Pembina at a Glance 2023

Executive Director update

I think we will look back at 2023 as the year that the world started to turn the corner on climate action.

The threat of climate change has never been clearer, with record-breaking temperatures and unprecedented wildfires from coast to coast to coast.

And there was also progress: The global climate conference COP28 ended with a global agreement to transition away from fossil fuels and to triple investment in renewables by 2030. Closer to home, the federal government announced progress on many essential policies that the Pembina Institute has been advancing for decades.

While we have seen steady progress at the federal level, some provinces are seriously lagging. Reducing emissions is a shared responsibility and we need all levels of government to commit to comprehensive short-term actions.

The Pembina Institute was at the centre of much of the progress in climate policy, providing thoughtful analysis and research, convening and factual advocacy. The political rhetoric has at times been overheated in 2023, but Canadians continually remind us that they value constructive analysis that goes beyond polarization and toward real actions.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are looking forward to another year of working with you to build energy systems that protect our climate and communities.

CHRIS SEVERSON-BAKER

Canada is making progress to reduce emissions by 2030, but more action is needed.

Standing up for renewable energy

When the Government of Alberta called for an unprecedented moratorium on approving large renewable energy projects, the Pembina Institute was there to respond. Our analysts crunched the numbers to show that 118 projects – representing over $33 billion in investment and more than 24,000 jobs – were potentially affected.

These findings were quoted in over 1,000 media articles in August 2023.
Achieving a net-zero electricity grid across Canada

Canada’s Clean Electricity Regulations were drafted to support provinces on the path to building a net-zero grid, the foundation of an advanced net-zero economy. The Pembina Institute will continue to consult and engage with the federal government to ensure the final regulations are robust and aligned with provincial needs.

Methane: reducing a powerful pollutant

Canada announced plans to reduce oil and gas methane emissions at least 75 per cent below 2012 levels, in line with the Pembina Institute’s recommendations to government. The Pembina Institute’s research played an important role in shaping these regulations. This is one area where Canada is living up to its full potential as a global leader.

A realistic and reasonable cap on oil and gas emissions

The federal government introduced a framework for limiting pollution in the oil and gas sector – Canada’s largest source of emissions – helping to spur investment in decarbonization. This comes after years of research and advocacy from the Pembina Institute on the need to halt emission growth and achieve large emission reductions in this sector.

Workers leading the energy transition

The Pembina Institute is putting workers and communities at the centre of Canada’s net-zero energy economy. Co-created with the Canadian Labour Congress, our report The Sustainable Jobs Blueprint, provides solutions for how the federal government can support workers through changes to the economy.

Energy sovereignty for remote and Indigenous communities

For more than twenty years the Pembina Institute has supported remote and Indigenous communities in pursuit of community-led clean energy and reducing diesel use. This partnership continues today with a strong focus on advancing Indigenous rights, economic reconciliation, and capacity building.

Supporting Alberta’s renewable energy advantage

In 2023, participants of the Business Renewables Centre-Canada (a Pembina Institute initiative) announced nine power purchase agreements for wind and solar power. These deals supported construction of clean energy projects with a total capacity of about 1,340 MW.

Decarbonizing the transportation sector in Canada

Transportation is the second-largest source of emissions in Canada. This year, the Pembina Institute released a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. 2023 ended with federal regulations to boost electric cars and light-duty truck sales, which included recommendations from the Pembina Institute.

Creating safe, healthy and resilient communities through decarbonization

Buildings are the third-largest source of emissions in Canada. The Pembina Institute has developed recommendations for how Canada can create safer, healthier, more resilient buildings. In 2024, the Pembina Institute will push for policies that stimulate industry and market transformation to accelerate deep retrofits.

Alberta Climate Summit: bringing people together

The Pembina Institute’s first major conference in Alberta since COVID-19 brought together over 300 people to explore climate policy and energy solutions. The Climate Summit featured lively discussion with several prominent guests, including Danielle Smith, premier of Alberta, and Jonathan Wilkinson, federal minister of energy and natural resources.

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Save the date

Our 2024 Renewables in Remote Communities Conference will take place in Whitehorse, Yukon.

September 23-26, 2024