

Alberta Solar Market Development (ASMD)

Time Frame

June 2019 – June 2020

Contribution Required for Participation

\$ 5,000.00

Project Aim and Objectives

The aim of this Strategic Project is to capture increasing near-term and long-term market opportunities for solar energy in Alberta's electricity supply-mix and to support the development of the policy and regulatory framework that can enable project development. In particular, ASMD will focus on enabling market-driven solar investments including the adoption of behind-the-meter solar and opportunities for bi-lateral contracting.

Targeted outcomes include:

1. Effective of new Technology Innovation and Emissions Reductions (TIER) regime (e.g., ability to generate carbon offsets),
2. Effective wholesale market design, including changes to the wholesale market (e.g., Capacity Market or future changes to energy market),
3. Reduce red-tap and regulatory burden leading to reduced costs, and
4. Effective regulation to value benefits of distribution-connected projects.

Industry Context

CanSIA has dedicated significant effort and resources to policy and market development activities in Alberta, supported by strategic projects since 2015/2016 (most recently Alberta Solar Market Development in 2018/2019). During this time-frame, the province's solar electricity market has taken significant strides forward:

Micro-Generation: An enhanced Micro-Generation Regulation (increased maximum system size of 5 MW and siting flexibility to enable basic meter aggregation and adjacent sites).

Distribution-Connected Generation: Following extensive consultations, the enabling legislation for solar generation connected to the distribution system (and not tied-to-load) is expected to be passed in Spring 2018 with resultant rules and requirements to follow by Fall 2018. The new regulation will cut red-tape for all projects of this type. For projects with community participation, and in addition to funding for municipalities (\$16.5m. to be administered by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, details June 2018). In 2019, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) launched the Distribution System Inquiry to review three fundamental questions: 1) How will technology affect the grid and incumbent electric distribution facility owners; and how quickly?, 2) Where alternative approaches to providing electrical service develop, how will the incumbent electric distribution utilities be expected to respond, and what services should be subject to regulation?, and 3) How should the rate structures of the electric distribution facility owners be modified to ensure that price signals encourage electric distribution facility owners, consumers, producers, prosumers and alternative technology providers to use the grid and related resources in an efficient and cost-effective way?

To learn more about this or other Strategic Projects and how your company can participate, please contact Julie Mair, Membership & Business Development Manager by email at julie@cansia.ca or by phone at 613-736-9077 x230.

2019-2020 Strategic Projects



Utility-Generation: Resulting from a competitive procurement, Alberta Infrastructure awarded a 20-year contract to provide electricity to government facilities to a 100 MW solar project, replacing expiring wind power contracts to supply approximately 55 percent of the government’s annual electricity needs. The average price is 4.8 cents per kilowatt-hour representing the most cost-effective government procurement of solar power in Canadian history.

CanSIA’s AMSD will continue to leverage the commitment and combined resources of key industry players to ensure that the industry remains on track to capture an increasing near-term and long-term role for solar energy in Alberta’s electricity supply-mix.

Scope of Work and Deliverables

This 1-year project will build upon CanSIA’s past market development initiatives in the province of Alberta and, recognizing the change in government policy, will work within revised policy constructs giving rise to near-term solar market opportunities and a path to a sustainable long-term role for solar in the provinces’ future electricity needs. This project will directly engage key elected officials, policy-makers and regulatory decision-makers on priority issues to ensure that the political will and potential that is now well understood in the province translates to near- and long-term solar market growth. A large portion of market development can be reactive in nature in response to political or market-based issues that arise. As such, the scope of this project may evolve but its focus will not waiver from introducing enablers and removing barriers to an increasing market share from solar electricity. A strategic planning session will be held early in this strategic project that will identify priority actions.

Project Fund Allocation

The majority of project funds will be directed towards research/analytics, policy recommendation development and government and media relations support. No more than 20% will be allocated to project management, administrative and travel expenses.

Project-Specific Opportunities

By sitting on the Advisory Committee, participants will have the opportunity to contribute their knowledge and expertise to this project to ensure that all recommendations and positions align with contributing company priorities and the broader needs of the industry. Participants of this project will: receive regular briefings on research and analytics undertaken by external consultants, drive the development of industry recommendations based on the results of commissioned research, and will have the opportunity to participate on an as-needed basis in meetings with decision-makers from government, agencies, and utilities.

CanSIA’s Strategic Projects rely exclusively on the contributions of participating companies who deserve recognition for their contribution to the future of the industry. CanSIA Members who contribute to and participate in this and/or other 2018-2019 Strategic Projects will be recognized as CanSIA Influencers and access benefits not available through traditional membership.

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