

Vancouver Island needs tide and wind power

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If B.C. Hydro had permitted independent power producers on Vancouver Island to go ahead in previous years, there might have been no need to bail out Tsawwassen house owners to the tune of \$90 million.

Were the Island more self sufficient the larger transmission lines would not have been needed.

The Island has more wind power than it will ever use and a huge tidal potential (presently excluded from the bidding process).

Our abundant green energy resources could displace dirty fuels, including Burrard Thermal, and be ready to fuel electric plugin cars.

Vancouver Island is surrounded by tidal power, as are the British Isles, but they are already using theirs. Tidal energy could create permanent jobs and an energy export market, replacing some of forestry's lost jobs.

Canada's renewable energy production is 2,000 megawatts, compared to Germany's 23,300.

So what is the latest news? B.C. Hydro's Clean Call for energy in November received potential bids for 17,000 GWH, of which B.C.. Hydro now says it is going to accept only 3,000 GWH. Without contracts for wind power and reasonable prices over the long term there will be no real windpower industry.

The economic downturn is no excuse for reducing renewables, as fossil fuels will only become more expensive, scarcer and dirtier, like the tarsands.

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