacity Market False Start
- Coal Phase Out
- Renewables (the REP Program and now commercial PPAs)
- Carbon Pricing (TIER and the federal GGPPA)

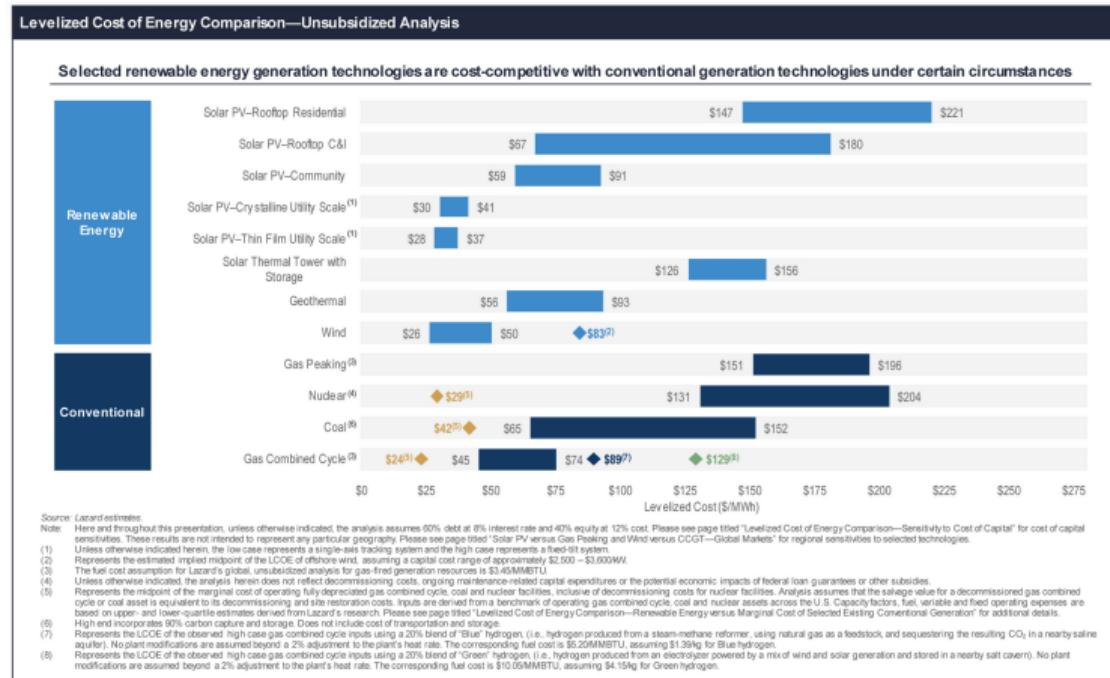
Costs of New Capacity Additions

Table 1a. Estimated capacity-weighted^a levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) and levelized cost of storage (LCOS) for new resources entering service in 2027 (2021 dollars per megawatthour)

Plant type	Capacity factor (percent)	Levelized capital cost	Levelized fixed O&M ^b	Levelized variable cost	Levelized transmission cost	Total system LCOE or LCOS	Levelized tax credit ^c	Total LCOE or LCOS including tax credit
Dispatchable technologies								
Ultra-supercritical coal	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB
Combined cycle	87%	\$8.56	\$1.68	\$25.80	\$1.01	\$37.05	NA	\$37.05
Advanced nuclear	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB
Geothermal	90%	\$21.80	\$15.20	\$1.21	\$1.40	\$39.61	-\$2.18	\$37.43
Biomass	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB
Resource-constrained technologies								
Wind, onshore	43%	\$27.45	\$7.44	\$0.00	\$2.91	\$37.80	NA	\$37.80
Wind, offshore	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB
Solar, standalone ^d	29%	\$26.35	\$6.34	\$0.00	\$3.41	\$36.09	-\$2.64	\$33.46
Solar, hybrid ^{d,e}	26%	\$39.12	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$4.51	\$58.62	-\$3.91	\$54.71
Hydroelectric ^e	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB
Capacity resource technologies								
Combustion turbine	10%	\$55.55	\$8.37	\$49.93	\$10.00	\$123.84	NA	\$123.84
Battery storage	10%	\$64.74	\$29.64	\$18.92	\$11.54	\$124.84	\$0.00	\$124.84

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 2022*

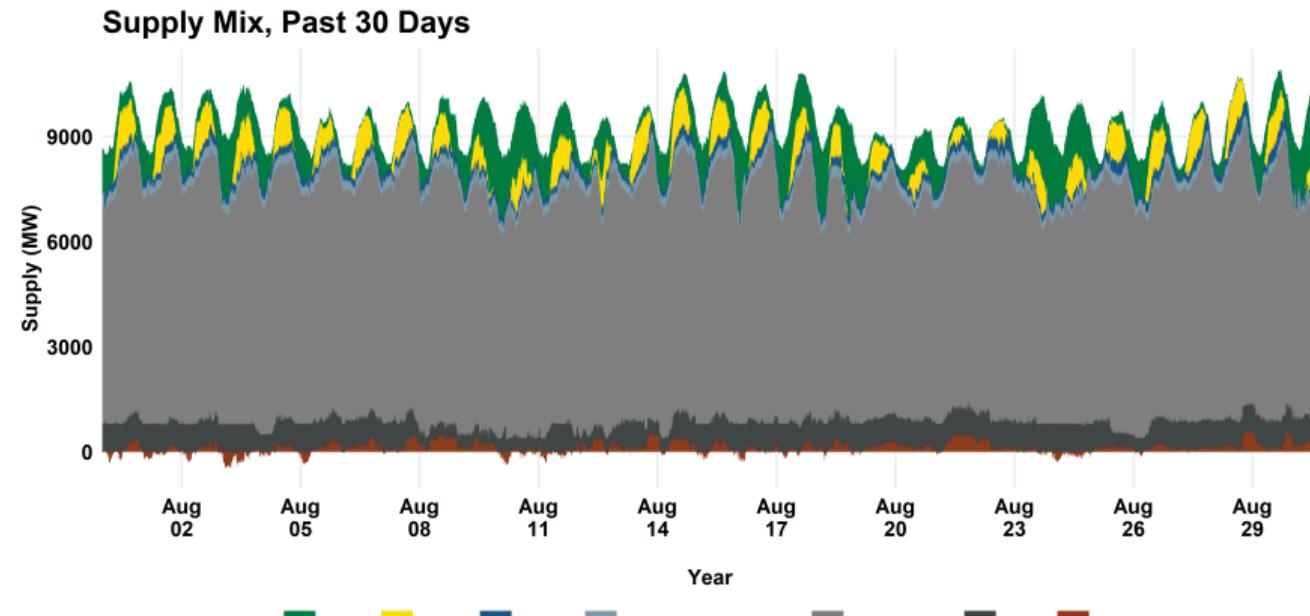
Costs of New Capacity Additions



New Technology

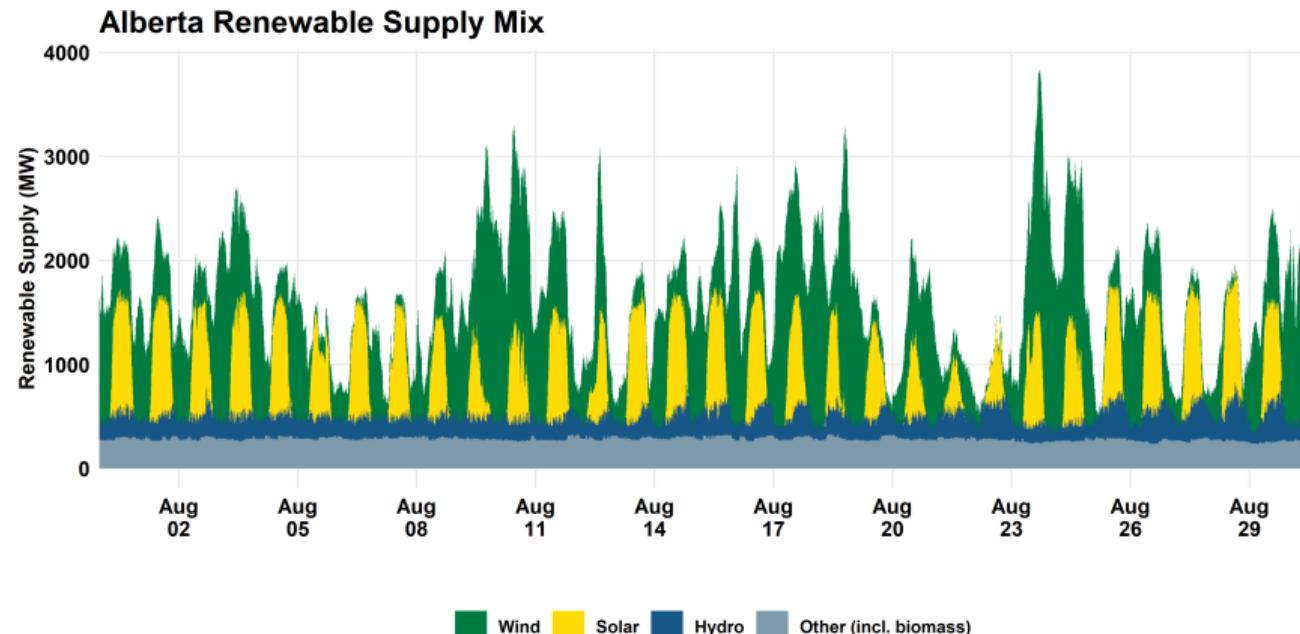
SOLAR			
ASSET	MC	TNG	DCR
BRD1 Burdett (BRD1)	11	8	0
BUR1 Burdett (BUR1)	20	15	0
Brooks Solar (BSC1)	15	7	0
Brooks Solar 1 (BRK1)	13	10	0
Brooks Solar 2 (BRK2)	14	11	0
COL1 Coaldale (COL1)	23	19	0
Claresholm 1 (CLR1)	58	45	0
Claresholm 2 (CLR2)	75	58	0
Conrad 1 (CRD1)	23	11	0
Conrad 2 (CRD2)	18	9	0
East Strathmore Namaka (NMK1)	20	16	0
Hays (HYS1)	23	21	0
Hull (HUL1)	25	0	0
Innisfail (INF1)	22	12	0
Jenner (JER1)	23	20	0
Monarch (MON1)	24	0	0
Strathmore 1 (STR1)	18	14	0
Strathmore 2 (STR2)	23	18	0
Suffield (SUF1)	23	20	0
Travers (TVS1)	465	400	0
Vauxhall (VXH1)	22	17	0
Vulcan (VCN1)	22	1	0
Westfield Yellow Lake (WEF1)	19	15	0
kisikaw-pisim 1 (KKP1)*	7	0	0
kisikaw-pisim 2 (KKP2)*	7	0	0

New Technology



Source: AESO Data, accessed via NRGStream

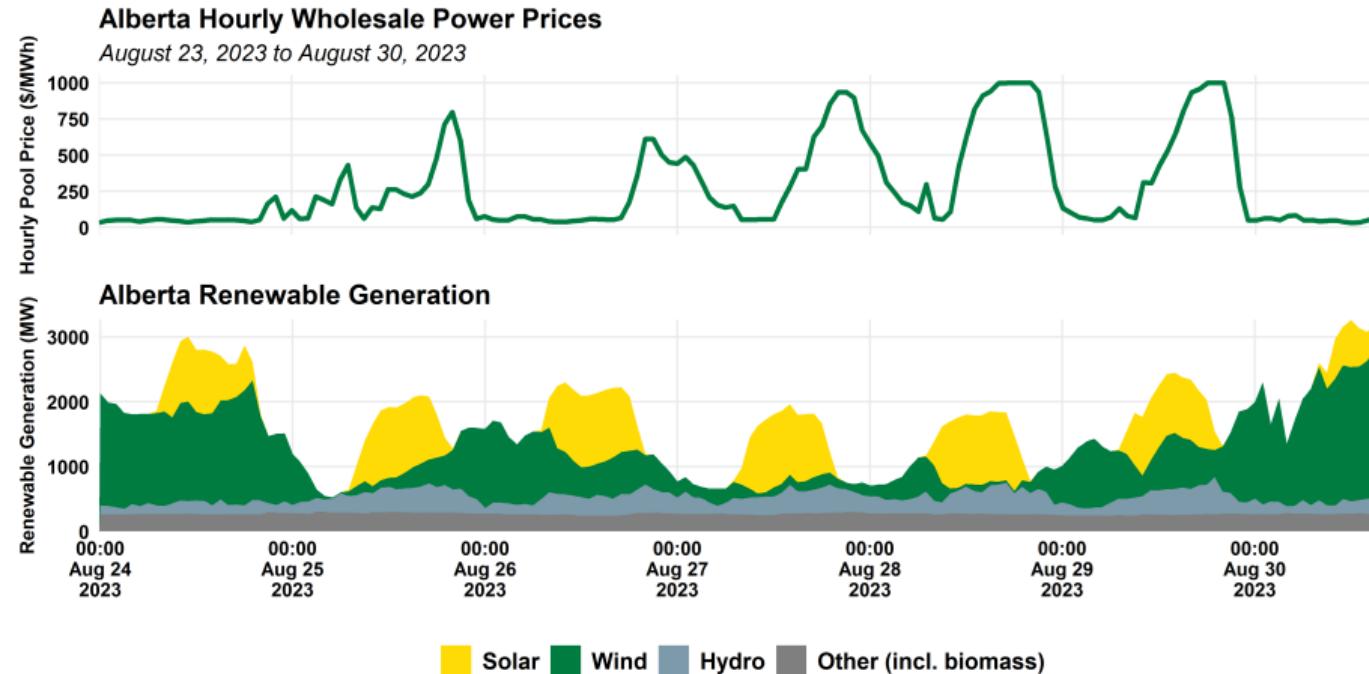
New Technology



Wind Solar Hydro Other (incl. biomass)

Source: AESO Data, accessed via NRGStream

New Technology



New Technology

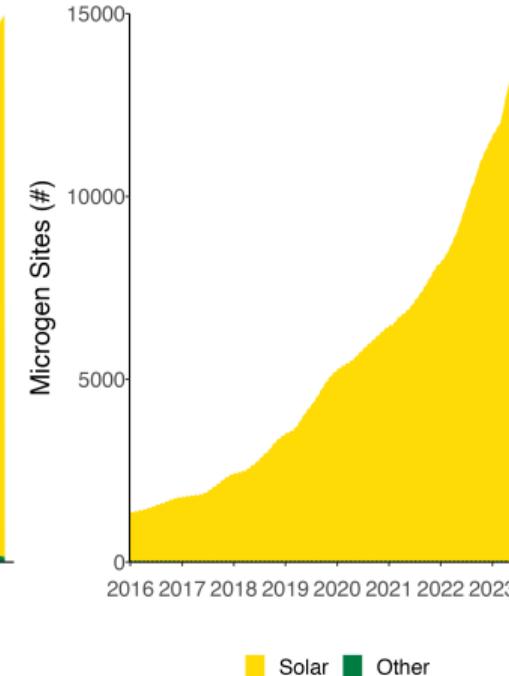
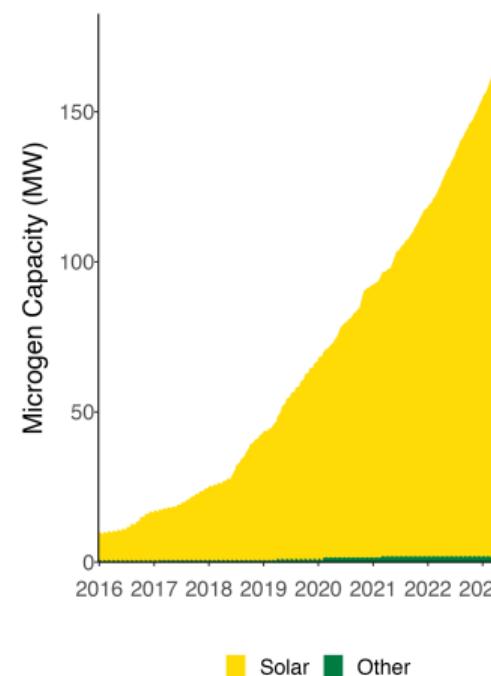
Current Micro- and Small Distributed Generation in Alberta

The table and figures below provide the number of sites and installed capacity of both micro-generation sites and distributed generation sites with a nameplate capacity of less than 5,000 kW.

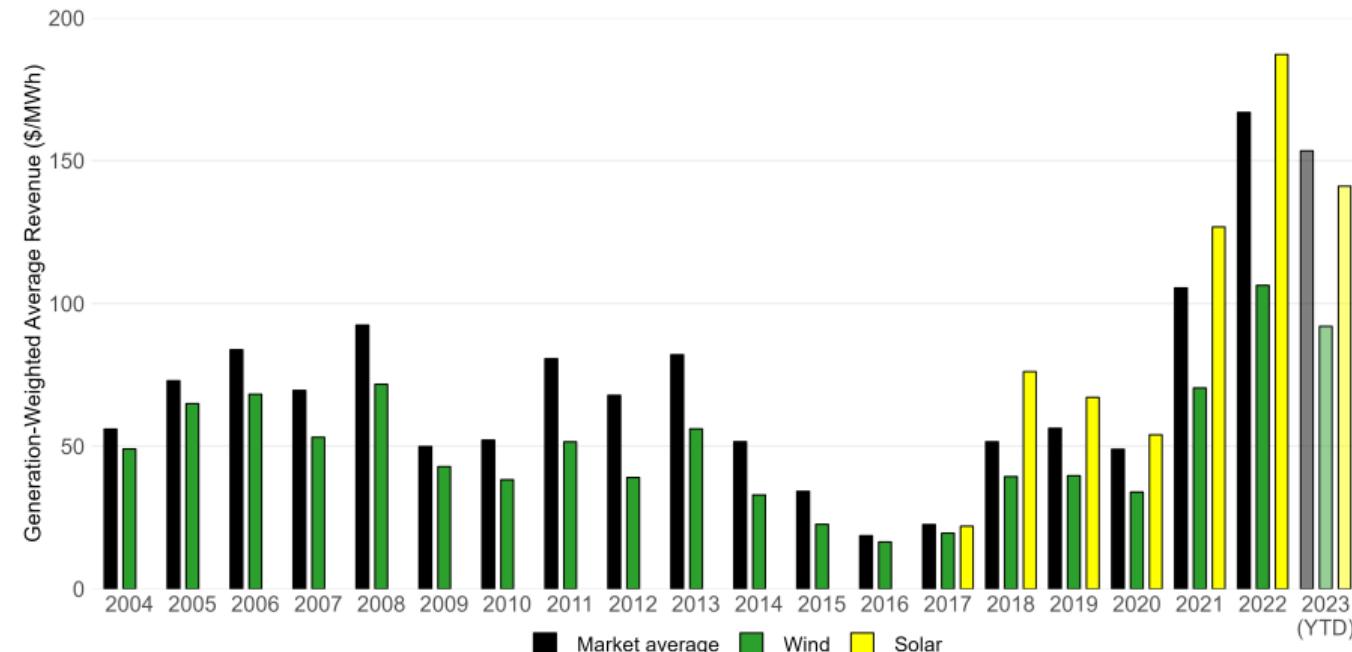
Table 1: Micro-generation and Small Distributed Generation by Energy Source

August-2023	Micro-generation		Distributed Generation		Total	
	Number of Sites	Installed Capacity (kW)	Number of Sites	Installed Capacity (kW)	Number of Sites	Installed Capacity (kW)
Biomass	1	1,692	6	13,453	7	15,145
Co-gen/Solar	2	263	0	0	2	263
Gas	6	1,132	24	70,230	30	71,362
Gas Cogen	7	1,533	5	14,280	12	15,813
Hydro	1	73	4	8,900	5	8,973
Other	25	4,098	2	2,065	27	6,163
Solar	14,543	180,617	6	16,560	14,549	197,177
Solar/Wind	34	284	0	0	34	284
Wind	56	2,065	21	25,375	77	27,440
Total	14,675	191,758	68	150,863	14,743	342,621

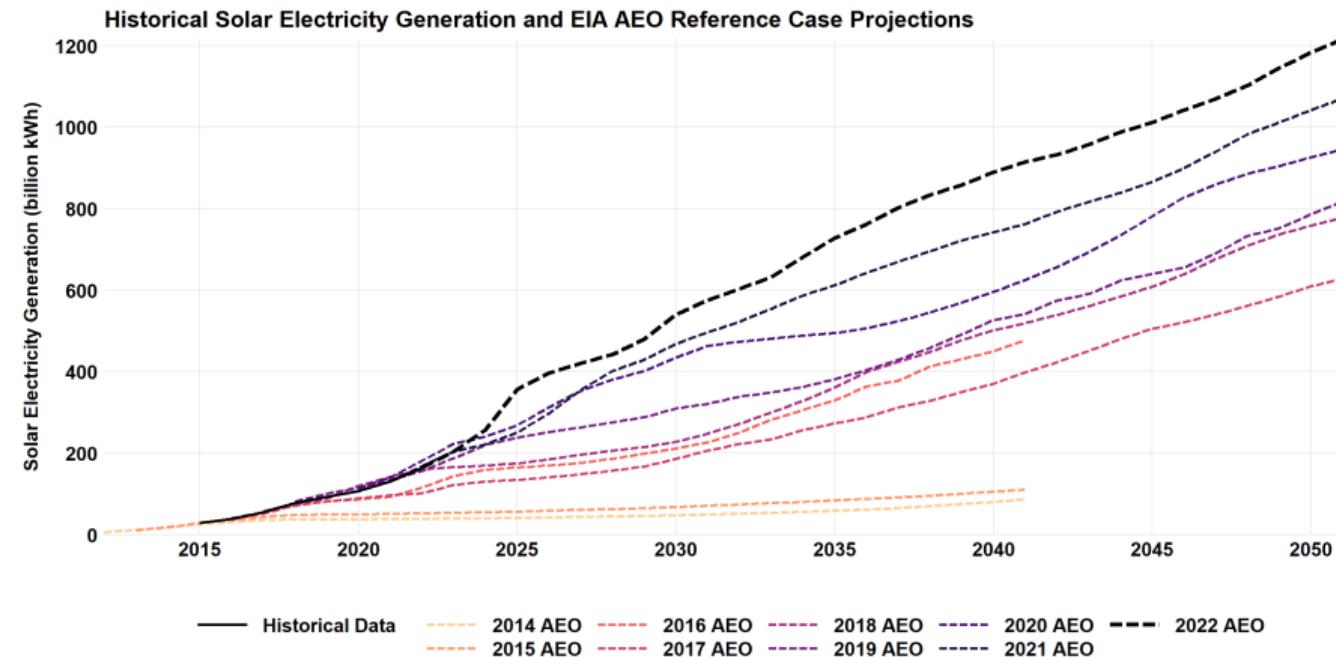
New Technology



Price Capture by Technology

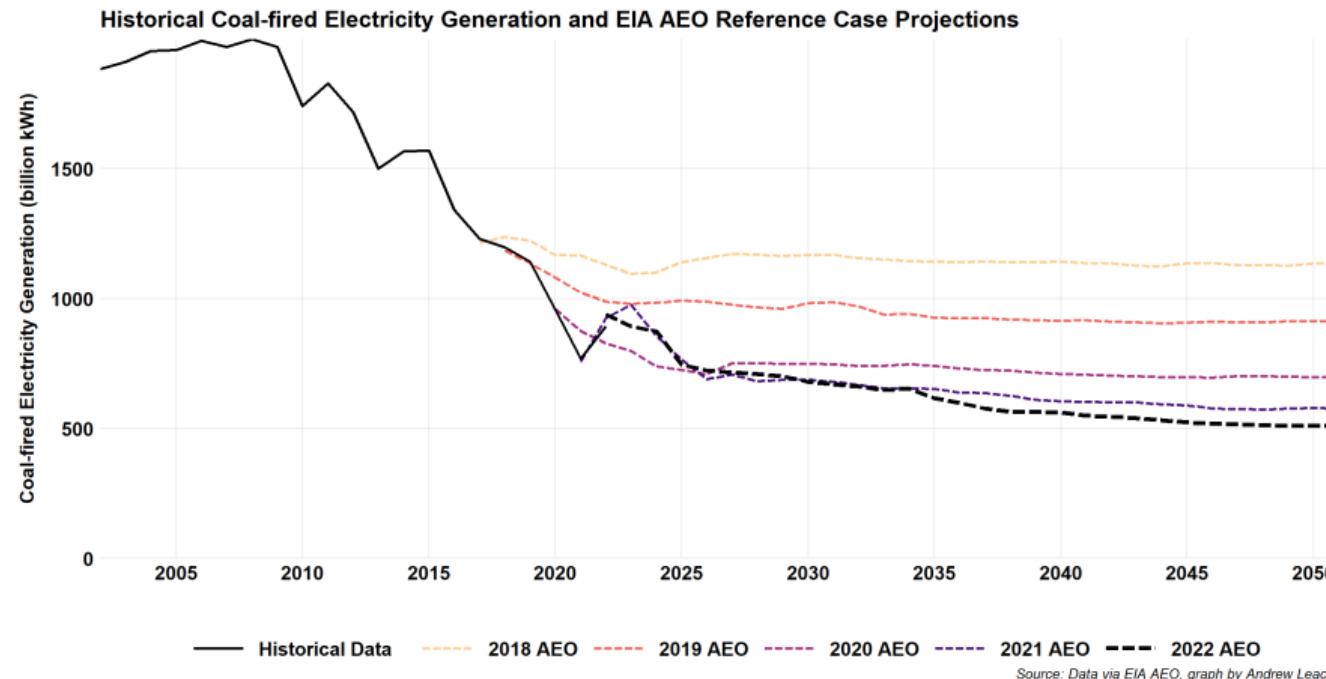


Evolution of Technology



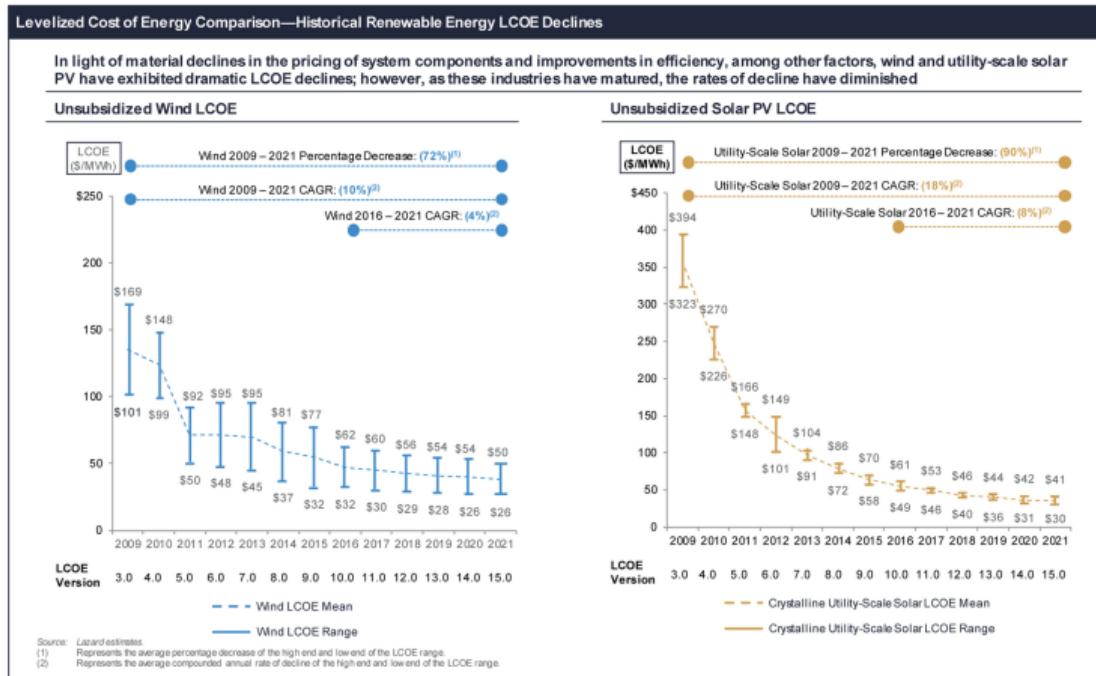
Source: Data via EIA AEO, graph by Andrew Leach.

Evolution of Technology



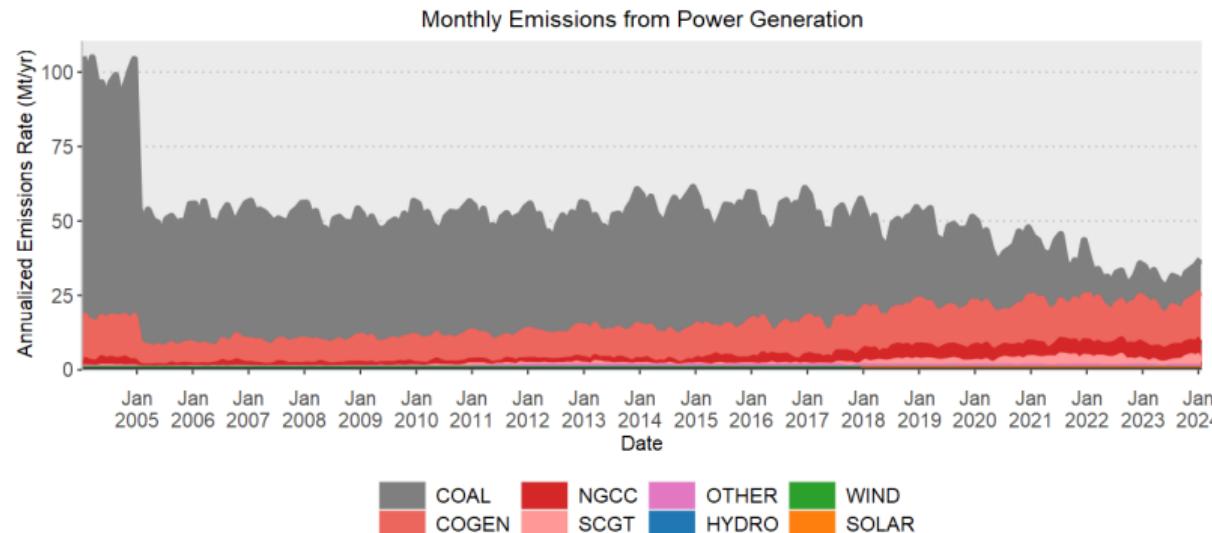
Source: Data via EIA AEO, graph by Andrew Leach.

Evolution of Technology



Source: Lazard

GHG Policy and Electricity Supply



Source: AESO Data
Calculations and graph by Andrew Leach

Deeper cuts: the roles of storage and transmission

- Renewables now offer some of the cheapest electricity we have ever seen
- Renewables are not (generally) dispatchable
- Renewables seasonal and/or daily generation patterns don't always match load
- The sun is always shining / the wind is always blowing somewhere

Deeper cuts: the roles of storage and transmission

- How do we overcome the need for more transmission or storage?
- Who will pay for the assets? How will the assets be paid for the services they provide?
- Renewables, storage, and even transmission can erode their own value proposition - with a lot of storage or transmission in place, it's harder to see the value for storage
- The value of transmission and storage assets may not be captured by the jurisdiction or the regulatory sector in which they are built

Readings and guest speaker

- Rivers and Dolter paper on decarbonizing Canada's supply
- van de Biezenbos paper on transmission
- Clean Electricity Standard discussion paper