



Reliable, affordable energy is crucial for Saskatchewan's agriculture, livestock, and critical minerals sectors. Canada's food security, economic growth, and the global clean energy transition. Addressing rising energy costs, infrastructure investments, and technological readiness is essential for the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of rural Saskatchewan.

## Challenges

**AGRICULTURE:** Energy powers Saskatchewan's agriculture, driving everything from zero-tillage and precision farming to sustainable livestock production and water irrigation. Reliable energy is key to reducing emissions, increasing efficiency, and maintaining productivity. Major areas include:

- **FARM OPERATIONS:** Precision agriculture and Best Management Practices (BMPs) rely on energy to boost efficiency and cut emissions.
- **LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS:** Barn heating, grazing management, and manure disposal are energy-intensive but essential for sustainable production.
- **WATER IRRIGATION:** Consistent energy access is crucial for irrigation systems, especially in dry regions.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Energy fuels agriculture's supply chain, ensuring products reach local, national, and global markets.

### **CRITICAL MINERALS AND ENERGY:**

Saskatchewan holds 23 of Canada's 31 critical minerals, including potash, uranium, helium, lithium, and rare earth elements—essential for clean energy technologies. The province's rare earth processing facility also bolsters national security and global supply chains. The demand for these minerals is expected to grow significantly as global efforts to reduce carbon emissions intensify, and clean energy technologies continue to expand. The federal government must prioritize a sustainable energy transition that supports Saskatchewan's critical mineral sector.

### **IMPACT OF CLEAN ELECTRICITY**

**REGULATIONS (CER):** Saskatchewan's agricultural and energy sectors face serious risks from rising electricity costs, projected to double by 2035 under current Clean Electricity Regulations (CER). This will strain rural municipalities, businesses, and agriculture, with the \$5.5 billion fertilizer industry—employing 19,000 people—particularly vulnerable to higher costs, threatening jobs and productivity.

**CER AMENDMENTS NEEDED:** Amendments to the CER are critical to ensure growth and sustainability for Saskatchewan's rural industries.

# Key Concerns

**REGIONAL DISPARITIES:** Carbon reduction policies disproportionately affect rural Saskatchewan.

**RECOGNITION FOR PRODUCERS:** Acknowledge and incentivize farmers for adopting sustainable, emissions-reducing practices.

**CARBON TAX RELIEF:** Energy-intensive processes, like grain drying, need tax relief to keep the sector viable.

**CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING:** Invest in decommissioning outdated infrastructure and advancing renewable energy.

**AFFORDABLE ENERGY ACCESS:** Maintain energy affordability to preserve Saskatchewan's rural industries and food security.

## Advocacy Asks

Saskatchewan's agriculture, energy, and critical mineral sectors are pivotal to both Canada's economy and the global clean energy transition. SARM urges the federal government to adopt realistic timelines within the Clean Electricity Regulations and to provide targeted investments that recognize Saskatchewan's unique contributions. Moving forward, it is important that Saskatchewan's rural industries remain competitive and sustainable. SARM invites ongoing dialogue on clean energy initiatives to safeguard the future of key sectors and recommends the following options:

**AFFORDABLE ENERGY ACCESS:** Support affordable energy for rural communities to meet agriculture's needs amid rising costs.

**DECARBONIZATION TECHNOLOGIES:** Boost funding for clean energy solutions like SMRs, carbon capture, and energy storage for a reliable transition.

**INCENTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES:** Provide financial incentives for farmers who adopt emissions-reducing practices, retro-actively and into the future.

**CARBON TAX RELIEF:** Offer immediate tax relief for energy-intensive processes, especially where there is no viable alternative like grain drying.

**REGIONAL DISPARITIES:** Ensure fair implementation of carbon reduction efforts across rural Saskatchewan and address regional disparities

**DATA-DRIVEN POLICY:** Support research to inform effective, resilient energy policies for Saskatchewan.

**Thank you  
for your time!**

SARM looks forward to working with the federal government on projects and initiatives positively impacting Saskatchewan's rural municipalities.