

Durham Strategic Energy Alliance joins the Region and Canadian Nuclear Association at Clarington Council for a State of the Nation

On Monday, July 12, the Region of Durham, the Durham Strategic Energy Alliance and the Canadian Nuclear Association presented a vision for Canada's energy future, and the role Durham will play when the three organizations presented at Clarington Council.

The Canadian Nuclear Association – A National Picture:

Providing a state of the nation on nuclear in Canada and a perspective on Clarington and Durham's key role in the industry's success was CNA President, Denise Carpenter. The Association celebrates its half-century anniversary this August and Ms. Carpenter provided a look back as well as offered a view on opportunities for the future.

"There is no doubt that our industry is a mainstay of the Canadian economy," Ms. Carpenter told Council noting over 50 per cent of Ontario's electricity comes from nuclear reactors operating 24/7.

"We want to ensure that Canada remains a global leader in nuclear technology; that we have a robust research and development program to create highly-skilled jobs in Canada – to keep our bright minds at home; and that we are poised to increase economic benefits for Canadians." About 70,000 jobs in Canada are currently directly or in-directly related to the nuclear industry, she said, adding, "We want to continue addressing the challenges of climate change through the generation of clean energy.

"I believe that nuclear energy can power the dreams of tomorrow."

Ms. Carpenter recognized Clarington and the Region of Durham as a model community and leader for the industry.

"Your Municipality has collectively embraced values of what it means to be stewards of energy development and the environment. This is an impressive achievement with a lasting legacy," she said. "OPG's Darlington Nuclear Generating Station has been a part of this community for more than 30 years... You are an example of what communities can accomplish all over Canada – and the world – when it comes to energy development.

"Once again, I do wish to commend OPG (Ontario Power Generation) and you - the Leaders of Clarington – for achieving such a strong safety, performance and community record. You are models in showing us how this can be done across the country."

Following her remarks, Ms. Carpenter played a video highlighting the industry's accomplishments over its 50 year history and its vision for the future (*see it at cna.ca*).

The Region of Durham – The Energy Capital of Ontario

Following on Ms. Carpenter's presentation, Doug Lindeblom, Director of Economic Development for the Region of Durham brought the energy story to the local level as he outlined the Region's own vision and strategy for energy industry development.

"Our goal is to retain and attract investment in the energy industry. We accomplish this by supporting our existing businesses efforts to grow, and by reaching out to companies outside Durham Region to advise them of the tremendous opportunities that exist in Durham for energy investors," he said. "We focus on our strengths, which in the energy sector include nuclear, which is our base, and in the emerging renewable technologies such as solar, wind, and smart grid.

Mr. Lindeblom noted the Region has invested in taking the existing infrastructure and looking to see how that can facilitate growth of an energy cluster. "We have undertaken several studies to examine our energy cluster, understand our strengths and opportunities, and develop programs that take advantage of those strengths," Mr. Lindeblom said. He noted, most recently, the Region completed a study of five renewable energy sub-sectors, including wind, solar, bio-mass, geothermal, and smart grid, and examined where Durham had the greatest opportunity for capitalizing on the Ontario government's 'Green Energy Act' and feed-in-tariff program.

In addition to the nuclear file, two of the most significant areas for growth are the smart grid and solar manufacturing, said Mr. Lindeblom noting the Region's message was delivered to solar companies in Munich Germany last month at the Intersolar Exhibition by Michael Angemeer, President of Veridian and Vice-Chair of the Durham Strategic Energy Alliance (DSEA).

DSEA has already hosted one tour of Durham buildings with a company Mr. Angemeer identified and connected with in Germany, "so we're already starting to see the fruits of our labour," noted Mr. Lindeblom.

The Region and its municipal partners are about to undertake the same kind of review for attracting the nuclear supply chain, he said.

One of the key strategic initiatives for the Region has been partnership on the development and operation of the Durham Strategic Energy Alliance.

"The DSEA represents the core of the energy industry in Durham Region," said Mr. Lindeblom. "The DSEA truly helps set Durham apart from its competitors, and our enthusiastic partnership was noted by the potential solar investor that visited us last week."

The Durham Strategic Energy Alliance: A multi-faceted partnership; one clear energy vision

The Durham Strategic Energy Alliance started with a vision to position Durham Region as a recognized leader in providing timely, sustainable and reliable energy solutions. For the past five years, since inception, its mission has been to foster an energy-friendly

environment that begins in Durham and creates a model for action and partnership linking key players across Ontario and Canada.

As lofty as that may sound, the organization, which started with 11 founding members in 2005 has succeeded in bringing together partners from academic, private sector, service and municipal / regional government organizations to achieve this common goal. It has grown to more than 70 members both within and outside of Durham's borders.

"I would sum it up in this way," said Jacquie Hoornweg, current chair and president of the DSEA volunteer Board of Directors. "We have taken the infrastructure which exists in Durham because of the nuclear stations that book-end the region; and together we have built a strong education, research and innovation / commercialization cluster around energy that we continue to develop today.

"We see Durham as a natural leader for the energy industry in Ontario crossing broad geographical boundaries through North America and around the globe. DSEA, with partners like the Region and CNA, is working to demonstrate the value that Durham Region can bring through expertise, training capability, infrastructure... and a willing host community." Noting Durham must continue to invest in those attributes, she highlighted project successes in the local nuclear industry, with recent on-time, on-budget performance by OPG and its industry partners in the successful conclusion of two major nuclear projects at Darlington and Pickering Nuclear.

Ms. Hoornweg also outlined a number of initiatives DSEA has undertaken for the development and promotion of Durham as an energy sector, including the DSEA annual conference to be held Oct. 12 and 13 (*see DSEA.ca for more details*).

One unique aspect of Durham Region that could lead to a pivotal role in an emerging sector is Durham's dual role as the hub for both the energy and the transportation sectors. "There are a number of communities that can say they have a strong energy sector and others that have a strong transportation hub but there are very few that have the cluster of both energy and transportation together as we do here in Durham Region," Ms. Hoornweg said. With the increasing convergence of electricity and transportation, this could be a distinct competitive advantage for Durham. This is especially true given the clean air energy portfolio in Ontario, which generates most of its electricity from nuclear and hydro-electric power virtually free of greenhouse gas-causing emissions.

DSEA is currently facilitating an electric car project with a number of utility and private sector partners as well as Durham College and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. The project will study grid capabilities and battery storage potential that will provide valuable data for the emerging electric vehicle industry, Ms. Hoornweg said.

Ms. Hoornweg noted collectively the partners of DSEA have built a strong energy cluster with the capability to take a national lead to the benefit of all Canadians. Durham can take what it does so well here at home and apply that to become a significant contributor to the further development and growth of the Canadian nuclear industry, nationally and internationally. "Don't think this is bigger than us. This is us," she said.