

SEPTEMBER 2013

Go paperless and win a Samsung Galaxy tablet.



CONNECTED

NEWS & POWER SMART TIPS FROM BC HYDRO

September 2013

This month, we have a redesigned newsletter and a new contest to help you get organized for fall: go paperless and you could **win a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3**. ...

Plus, learn about the **Integrated Resource Plan**, which sets out how we're going to power British Columbia for the next 20 years. ... And take a look at the work we're doing with a new **LEED-certified substation**.



Our demand for electricity is growing

BC Hydro has released the Integrated Resource Plan, our plan on how we'll meet

British Columbia's energy needs for the next 20 years. Learn about the growing need for electricity and see what it means for you.

[Learn more](#)

New substation meets growing demand as Mount Pleasant booms

It's the newest substation in our system, and the first built in Vancouver since 1984...

[Learn more](#)

Win a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3

Go paperless with your BC Hydro bill this month and you could win one of three Samsung Galaxy tablets... [Learn more](#)

Recently on bchydro.com

Walk for Reconciliation resonates with Hydro employee

This month's Reconciliation Week in Vancouver hits home with BC Hydro's Darrell Mounsey, a proud member of the Simpcw Nation whose mother could only dream of the opportunities her grandkids now enjoy. [Learn more](#)

History recalled: We weren't always this Power Smart

Guest blogger Marc Stoiber looks at how much BC Hydro – and British Columbians –

have changed over the decades. [Learn more](#)

- [Team Power Smart photo contest back for another year](#)
- [View spawning kokanee when bears aren't dining](#)
- [Pay attention to safety around water](#)
- [2013 Community Champions program now open](#)

THIS MONTH'S CONTEST

Join Team Power Smart and enter this month's contest. You could win one of three Monster GreenPower surge protectors from contest partner Future Shop.

[Join now](#)

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Sep 6, 2013

BC Hydro outlines how to meet energy needs for the next 20 years



On August 2, BC Hydro filed the [Integrated Resource Plan \(IRP\)](#), which outlines our plan to meet British Columbia's forecast electricity needs for the next 20 years.

The IRP is a long-term look at how BC Hydro can cost-effectively meet our customers' needs, from continuing a focus on electricity conservation, to developing new renewable energy resources, and planning for emerging industries like liquefied natural gas.

[See our visual guide to B.C.'s future energy needs](#) [JPEG, 454 KB]

There's one thing clear about the future of electricity in British Columbia: demand for it is growing. Before conservation measures are considered, B.C.'s demand for electricity in 20 years is forecast to be 23,000 gigawatt hours per year (GWh/yr) greater than it is today – that's an increase of 40 per cent over what British Columbians use today.

That's like powering five additional cities the size of Vancouver each year.

Learn more about the IRP and what it means for you:

- [Why electricity demand is increasing](#)
- [A growing economy means growing electricity needs](#)
- [Conservation: the first and best way to meet demand growth](#)
- [Have your say on the IRP: public consultation until October 18, 2013](#)

Why electricity demand is increasing

The last major investment in BC Hydro's generating facilities was in the 1980s, when we completed construction on some of our [heritage assets in the Columbia region](#). Since then, the population of B.C. has grown by about 1.6 million people, and continues to grow.

In two decades, British Columbia's population is forecast to be nearly 5.7 million people. That means we will have to support the energy needs of 1.1 million more British Columbians and the economic activity that they'll generate.

Even before we add more people to the province, the people that we already have are using more power than ever before. Our lives have changed dramatically since the last major investment in renewable energy sources.

For example, we have many more consumer electronics than we used to, and our wired lifestyles add up.

Consider our living rooms: an average non-ENERGY STAR PVR uses about 270 kilowatt hours a year, and many British Columbians have more than one. Running two PVRs for a year can use 60 per cent of the power it takes for the average family to wash and dry their clothes over 12 months.

Looking ahead also means planning for the growth and adoption of technology like electric vehicles, which will increase the load needed to serve residential and business customers alike, through charging stations, new building codes and more widespread adoption of vehicles by consumers and fleets.

A growing economy means growing electricity needs

Industry and business in B.C., particularly in the northwest region, also need more electricity. For example, BC Hydro currently has adequate supply to meet the initial 3,000 GHW of anticipated load from new liquefied natural gas projects and will prepare to meet further requirements as they emerge.

But other industries, like mining, continue to grow and BC Hydro needs to consider those industries when mapping out what electricity demand will look like in 20 years. In B.C.'s northwest region alone, there are 11 mine sites either operating or in higher levels of development.

Large industrial customers like mines and pulp mills have major impacts on the province's overall electricity needs. A large industrial customer, such as a pulp mill, might use 400 GWh in a year, equal to the consumption of 40,000 households. A typical large office building of 20–25 storeys might consume 5 GWh in a year, equal to the consumption of 500 households.

Conservation: the first and best way to meet demand growth

BC Hydro has had a focus on the importance of electricity conservation since the introduction of [Power Smart](#). And conservation will continue to play a key role in meeting future electricity needs.

Conservation measures, or what we call demand-side management, are cost-effective, have the lowest environmental impact, and directly help our customers reduce their electricity bills.

Going forward, the IRP recommends a continued focus on Power Smart, helping to build and maintain British Columbia's conservation culture. Through conservation we can reduce new electricity demand by 75 per cent.

Have your say on the IRP: public consultation continues until October 18, 2013

Developing the IRP included extensive consultation with the public, stakeholders and First Nations through 2011 and 2012, and working with outside technical experts and interested parties.

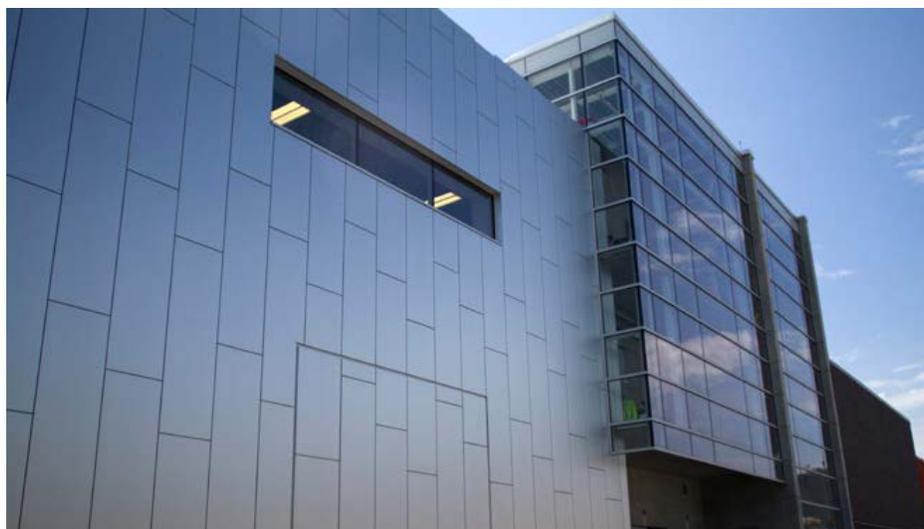
Now the public has the chance to comment through the next stage of consultation, by submitting written feedback online.

Share your thoughts on the Integrated Resource Plan by reviewing the [full plan](#) and [submitting your feedback](#).

Public consultation on the IRP will take place until October 18, 2013.

Aug 30, 2013

New substation meets growing demand as Mount Pleasant booms



The Mount Pleasant substation is also the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-standard substation in BC Hydro's system. It will supply enough electricity for 30,000 to 40,000 homes.

New substation demonstrates leading-edge seismic and environmental construction

It's been called Vancouver's first suburb, but today [Mount Pleasant](#) is one of the city's most vibrant and fastest-growing neighbourhoods.

Stretching from Cambie Street to Clark Drive, and from Great Northern Way and 2nd Avenue to 16th Avenue and Kingsway, Mount Pleasant has seen an explosion of development since the 1990s. It's a neighbourhood in transition, from the landmark [Olympic Village](#) development to the hip restaurants and retailers that populate the SoMa (South Main) neighbourhood around the intersection of Main, Kingsway and Broadway.

With that growth comes a growth in electricity demand. Over the next 10 years, electricity demand in the Mount Pleasant/South False Creek area is expected to increase by almost 40 per cent. And in the next 30 years, it could grow by as much as 82 per cent.

The first new substation in Vancouver since 1984

To meet that growing need, BC Hydro is in the final stages of construction on the new Mount Pleasant Substation, the first to be built in the city of Vancouver since 1984.

The [new station](#) is also the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-standard substation in BC Hydro's system. It's an example of how we're keeping an eye on [greenhouse gas emissions](#) when we upgrade facilities or construct new ones like Mount Pleasant Substation. It's the same approach we took when looking at [new facilities](#) in Port Alberni, Burnaby, and [Prince George](#).

Substation part of larger plan to improve reliability in downtown Vancouver

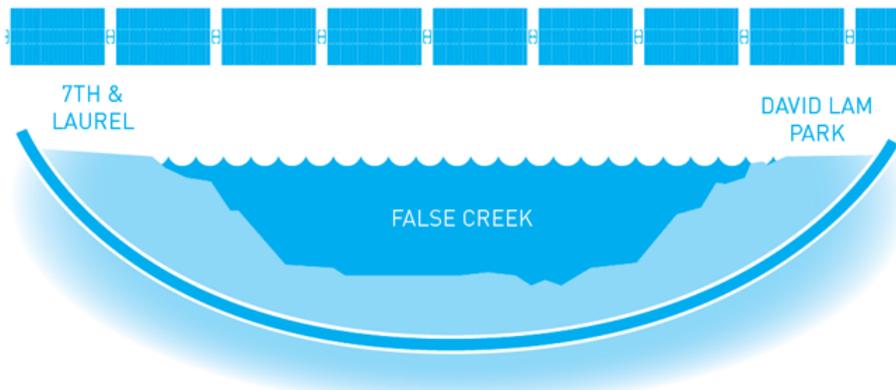
The Mount Pleasant Substation is part of the [Vancouver City Central Transmission Project](#) the most significant investment that BC Hydro has made in central Vancouver's electrical system in almost 30 years. The project also involved installing new transmission lines, crossing seven kilometres under city streets to connect Mount Pleasant with two existing substations, Cathedral Square Substation in downtown Vancouver, and Sperling Substation at Arbutus and West King Edward Avenue.

And it wasn't just city streets.

The project also required pulling a transmission pipe bundle [under the waters of False Creek](#), beginning near David Lam Park in Yaletown and ending on the other side of False Creek near Laurel Street and 7th Avenue in Mount Pleasant.

The new substation is now one of the most seismically safe buildings in the Lower Mainland, designed to function even after a major earthquake. It's also planned to help speed the restoration of power to customers in Vancouver in the event of a disaster, by adding redundancy and resiliency to the power transmission system that supplies the city.

- Mount Pleasant Substation is scheduled to be in service in spring 2014.



An 850-metre pipe bundle, equivalent to 8.5 Canadian Football fields, was pulled under False Creek.

Vancouver City Central Transmission Project, by the numbers

Building a new substation of this calibre and putting new transmission infrastructure under city streets is no small job. Check out just what it took to make it happen:

- This two-storey substation was built with enough concrete for a 20-storey residence and rebar for five office buildings.
- Each transformer in the substation (there are two) is two storeys high and weighs 250 tonnes — as much as 50 elephants.
- A 24-wheel trailer was used to transport the transformers to the substation.
- An 850-metre pipe bundle, equivalent to 8.5 Canadian Football fields, was pulled [under False Creek](#).
- Mount Pleasant Substation will supply enough electricity for 30,000 to 40,000 homes.

Mount Pleasant Substation welcomes community at open house

Major construction like building a substation can be challenging for more than just the project team. We recognize the significant impacts that the project has had on the surrounding neighbourhood.

As part of our efforts to say thank you to residents and businesses located around the substation, the project team has organized an open house for Mount Pleasant Substation at Alberta Street and West 6th Avenue on September 14, 2013. The local community will get a special chance to tour the substation, see the equipment up close and safely explore the substation before it's energized and in service.

If you live or work near the substation, be sure to come by between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on September 14 to take a substation tour, meet the project team and see the inside of British Columbia's newest electrical substation.

Sep 2, 2013

Go paperless, enter to win



Join others who have switched to online billing

Did you know that BC Hydro has the 10th highest paperless adoption rate out of all utilities in North America? In fact, we have just reached a milestone of 500,000 paperless accounts. Besides the environmental benefits, going paperless and [switching to online billing](#) allows you to do so much more with your account. And if you go paperless by September 30, 2013, you can enter a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3.

Use MyHydro to manage your account

Since its launch in November 2012, over 400,000 customers have been actively using MyHydro to manage their account online. When you switch to online billing, MyHydro is the place to not only view your bill but also:

- Set up a pre-authorized or equal payment plan to make budgeting easier
- Start, stop or move your service without picking up the phone
- Track your electricity use and identify ways to save energy and money on your bill

To learn more, watch the MyHydro 30 second video.

Switch now and enter to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3

Going paperless is easy and if you ever need paper copies, you can always download your bill online and print them for your records. New and existing customers who switch to online billing in September can enter to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3. If you already have a MyHydro Profile, [log in to MyHydro](#) and select the "Go paperless" button on the left-hand side of the MyHydro main page.

New to managing your account online? [Create a MyHydro Profile](#) first and link your account to your Profile. "Online bill" automatically becomes your bill format.

The contest entry form is accessible from the bottom right of the MyHydro main page once you've logged in. Contest closes September 30, 2013. [See full contest details.](#)

Aug 30, 2013

Walk for Reconciliation hits home with BC Hydro's Mounsey



BC Hydro senior aboriginal relations coordinator Darrell Mounsey, who grew up in Kamloops, shows off a salmon he caught while fishing in Barkley Sound, just past the First Nation Community Elhlateese at Uchucklesaht Inlet.

Simpcw Nation member embraces the present, but can't forget the past

Rob Klovance
bchydro.com

As Darrell Mounsey sits on the patio of a downtown Vancouver cafe, he's asked to think back to the day when he first learned, in some detail, the horrors his mom suffered as a residential school student growing up on a reserve in Barriere, B.C.

"Hearing my mom's story made me very angry and emotional," says Mounsey, a BC Hydro senior aboriginal relations coordinator and proud [Secwepemc](#) and member of the [Simpcw First Nation](#) north of Kamloops. "Those emotions can start to take you down a course, maybe even a militant one. But I told myself 'Mom is bearing that cross — you don't have to do that'. Keep on doing what you're doing."

For Mounsey, this month's Walk for Reconciliation in Vancouver is a chance to look back while moving another step forward.

Canada's residential school system, which operated from the 1870s through the closing of the last residential school in 1996, saw more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children removed from their families and placed in schools, many forbidden to speak their language and denied their culture.

"Imagine letting go of your child on September 1st and saying, 'See you at Christmas, maybe. Or maybe not. But we'll see you at the end of June,'" says Mounsey. "See your child for just two months a year? Could you do that? It would rip me apart."

The [Walk for Reconciliation](#), set for Sunday, September 22 is being spearheaded by Reconciliation Canada, a B.C.-based charitable project founded by residential school survivor Chief Dr. Robert Joseph. It's an opportunity for aboriginal people and all Canadians to come together, share their stories and demonstrate to the next generation that we can get it right, move forward together.

The Walk will end a Week of Reconciliation in Vancouver that features statement gathering, traditional ceremonies, survivor gatherings, an education day, witnessing survivor statements, cultural performances and films.

Mounsey is proud of his BC Hydro work as an aboriginal person working with First Nations across B.C. He does not for a minute take for granted the enormous difference between the life he's leading and that of his mom, or the mind-boggling gulf between his mom's school experience and that of his kids, both thriving while attending a great school in West Vancouver.

"I'm fortunate and thankful for the opportunities my kids have," says Mounsey, who works with his wife Moira to hammer home to their teenage son and daughter the importance of academics and sport. "I've just tried to give my kids all the positive things in life, things that are important to me, and get them hanging out with the right crowd."

BC Hydro a leader in aboriginal relations

In 2012, BC Hydro earned a gold level designation for best practices in Aboriginal relations from the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. That doesn't surprise Mounsey, who in his eight years with the company has seen firsthand how BC Hydro's approach to First Nations has evolved.

Current leading BC Hydro's initiative to install new meters in the homes of Aboriginals across B.C., Mounsey got his start at BC Hydro in Aboriginal Relations, where he sometimes sat across the table from St'at'imc Nation members initially suspicious of BC Hydro's motives.

"There was a lot of animosity there," he says. "You talk to some of the people we negotiate with and they make it quite clear what it was like. The kids were afraid of white people, because the first white person they saw was

a contractor in a bulldozer, going through their crop."

Slowly, he built relationships built on the basis of a common background. He knew some of these band leaders because they went to the same schools in Kamloops. He'd talk to them about those school days, about rugby and basketball trips they'd shared.

"And then the last half hour is talking about work," he says. "You're building a relationship, and that's what Hydro has done a really good job at. They've hired the right people to build those relationships. And that's not over a 10-minute coffee break — those relationships are built over 10 two-hour meetings. You learn that you've all come from a place of humility and respect."

'Phenomenal mentors', enormous opportunities

Kamloops wasn't the easiest place to grow up aboriginal back in the 1960s and 70s. But despite troubles at home, and the occasional racial spat settled by a fistfight, Mounsey found the friends and mentors who helped put him on the path to a degree at Washington State and eventually, a Masters degree.

And often, the people who helped him were white. People like his best friend and football buddy Lindsey Karpluk, or the then teacher and future Kamloops MP Nelson Riis, who took the time to read the riot act to a promising first-year student at Cariboo College.

"If this guy's telling me, I'd better listen," says Mounsey, who says Riis taught him the basics of proper research, including how to use a library catalogue. "I realized, 'this guy cares for me', and I owe him something. I'd better not drop the ball on this."

A priority of Mounsey's today is to remind aboriginal youth, including his kids, about the responsibility they have in taking advantage of the opportunities they're given. There's scholarship money for First Nations kids, there's Simpcw helping his kids pay for school trips to Europe and Australia, and there's living proof — in Mounsey and other successful aboriginal persons — of the good things that can happen.

"I go back for high school reunions, and it raises some eyebrows," he says, laughing. "Really? I never thought I'd see you in a suit." "It's neat to get that recognition."

Back at the reserve in Barriere, the man's a bit of a celebrity. He visits a few times each year, sometimes to hunt, sometimes to fish for sockeye, or sometimes just to drop in and remind friends and relatives on the reserve of the possibilities that exist.

Life in Barriere, particularly since the wildfire of 2003 that burned the Louis Creek sawmill — the area's big employer — has been anything but easy. But while the reserve existence is light years removed from his own, he sees enormous promise.

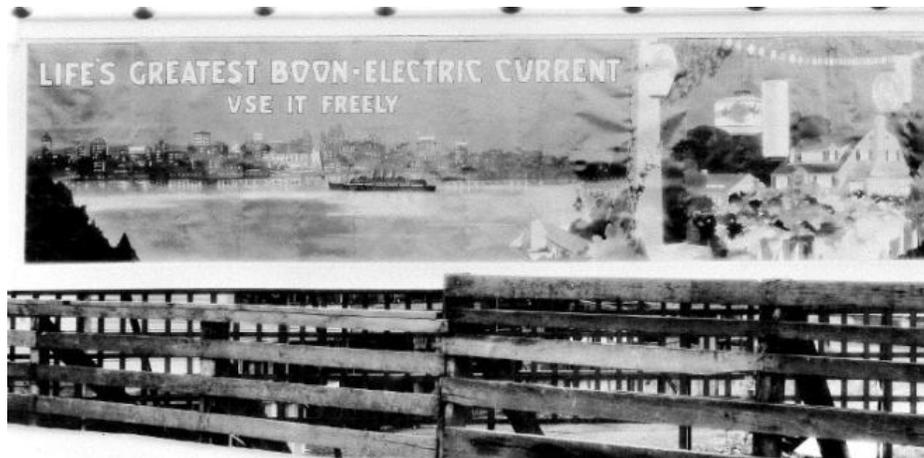
He's heartened to see some troubled friends back at Barriere turn to sobriety. He's proud of several cousins who went on to get masters degrees in education at UBC. And he sees aboriginal persons waking up to the realization that they're empowered to get in on the wealth of economic opportunities in B.C.

"If you want to be part of the solution, you have to be partners and help manage the situation," says Mounsey. "Otherwise, you're just standing on the side of the road watching the logging trucks drive by. Without a foot in the door, you'll have no control or say in our resources."

Rob Klovance is managing editor of bchydro.com

Aug 30, 2013

History recalls that we weren't always so Power Smart in B.C.



A half century ago, B.C. was encouraged to use abundant electricity

Posted by Marc Stoiber

Energy conservation is now part of B.C., where most of our electricity comes from clean sources, and as citizens, we pride ourselves on being Power Smart.

But it wasn't always that way. Leaf through books like [Voices From Two Rivers](#) and [Gaslight To Gigawatts](#) and you discover our relationship with power has morphed beyond recognition over the past half century.

So how did we go from 'Power Means Progress' — the catchphrase of BC Hydro in the 1960s — to 'Power Smart' today? The story is a fascinating study in our evolution as a society.

Electric power — use it freely!

If you had walked around B.C. prior to World War II, you would have seen billboards like the one at the top of this story from BC Hydro's predecessor, BC Electric. They reflected the North American spirit of breathlessly optimistic progress.

Every day, it seemed there was a new innovation that propelled us forward.

After the Second World War, technological advances spurred by war research upped the ante. The fruits of victory included not just freedom from tyranny, but a new, fresh-as-a-daisy life free of laundry drudgery.

You're Fresh as a Daisy!
When you own a complete Automatic Home Laundry

YOUR 1st STEP

You're going to need lots of hot water. With an automatic GAS or ELECTRIC storage WATER HEATER you always have the hot water you need ... when you need it ... without lugging fuel or ashes. Truly, the GREATEST BLESSING IN THE HOME!

YOUR 2nd STEP

Fresh as a Daisy!
REGARDLESS OF WEATHER

YOUR 3rd STEP

An Electric Dryer keeps your Washing and You as Fresh as a Daisy!
Drying done at your leisure ... without stooping, or carrying heavy loads. Relax while your clothes are dried fresher, fluffier and faster than ever before.

YOUR 4th STEP

You're Fresh as a Daisy!
WITH NO LIFTING OR STOOPING!

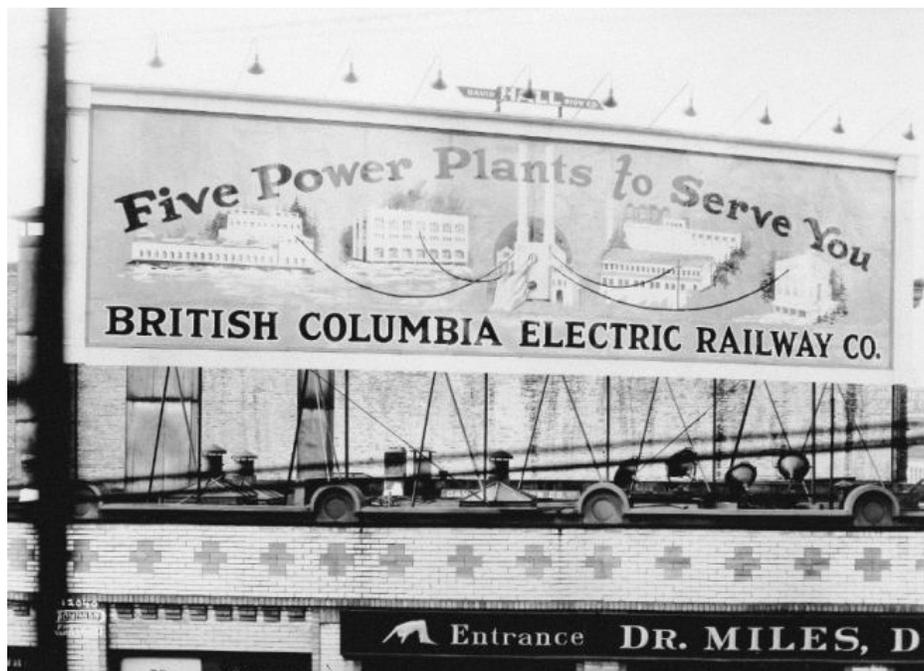
Just sit down, set a switch and your ELECTRIC IRONER does all the heavy work for you.

With this step you now have a COMPLETE HOME LAUNDRY and there's no longer any need to have a special "wash day".

Let an ELECTRIC WASHER, DRYER and IRONER do the job in one easy morning, or in odd moments whenever you wish.

This enthusiasm aligned with another view (widely held since the 1920s) that energy production far outstripped demand. It was believed production from fossil fuel generators and massive hydro projects commissioned during the Depression would eventually make energy 'too cheap to meter'.

This BC Electric billboard reinforces that belief, letting us know five power plants were ready for any sort of energy recklessness we could dish out.



1973: The OPEC wakeup call

Between 1973 and 1974, oil prices in North America nearly quadrupled, due to an embargo created by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Although this spike didn't come close to the energy prices Europeans were used to paying, it rattled the consciousness of Americans and Canadians. It also shattered the idea of endlessly abundant supply.

The seventies brought a flurry of environmental legislation and the rise of energy advocacy groups such as the [US Department of Energy](#) (the group which, in 1992, helped create [ENERGY STAR® energy efficiency standards](#)). Some of us still remember U.S. President Jimmy Carter asking us to [save energy by putting on a cardigan and turning down the thermostat](#).

Suddenly, the idea of [efficiency in construction and project management put forward by utilities like BC Hydro](#) was replaced by the idea of energy *conservation* as both an environmental and economic virtue.

The age of stagnation and misinformation

Like Jimmy Carter, many of the initiatives put into place as a response to the energy crisis failed to get traction. And like Carter, they were 'voted' out.

Punk rock, a music movement in revolt against out-of-touch politicians and institutions, was drowned out by our lust for the good life and all its material rewards. And energy efficiency was eclipsed by excess in the latter '80s and '90s, with the rise of McMansions, massive glass office buildings and the Hummer, icons to the me-first movement.

The news wasn't all bad. Consistent energy standards and practices were slowly being put into place, leading to the launch of highly visible second generation conservation agencies like Power Smart.

Al Gore, the hockey stick, and the rebirth of conservation

Hurricane Katrina brought environmental devastation to our backyard, an event climate scientists said would reoccur because of human-caused climate change.

Meanwhile, our addiction to consumption was called into question as business scandals like Enron exposed the dark side of greed. And finally, there was Al Gore, The Inconvenient Truth, and the [hockey stick graph of escalating climate change](#).

Gore offered few solutions in his explosive film. But energy conservation (in the form of the new, quirky [CFL light bulb](#) was put forward as a step in the right direction.

Not unexpectedly, organizations like Power Smart saw a tremendous upswing in awareness, and an expanded mandate.

So here we stand, 40 years of conservation later. British Columbians are now saving the equivalent amount of electricity to meet the annual needs of more than 440,000 homes.

BC Hydro still sees conservation as the first and best way to help meet growing energy demand in B.C., and reducing energy waste is now a priority among most British Columbians.

What does the future hold? Bet on conservation becoming more about innovation than sacrifice.

Thanks to blinding technological progress, we are seeing energy conservation innovation become both sexy and

mainstream.

The future looks as bright as an LED chandelier, you might say.

Marc Stoiber is a Vancouver-based writer and speaker with a special focus on sustainability issues.

Sep 3, 2013

Team Power Smart Photo Contest: Create your own ad



Vancouver's Pat Donnelly was a finalist in the 2009 Team Power Smart photo contest with this amazing shot of clouds near dusk at Vancouver's False Creek.

Snap a photo, write an inspirational message, and you could win a Microsoft Surface Pro Tablet

The annual Team Power Smart Photo Contest is back for the fifth year, with an added twist.

This year, we want a photo and a quick message that encourages your friends, family and community to also join Team Power Smart.

You can share what inspired you to join the team. Did you want to participate in the \$75 challenge? Are you passionate about creating a better future? Did you want access to tips, deals and contests? We want your inspiration for joining the team, to motivate others to Join Team Power Smart as well.

Combine your inspirational message with a great photo, and your ad could be featured in a Team Power Smart advertising campaign.

Prizes, judging and public voting

Submissions will be reviewed by a judging panel, consisting of the 2009 Team Power Smart photo contest winner, and representatives from Team Power Smart, BC Hydro, London Drugs and an advertising agency. The panel will select the top 10 submissions, which will then be developed into ads, and posted to the [London Drugs Facebook page](#) for a final round of voting by the public.

The winning photographer will also receive the grand prize of a Microsoft Surface Pro Tablet, a Type Cover and a Tucano carrying case. Nine runners-up will receive a \$100 gift certificate to London Drugs and a Team Power Smart gift bag.

How to enter

This year's contest is officially open. From September 2 to October 13 submit your photos and message at the [London Drugs contest page](#). Keep the default heading "Join Team Power Smart and Save" or create your own catchy headline.

Write a short message encouraging your friends, family and community to join you and other Team Power Smart members, upload your image and choose from three ad templates.

You must be a Team Power Smart member to enter the photo contest, so if you're already a member, visit the [London Drugs contest page](#) to enter. If you aren't yet a member, [join](#) today by creating a MyHydro Profile.



Larry Paris won the 2009 Team Power Smart Photo Contest with this photo taken during a ferry ride through B.C.'s picturesque Inside Passage.

Previous winner offers tips for a stunning shot

The 2009 Team Power Smart photo contest winner, Larry Paris, offered his top tips for capturing a great photo in October's Team Power Smart member magazine in BC Magazine. Here's his advice for fellow members looking to take home the prize:

- **Always be prepared** — Make sure you're always packing a camera, even if it's just the one on your cellphone — you never want to miss an opportunity.
- **Take lots of pictures** — Digital cameras make it easy to be snap-happy. Paris says he often takes 100 photos to get just one good shot.
- **Be patient** — When photographing wildlife, bring a long lens, stay perfectly still and silent, and wait for the perfect shot as you might only get one — the sound of the shutter clicking is often enough to scare wild animals away.
- **Capitalize on the season** — Fall is the best time of year for photographers, says Paris, who likes to take advantage of the shorter, clear days to capture brilliant sunrises and sunsets.

Finding the right images for advertising

This year, you'll need to think about how your written message combines with your terrific photo.

As Paris says, an image can make or break an ad. The photo should be able capture your attention in seconds and should be clear, recognizable and easy to understand. When selecting images, we like photos that are bright, positive and have an energetic feel. Try taking pictures from different perspectives and unique angles, or experiment by cropping the photo in an interesting way. Do you prefer photographing people? Try to make the shot as candid and authentic as possible. And you can use photo editing tools to enhance your submission!

Complete the advertisement by writing a captivating headline and message encouraging British Columbians to join you on Team Power Smart.

[Enter this year's Team Power Smart photo contest now](#)

Aug 30, 2013

Meadow Creek Spawning Channel: Viewing hours, open house



Viewing hours revised to allow grizzlies to dine in peace

There's no question that the kokanee spawning channel near Meadow Creek, at the north end of Kootenay Lake, is successful.

Jointly operated by the [Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program](#) and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the channel typically accommodates up to half a million spawning kokanee each year, with more than 40 million eggs being deposited in the gravel.

Such large numbers do not go unnoticed, especially by the grizzly bears that frequent the area. As a result, to both protect the bears and the humans who come to see the red spectacle, the channel will be open for viewing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, when bear activity is at its minimum.

The gates will be closed at all other times. The provincial ministry may order a temporary total closure to the public if there are future human-bear conflicts at the channel.

"It certainly is an issue of safety, both for the bears that feast on the kokanee, and for the people who come to view the fish," says Matt Neufeld, fisheries biologist with the provincial ministry. "In the past we have had several human-bear conflicts, when we have had to close the channel to the public for several days.

"This year we want to be proactive, reduce the risk of such conflicts, and keep the channel open for public viewing as much as possible."

The kokanee spawning run lasts from late August to early October, with the peak time for viewing the kokanee usually occurring during the first two weeks of September.

The 3.3-kilometre looping spawning channel was the largest of its kind in the world when it was built in 1967 with BC Hydro funds. It was built to compensate for upstream spawning habitat lost due to the construction of Duncan Dam.

To this day the channel continues to play a vital role for kokanee; it accounts for about 75 per cent of total kokanee fry production in Kootenay Lake.



Open house set for Sunday, September 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition to the daily opening times, there will be an open house at Meadow Creek spawning channel on Sunday September 8 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The free, family event -hosted by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - provides a great opportunity to talk to biologists, and view the fish at (or near) the peak of their run.

"Bear Smart" information will also be provided, and the limnologist (freshwater specialist) will be on site to answer questions about the Nutrient Restoration Program in Kootenay Lake.

"Since 1992 the FWCP and the Ministry have been adding nutrients to Kootenay Lake, and it is widely viewed as one of the most successful large-lake restoration projects in the world," says compensation program public representative, Grant Trower. "It helps the kokanee which is considered a keystone species and important prey for predator fish; the Gerrard rainbow and bull trout thrive here because of the bountiful kokanee."

The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., First Nations and local community groups to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife and their supporting habitats affected by the creation of BC Hydro owned and operated generation facilities in the Columbia region.

The spawning channel is located about four kilometres northwest of Meadow Creek off Highway 31. For more information about the open house or the new viewing hours phone 250 354 6333.

Aug 9, 2013

Pay attention to safety around water

To beat the summer heat, hundreds of thousands of people are expected to visit the 16 recreation areas operated by BC Hydro throughout the province.

BC Hydro's recreation areas are located on reservoirs and rivers that are a part of hydroelectric generation facilities. BC Hydro is reminding the public to avoid designated danger zones around reservoirs and obey posted signs.

BC Hydro advises British Columbians using rivers, lakes and reservoirs near its generating facilities to exercise caution as water levels and flows may change quickly. BC Hydro reminds the public to also follow these safety precautions when around water:

- Supervise children on or near water closely at all times. Children and those who can't swim should wear personal floatation devices.
- Look for hazards concealed under the surface of the water.
- Provide an approved personal floatation device for everyone in a boat or canoe, even an inflatable model.
- Ensure your boat or canoe has a whistle or other noisemaker on board that can be used to signal for help in the event of an emergency.
- Don't overload your watercraft with people or gear.
- Check the forecast before you head out and watch for changes in the weather.

To learn more about how to be safe around water visit: bchydro.com/besafe.



Aug 27, 2013

Conservation program invites community champions

Non-profit groups working to promote sustainability in B.C. are invited to showcase their work and enter a contest to win one of five \$10,000 conservation awards.

Through the Community Champions program, BC Hydro encourages non-profit organizations to demonstrate environmental leadership in their community and use the award to help implement their sustainability initiatives.

To enter the contest, BC Hydro is asking non-profit groups to explain their sustainability projects in a three-minute YouTube video and submit it online before Sept. 30.

BC Hydro will select up to 15 finalists, and then the public will determine three winners by voting for their favourite videos between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15. The remaining two will be determined by a panel of judges.

B.C. classrooms are also welcome to vote for a winner. By voting, each class will be entered in a draw to win \$1,000 for a sustainability project in their school.

Last year's Community Champions showcased a wide range of sustainability projects, ranging from developing gardens at North Vancouver schools, to teaching students how to grow food and cook their own meals, to the promotion of water conservation and stewardship in lake communities in the Kootenay region.

For more information visit: champions.bchydro.com.