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Skies clear for Alberta's solar-energy industry

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CALGARY — Special to The Globe and Mail

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The outlook for Alberta's emerging solar-power industry just became a lot sunnier thanks to the provincial climate change policy that pledges to eliminate coal-fired electricity plants by 2030.

"The opportunity is huge," says David Kelly, founder and chief executive officer of Calgary-based SkyFire Energy Inc., an engineering, procurement and construction provider of solar electric systems.



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"We've been struggling against cheap coal for years," said Mr. Kelly, who entered the industry in 2001 with a solar photovoltaic (PV) installation in his own home. He has since designed and installed solar thermal and PV systems across Canada.

"Currently in Alberta, it's cheaper to produce electricity with coal as long as it's free to dump all of those pollutants in the sky," Mr. Kelly said.

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