

In the News: Week Ending June 22nd, 2018

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Ontario

Solar

[Niagara Falls Review: Ontario solar market expected to decline. Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

Exhibitors at the Solar Canada conference said they expected Doug Ford's election to direct business in the solar industry away from Ontario and towards Alberta and the US, as Ford's cancellation of the Green Ontario Fund will cut rebates for residential solar.

Nuclear

[CTV News: Ontario nuclear plant to produce medical isotopes used for diagnosing diseases. Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

OPG, Canadian Nuclear Partners, and BWX Technologies Inc announced that the Darlington nuclear plant will be used to generate Mo-99—an isotope used for medical imaging—following the shutdown of the National Research Universal reactor at Chalk River several months ago, which once generated 40% of the global supply of medical isotopes.

[CBC News: Doug Ford promises to keep Pickering nuclear plant open until 2024. Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

Doug Ford announced he would keep the Pickering nuclear plant open until 2024—fulfilling a campaign promise—which he said would save \$600 million on hydro bills and would protect the 7,500 jobs province-wide that depend on the plant. A spokesperson from Greenpeace Canada claimed that keeping the plant open is an unnecessary risk as most of its generation is exported to the US.

[Ottawa Citizen: Reevely: Ford reaffirms pledge to keep Pickering nuclear station open ... for the wrong reasons. By David Reevely, Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

David Reevely criticized Doug Ford's justification for keeping the Pickering nuclear plant open—that it will protect jobs in Ontario—for being part of a consistent pattern in this province of focusing on local benefits while ignoring the costs to ratepayers, though he agreed in this case that keeping Pickering open is the lowest cost solution. Reevely blamed the same impulse in the province's initial construction of nuclear power, and in the Liberal's renewable procurements, for Ontario's electricity costs.

Policy

[CBC: Doug Ford vows to scrap Ontario's cap-and-trade program as his 1st act as premier. By Amara McLaughlin, Jun 15th, 2018.](#)

Doug Ford announced that his first official act in government would be to end Ontario's cap and trade program—as he campaigned on—which, along with promised gas tax reductions, he said

would reduce gas prices by 10¢/L. Ford said he would give immediate notice to Quebec and California, which are in the joint cap and trade market with Ontario, while more details on the process of exiting from cap and trade will be governed by legislation to come.

[The Globe and Mail: California, Quebec close carbon market to Ontario. By Shawn McCarthy, Jun 17th, 2018.](#)

California and Quebec cut off Ontario companies from participating in their joint cap and trade market with Ontario—following Doug Ford’s announcement that Ontario will exist the market—to prevent holders from dumping their allowances and crashing future market prices of emitting carbon. Gerald Butts, principal secretary to Justin Trudeau, criticized Ford for opening the province up to lawsuits over Ford’s move to exit the market.

[Policy Options: Will Doug Ford’s promises exacerbate Ontario’s problems? By Mark Winfield, Jun 18th, 2018.](#)

Environmental studies professor Mark Winfield argued that Doug Ford needs to reduce electricity rates by decreasing the underlying costs—which he claimed have largely been driven by nuclear refurbishments—and that future capacity should be supplied by a broad range of sources—including renewables, conservation, and imports from Quebec. He was critical of proposals to reduce rates by reopening renewables contracts—citing the cost of gas plant cancellations under Dalton McGuinty—and further criticized Ford’s proposals to move funding for conservation programs to the tax base and to reduce electricity rates by eliminating cap-and-trade.

[iPolitics: Ottawa to impose Ontario carbon tax when Ford scraps cap-and-trade. By Marieke Walsh, Jun 15th, 2019.](#)

The federal Environment Ministry warned that they would impose a carbon tax on Ontario if the province scraps its cap and trade program—which incoming premier Doug Ford has announced he would—while insisting the carbon pricing reduces emissions without hurting the economy. Ford has announced he will have his attorney general join Saskatchewan in opposing federal carbon pricing, a move his platform budgeted \$30 million for.

[Toronto Sun: PARKIN: Political gesturing on carbon pricing could cost Canadians billions. By Tom Parkin, Jun 17th, 2018.](#)

Former NDP staffer Tom Parkin argued that the cost to Ontario of scrapping cap and trade could be \$10 billion, with \$8 billion of that made up of the foregone revenue from the program over the next four years. The remaining share of the cost would come from the province’s \$420 million share of the \$1.4 billion Carbon Economy Fund, which the federal government grants only to provinces that cooperate with them, \$2 to \$4 billion in compensation for the lost value of allowances, and litigation costs that could reach over \$100 million.

[Ecofiscal Commission: Can Ontario hit its targets without carbon pricing? By Brendan Frank, Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

The Ecofiscal Commission's Brendan Frank argued that achieving Ontario's emissions targets without either cap and trade or a carbon tax, as it seems Doug Ford intends to do, would be more far costlier—even though those costs won't be as visible. The alternatives to carbon pricing he cited—either subsidies or regulations—require far more careful and considered government action than often ends up occurring, while still likely increasing costs for equivalent reductions as compared to carbon pricing.

[Financial Post: Suncor, Enbridge seek clarity as Doug Ford upends Ontario's carbon trading program. By Jim Efstathiou Jr. and Josh Wingrove, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Suncor, Enbridge, and other Canadian companies involved in fossil fuels asked for clarity around Doug Ford's plan to end cap and trade, as many businesses hold allowances out until the end of 2020 that may now be worthless.

Infrastructure

[Toronto Sun: Ford PCs end Green Ontario Fund rebates. By Antonello Artuso, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

The Green Ontario Fund ended most applications for energy efficiency rebate programs, following the election of Doug Ford on a platform of ending funding for programs like the Fund which are funded by cap and trade revenues. The PC platform included a \$500 million fund for environment-related measures, which could include efficiency programs like those provided by the Fund along with various other measures.

[Toronto Star: Ford Conservatives ready to hit the brakes on electric vehicle rebates. By Rob Ferguson, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

A spokesman for Doug Ford clarified that Ford intends to cancel the province's electric vehicle rebates, though he did not provide a timeline, along with other programs funded by the revenues from cap and trade. A representative from the lobby group Environmental Defence said that though falling costs will eventually relieve the need for electric vehicle subsidies, they are still necessary.

[CBC News: New program helps people save money on electricity. By Heather Kitching, Jun 18th, 2018.](#)

Thunder Bay Hydro launched an energy efficiency program for low-income households who don't qualify for provincial efficiency programs, covering Thunder Bay and surrounding regions, funded by a provincially established trust last year.

[Global News: Environment committee recommends Hydro Ottawa surplus fund energy-efficiency projects. By Christopher Whan, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

The Ottawa city council environment and climate protection recommended the city establish energy efficiency projects—funded by Hydro Ottawa’s \$633,000 dividend surplus last year—to build electric vehicle charging stations and provide rebated for replacing wood stoves and other energy-efficient upgrades.

Canada

Quebec

Infrastructure

[Global News: Hydro-Québec and U.S. partner sign agreement to get power to Massachusetts. Jun 14th, 2018.](#)

Hydro-Québec and Central Main Power Company signed a deal to construct transmission to Massachusetts to provide 9.45 TWh of electricity per year annually for 20 years beginning in 2022m after a previous transmission line through New Hampshire was blocked by the state.. The newly signed contract still needs to be approved by the Massachusetts Department of Energy.

Manitoba

Infrastructure

[Global News: Manitoba Metis Federation threatens transmission line support. By Timm Bruch, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Three months after the Manitoba provincial government killed Manitoba Hydro’s \$67 million term sheet with the Manitoba Metis Federation, the MMF is considering pursuing legal action which could cause long-term delays in the completion of the \$453 million power line intended to connect Manitoba and Minnesota.

Saskatchewan

Wind and Solar

[Global News: SaskPower announces 10 megawatt solar project, first in Sask. By Colton Prail, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Saskatchewan’s first utility-scale solar plant will be operational by 2019. Although the 10-MW plant will only account for 0.22% of Saskatchewan’s power generation, it aims to aid the province in hitting their goal of generating 50% of their electricity through renewable facilities by 2030.

Alberta

Policy

[Pembina Institute: Alberta's current carbon pricing plan is a big improvement from days gone by. By Sara Hastings-Simon, Jun 18th, 2018.](#)

Alberta's new carbon pricing plan will provide more incentives for companies to reduce their emissions. The old Specific Gas Emitters Regulation system covered less than 50% of Alberta's emissions while the new Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation will cover roughly 70%.

British Columbia

Infrastructure

[Green Car Reports: British Columbia opens first hydrogen filling station in Canada. By Matthew Klippenstein, Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

The first retail hydrogen fueling station in Canada opened in Vancouver on June 15th. By 2020 British Columbia plans to have a total of eight hydrogen stations throughout the province, five of which are planned for the Greater Vancouver Area.

Indigenous Communities

Infrastructure

[Kenora Daily Miner and News: Wauzhushk Onigum launches first electric school bus in an Ontario First Nation. By Kathleen Charlebois, Jun 14th, 2018.](#)

The Wauzhushk Onigum Nation announced they will be integrating an electric school bus into their school system this fall, the first of its kind in Ontario. Representatives believe that the use of the electric bus will prove that electric vehicles are capable of dealing with the arduous terrain and weather which exists Kenora and elsewhere in Canada.

National

Nuclear

[Nuclear Energy Insider: Canada advances four SMR designs towards demo reactor; Finland EPR start-up delayed. Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories received requests from four SMR developers, including at least one Canadian developer, to build demonstration plants. Last year, CNL received 19 expressions of interest for prototype or demonstration SMRs.

Policy

[The Globe and Mail: The carbon-tax debate is filled with dishonesty. By Gary Mason, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Gary Mason argued that the federal Conservative party seems to be aligned with their provincial counter-parts in arguing that the Liberal plan to increase carbon taxation exponentially throughout the next five years will be too detrimental to Canada's economy. Party policy concerning carbon taxation seems destined to be an important topic on the 2019 general election.

[National Post: Andrew Coyne: We know how much a carbon tax would cost. If only we could say the same about the Tories' alternative. By Andrew Coyne, Jun 18th, 2018.](#)

Parliament was delayed for 12 hours last Thursday when the Conservatives asked the Liberal government to release all documents relating the calculating the impact of the federal carbon tax on costs to households. Conservatives called the Liberal refusal a 'carbon tax cover-up' despite the existence of many publicly accessible studies which estimate new carbon taxes could increase household costs from \$600-1100 varying regionally.

[Toronto Sun: GOLDSTEIN: Trudeau's 'secret' carbon price exposed. By Lorrie Goldstein, Jun 16th, 2018.](#)

Lorrie Goldstein accused the federal liberals of hiding household costs of a \$50/tonne carbon tax due to the unpopularity of the costs, citing assistant economics professor Jennifer Winter's estimates to the Senate last year that a national carbon tax of \$50 per tonne by 2020 will cost the average household between \$600-1150. Winter also estimated the cost of a \$100/tonne carbon tax, which she said would be necessary to meet Canada's 2030 targets, costing between \$1200-2250 per household.

[The Globe and Mail: Ottawa holds all the cards on carbon pricing. By Tracy Snoddon, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

Despite Premier elect Doug Ford's plan to withdraw from the Western Climate Initiative which links Ontario's cap-and-trade system with Quebec and California, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau still holds sway in regulating Canada's carbon-tax as he can impose a carbon-tax backstop on any province which does not have policy in place to ensure they meet federal limits. This guarantees that the federal government can ensure carbon taxation meets the \$50 dollar/tonne limits by 2022 regardless of provincial government policy but deciding how the proceeds will be distributed is still undecided.

United States

Wind and Solar

[Utility Dive: As distributed solar expands, can utility system planning keep up? By Herman K. Trabish, Jun 14th, 2018.](#)

Growth in the residential solar industry dropped by 16% in 2016 and was flat in Q1 of 2018 while indicators suggest the same drivers affecting 2016-2018 will be affecting solar's growth through to 2020. Yet the amount of data collected to formulate these predictions is minimal, making it of vital importance to develop more accurate systems of data acquisition and analysis in the solar utilities industry.

[Chron: Largest solar farm in Texas getting battery system. By Rye Druzin, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

A grid-scale battery capable of storing enough electricity to provide 10 MW for more than four hours is expected to be online at Vistra Energy's Upton 2 solar farm in West Texas by the end of 2018.

[Reuters: House set to debate offshore wind energy bills in U.S. waters. Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

The U.S House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral resources began debate on three offshore wind proposals Tuesday June 19th. The proposals aim to develop plans for federal offshore leases, create a federal grant for education and careers programs, and lastly to denote the Interior Department authority in managing submerged lands off U.S territories for offshore energy.

[Greentech Media: Department of Energy Issues Recommendations for Post-Maria Puerto Rico. By Emma Foehringer Merchant, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

The Department of Energy reported that Puerto Rico should rebuild its energy grid—which was nearly completely destroyed last year—including a significant proportion of microgrids and renewable generation.

Nuclear

[Forbes: Stop Letting Your Ridiculous Fears Of Nuclear Waste Kill The Planet. By Michael Shellenberger, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Michael Shellenberger argued that people shouldn't fear nuclear waste but should instead see it as a relatively benign product of a vitally important industry. Nuclear has provided a far safer alternative to fossil fuel burning energy facilities while fear of the potential dangers involved with nuclear power, such as its waste and weapons, are not just unfounded, but counterproductive to saving our planet.

Policy

[Mass Live: Massachusetts Senate approves revenue-neutral carbon tax as part of energy bill. By Mary C. Serreze, Jun 15th, 2018.](#)

An energy bill approved by the Massachusetts Senate would add ‘pollution charge’ to fossil fuel prices outside of electricity generation, which is already covered by other programs. The funds will be distributed directly to its citizens, businesses—especially those exposed to competition outside of the state—and other institutions, rather than funding state programs.

[Axios: The promise and peril of carbon pricing. By Ben German, Jun 15th, 2018.](#)

According to a new survey, public opinion support for the taxation of carbon emissions increased to 47% as of fall 2017 and remains heavily influenced by partisanship. Disagreement among experts continues to persist as to the effectiveness of combating climate change with carbon taxes.

[Energy News Network: Climate-change issues loom larger for energy company shareholders. By Kathiann M. Kowalski, Jun 18th, 2018.](#)

The National Association of Manufacturers reported that climate change-related disclosures have no noticeable effects on stock prices in the short-term. However, the report neglected to evaluate long-term effects which perhaps created an overly optimistic representation of the effects of climate change disclosures on stock prices, especially for businesses which rely heavily on fossil fuels.

[Axios: Nuclear, renewable firms fund new group pushing carbon tax. By Amy Harder, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Two former leadership members of the U.S Senate, Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and John Breaux (D-La.) plan to launch an advocacy and lobbying group in support of a carbon tax. Although such a venture may be difficult as proposals for carbon taxation is wrought with difficulty at the federal level, Lott and Breaux’s group, Americans for Carbon Dividends, is supported by Exelon Corporation, First Solar and the American Wind Energy Association, and have received contributions in excess of \$1 million so far.

[The New York Times: New Group, With Conservative Credentials, Plans Push for a Carbon Tax. By John Schwartz, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

This fall the new group Americans for Carbon Dividends will begin its campaign to advertise their proposal for the taxation of GHGs and redistribute the revenue to taxpayers. Their proposal would set a tax of \$40 per ton of carbon dioxide in order to discourage the use of fossil fuels.

[Axios: The push to shape a carbon tax. By Ben German, Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

World Resources Institute paper argued that carbon tax proposals should include provisions which would allow for adjustments should taxation prove ineffective in curbing carbon emissions. This paper was released just after the announcement of the new lobbying group Americans for Carbon Dividends which will lobby for the implementation of carbon taxes in American which have hitherto received little support in Congress.

Infrastructure

[EIA: Adoption of autonomous vehicles could increase U.S. transportation energy consumption. By Nicholas Chase, Jun 18th, 2018.](#)

In 2017 on-road vehicles accounted for 31% of all delivered end-use energy in the United States and EIA's *Annual Energy Outlook 2018* estimates that the widespread implementation of self-driving vehicles could cause that to increase. EIA approximates that light-duty vehicle miles could increase by 18% than the 2017 level.

[Vox: Most American homes are still heated with fossil fuels. It's time to electrify. By David Roberts, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

The process of changing household heating from natural gas to electrical heating is cumbersome and financially fruitless task for the average American, which combined with policymaking decisions has contributed to the continued growth of the natural gas network throughout the United States. Vague economic information makes the task job of switching from fossil fuel heating and cooling even more difficult.

[EIA: State efficiency incentives averaged \\$24 per customer, ranged from \\$0 to \\$128 in 2016. By Meera Fickling, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

Incremental savings resulting from energy efficient spending for reporting year 2016 reached 27.5 billion kWh, some 0.7% of America's retail electrical sales. States implementing energy efficiency resource standards (EERS) saved the most on average at 1%, or \$31 annually, compared to the 0.4% saved by states with no energy efficiency goals.

[The New York Times: Power Companies' Mistakes Can Cost Billions. Who Should Pay? By Ivan Penn, Jun 14th, 2018.](#)

A bill presented before the California Legislature would give utility companies the capability to pass on costs from legal settlement directly to ratepayers, regardless of culpability. Critiques argued that the adoption of such a bill would allow utility companies to continue inadequately maintaining infrastructure and enacting poor policy, while utility company spokesmen claimed such financial safeguards would provide a necessary legal shield from potential bankruptcy.

[Greentech Media: Reality Check: Blockchain Needs Proof of Concept Before Revolutionizing the Grid. By Rachel Ett, Jun 14th, 2018.](#)

Rachel Ett argued that the practical value of Blockchains in the energy industry may be overestimated. She suggested that blockchains may not be as useful in solving current issues facing the energy system and that most of the problems which Blockchains solve are “additive, but not revolutionary.”

[Kleinman Center for Energy Policy: The Distribution Grid Gap on Cybersecurity. By Christina Simeone, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Christina Simone, Director of Policy and External Affairs at the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy argued that further innovation and implementation of cybersecurity measures at the distribution level of power grids should be a main concern amongst utility companies, as distribution grids represent the easiest target for cyber intrusion. Further modernization creates an amplified risk for attack and while enforcement and regulation of minimum security standards may be costly, Simone argued the present is the most opportune time to adopt such measures.

[The Washington Post: Correction: Western Electric Grid story. By Jonathan J. Cooper, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

CAISO wants to expand to other western states to balance renewable energy but people are worried this could expand the use of coal and gas.

[Greentech Media: Power Ledger and Silicon Valley Power to Track EV Low-Carbon Credits via Blockchain. By Jeff St. John, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

Santa Clara municipality is in the process of deploying blockchain technology to track the use of energy produced at a parking garage in the city’s entertainment district, specifically the energy consumed by electric vehicles. If successful this pilot project could potentially be applied on a grander scale whereby electric vehicle fleet owners and charging networks could potentially sell credits to fossil fuel refiners and producers, while the data collected from blockchain energy tracking offers a more concrete understanding energy consumed by electric vehicles.

[RTO Insider: Nine States Call for Rules to Boost ZEVs. By Jason Fordney, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

Nine States across the United States are introducing an action plan to increase the number of zero-emission cars sold in their states by requiring automakers to deliver a certain number of electric cars in their states. The Multi-State ZEV Action Plan also comprises 80 recommendations to aid in the facilitation of boosting zero-emission cars.

[Utility Dive: Amid national debate over grid security, NERC says reliability is improving. By Robert Walton, Jun 22nd, 2018.](#)

The NERC's assessment of the North American power grid indicates that the reliability of the national power grid is improving. This news comes at a time when White House officials have been pushed to stop closing fossil fuel power plants, based upon the idea their closures would danger the power grid's reliability, which the NERC's report seems to contradict.

Natural Gas

[The New York Times: The Natural Gas Industry Has a Leak Problem. By John Schwartz and Brad Plumer, Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

A study published by the journal of Science estimates that some 13 million metric tons of methane is lost to leakage due in U.S. domestic gas and oil operations. According to the chief scientist of the Environmental Defense Fund, Steven Hamburg, these emissions are avoidable and could be reduced by up to 75%.

International

Global

Wind and Solar

[Utility Dive: World on track for 50% renewables by 2050, says Bloomberg energy outlook. By Robert Walton, Jun 19th, 2018.](#)

The majority of the \$11.5 trillion being invested into new power generation globally from 2018 to 2050 will go towards renewables according to Bloomberg energy. The report predicts that both coal and nuclear will "have almost disappeared from the electricity mix" in the United States and despite a push to create smaller and less expensive nuclear plants, Bloomberg does not foresee a nuclear revival in America.

Nuclear

[Forbes: If Innovation Makes Everything Cheaper, Why Does It Make Nuclear Power More Expensive? By Michael Shellenberger, Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

Unlike most industries, the cost of new nuclear generation increases as innovation progresses. One of the main factors for this steady increase in expenses comes from construction, as consistent innovation leads to new type of nuclear plants which require re-training workers and re-modeling building materials which has inhibited standardization in the nuclear industry.

[Project Syndicate: Rediscovering the Promise of Nuclear Power. By Wade Allison, Jun 21st, 2018.](#)

Upgrading and expanding nuclear power generation is the only reasonable response to both climate change and providing a reliable back-up energy source, yet countries seem persistent in refusing to invest in nuclear power.

Policy

[**Forbes: An EU-China-Canada Climate Summit Tomorrow Will Shut America Out. By Dave Keating, Jun 19th, 2018.**](#)

On June 20th and 21st the climate ministers of China, Canada and the EU met with representatives from 35 countries to discuss their participation in the Paris Accords and meeting its goals, while American input in the summit will likely be minimal and unwelcome.

[**CBC News: More than 20 countries aim to toughen climate goals by 2020. Jun 21st, 2018.**](#)

Twenty-three nations have expressed willingness to strengthen their resolve in minimizing their greenhouse gas output and increase their dedication to phasing out their fossil fuel usage. This comes in light of a leaked UN report which says global temperatures are set to surpass 1.5 C of pre-industrial levels.

[**Axios: How Trump's trade wars could inadvertently benefit the environment. By Carey King, Jun 20th, 2018.**](#)

Trump's 'America First' isolationist policy may coincidentally reduce GHG emissions to the benefit of the global as less international trade will lead to lower economic growth and lower fossil fuel consumption.

Infrastructure

[**The Globe and Mail: How will the world overcome its largest-ever energy crisis? Slowly. By Richard Rhodes, Jun 15th, 2018.**](#)

Possibly the most difficult question to answer today facing the energy industry is how to limit fossil fuel emission and limit humanity's impact on global warming while simultaneously providing enough energy to fuel our growing population. The only solution we have found seems to be the continued development of renewables and the use of nuclear to provide base-load energy.

[**Bloomberg: Electric Cars Are Going to Suck Up 9% of World's Power Demand. By Brian Eckhouse, Jun 19th, 2018.**](#)

Bloomberg New Energy Finance predicted that up to 9% of global electricity may be consumed by electric cars by 2050, up from 0.2% today.

Natural Gas

[Bloomberg: Unlike Peak Oil, Peaker Gas Has a Future. By Liam Denning, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

Bloomberg New Energy Finance predicted that wind and solar energy use are set to increase dramatically between now and 2050, but perhaps more surprising natural gas will also see more usage throughout the next thirty years. BNEF foresees natural gas as a likely back-up option when solar and wind cannot meet necessary demand, however if storage technologies begin to advance more quickly than anticipated, natural gas' usage will surely decrease by 2050.

Europe

Policy

[Climate Home News: EU can increase 2030 pledge to Paris Agreement, says climate chief. By Karl Mathiesen, Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

The EU's commissioner for climate action, Miguel Arias Cañete, believes the EU should increase its pledge to reduce GHG emissions from 40 to 45%. Cañete stated at a meeting of climate ministers that this pledge is intended to build upon the foundations of the 2015 Paris Accords and hopes that the EU's pledge will influence other nations to take similar action, as the EU accounts for less than 10% of global emissions.

Infrastructure

[AP: Sweden starts construction on fossil fuel-free steel plant. Jun 20th, 2018.](#)

Swedish utility firm Vattenfall have begun construction on a factory which will test the feasibility of producing steel without burning fossil fuels. Vattenfall is partnered with SSAB, a steel company and LKAB, a mining firm, on this project.