



POLICY *Brief*

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, ENERGIZING THE NATION: SCALING UP RENEWABLE ENERGY COOPERATIVES IN CANADA

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Policy Brief: CONTEXT

- Canada's Net-Zero Accountability Act sets very ambitious targets:
 - 40-45 per cent reduction in GHGs by 2030
 - Net zero emissions by 2050
 - Maintaining an efficient, stable, secure, and competitive grid infrastructure, while simultaneously doubling grid capacity by 2050
 - Some call it the most ambitious infrastructure undertaking this century
- To meet the challenge, no policy option can be left unexplored

Policy brief: CONSIDERATIONS

- Part of answer could lie in the formation of Renewable Energy Cooperatives (RECs).
- RECs occupy a small portion of the country's energy market
- According to surveys, Canada has 49 active RECs, 44 percent fewer than identified in the last major census conducted in 2016
- Majority in Ontario as a result of government incentives in 2011-13
- European REScoop federation has advocated and supported development of more than 3000 RECs
- Forming alliances of multi-stakeholder networks can be key
- Canadian RECs have had limited success developing these kinds of networks

Policy Brief: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- If RECs have potential, why haven't they formed in Canada?
- What do you see as the impediments that prevent their adoption?
- Do you think RECs can play a significant role in GHG reduction?
- Given the magnitude of the climate challenge, should governments focus more on large-scale clean energy options?
- Are there options for RECs to be considered as part of climate policy?