

IESO Engagement Update

April 18, 2024

This engagement update provides a snapshot of all active IESO engagement activities. It also helps support a greater understanding of linkages between engagements, and a foundation for more comprehensive and integrated updates. For the most recent information, visit the individual engagement links or the [Engagement Initiatives](#) web page.



Forecasting and Planning

Engagements to support provincial and regional electricity planning over the next 20 years.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Bulk Planning – Central West</u> This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Central-West Bulk Planning initiative. <i>Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report outlining the results of Stage 1 of the planning study will be published in Q1 2024. • A public engagement session was held on Feb 23 during Stakeholder Engagement days to present an overview of the upcoming bulk transmission system planning activities and proposed engagement approach, as well as provide an update on the Central-West bulk plan. • Received 7 feedback submissions. IESO response to feedback will be posted on April 18, 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public Report on Central-West Bulk Study will be published on April 18, 2024.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Next Steps

[IESO Market and Planning Data Engagement](#)

Engagement to better understand how the IESO can provide greater access to Market and Planning data.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

- This engagement was announced in the IESO Bulletin on November 23, 2023.
- Stakeholders were invited to complete a questionnaire on their preference on data access and the use of data.
- The IESO received 11 responses to the questionnaire in January 2024, which were posted on the engagement page.
- An engagement session on the findings from the questionnaire to better understand the views of IESO Market and Planning Data was held on March 21, 2024.

- Received 4 feedback submissions.
- Response to feedback will be posted shortly.

[Northern Ontario Voltage Study](#)

The IESO will share outcomes of a voltage study addressing current limitations in Northern Ontario's electricity infrastructure. The IESO is actively assessing strategies to ensure reliability and stability amid transformative changes.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

- The [Bulk System Reactive Requirement in Northern Ontario Study](#) was published in December 2023.
- A public information webinar was held on December 12 to present the findings of the voltage study.

- This engagement has now concluded.
- A final engagement summary is available on the engagement website

[Regional Planning – Burlington to Nanticoke](#)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Andreea Nicoara**

Indigenous Relations Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- A webinar was held in September 2023 to provide an overview and seek input on the draft electricity demand forecast and the engagement plans for each of the three sub-regions – Brant, Hamilton and Caledonia-Norfolk.
- Three feedback submissions were received and have been posted to the engagement webpage, along with an IESO response to the feedback.

- Engagement will continue at key milestones to develop Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRP) for the region.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Next Steps

Regional Planning – Ottawa Area Sub-Region

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Sari Gerwitz**

Indigenous Relations Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report was posted in March 2023, recommending the development of an IRRP for the Ottawa Area sub-region.
- The report also concluded that no further coordinated regional planning is required for the Outer Ottawa East and West Sub-regions.

- Engagement on the Ottawa Area sub-region IRRP will begin in Q2 2024.

Regional Planning – Toronto

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Sari Gerwitz**

Indigenous Relations Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report was posted in March 2023, recommending the development of an IRRP for the Toronto region.

- Engagement on the Toronto area IRRP is targeted to begin at the end of March.
- A webinar will be held on April 16, 2024, to provide an overview of the electricity landscape and regional planning process, including engagement opportunities.
- Feedback on the items presented during the webinar is due by May 7, 2024.
- A response to feedback received following the webinars will be posted to the dedicated community engagement webpage.

Regional Planning – GTA North (York Region)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Sari Gerwitz**

Indigenous Relations Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report was posted in October 2023, recommending the development of an IRRP for GTA North (York Region).

- Engagement on the York Region IRRP will begin in Q2 2024.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Regional Planning – Windsor-Essex</u> Regional electricity planning is underway this region. <i>Engagement Lead: Andreea Nicoara</i> <i>Indigenous Relations Lead: Nadia Mirabelli</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement has begun on the development of an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP). A webinar was held in December 2023 to provide an overview and seek input on the draft electricity demand forecasts and the engagement plan. Six feedback submissions were received and have been posted to the engagement webpage. Responses to feedback have been posted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement will continue with respect to developing an IRRP for the region until Q4 2024.

Resource Acquisition

Engagements to ensure we have the tools and processes to acquire the resources we need to maintain a reliable and efficient system.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Capacity Auction Enhancements</u> The annual Capacity Auction is one of the procurement mechanisms included in the IESO’s Resource Adequacy Framework and serves as the short-term balancing mechanism in the framework, securing the capacity required to meet Ontario’s short-term resource adequacy needs. <i>Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson</i> <i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource Adequacy Demand Side Vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An engagement webinar was held in March 2021 to discuss prioritization of future enhancements and administration Market Manual Updates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback received following the March 21 webinar can be found on the webpage The next engagement is scheduled for May to continue to identify next steps and needs associated with auction enhancements.
<p><u>Demand-Side Vision</u> The IESO is continuing discussions with the Demand-Side community to explore the enhancement of Demand-Side Resources in the IESO-Administered Market and programs. The initiative addresses key issues and opportunities from the Demand-Side community,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Demand-side vision work is in progress with sessions underway with targeted stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public engagement sessions will be held as required to continue discussions on improvements to Demand Response participation and feedback from technical sessions will be shared.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p>planning to prioritize improvements to Demand Response participation models.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Trisha Hickson</p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling Resources • Capacity Auction Enhancements 		
<p>Transmitter Selection Framework</p> <p>The IESO is developing a Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) to align with the Powering Ontario’s Growth report’s actions and plans, with a progress report due to the Minister by Summer 2024.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Fatema Khatun</p> <p><i>Community Engagement Leads:</i> Sonia Fazari and Andreea Nicoara</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First public focused engagement session was held on February 29, 2024. This session was open to all interested Stakeholders, First Nations, and Communities. • The January 17 webinar for Indigenous communities and municipalities introduced the TSF. • 15 feedback submissions following the January 17 webinar were received and have been posted to the community engagement webpage. 14 of the 15 submissions included specific feedback for TSF. • The second focused public engagement session was held on March 27, 2024. Feedback is due by April 19. • The third focused engagement session is scheduled for April 24, 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement with Indigenous groups and municipalities will continue through Q1 and Q2. • A Progress Report is due to the Ministry of Energy by Summer 2024.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Market Vision and Design Project</u></p> <p>The IESO is seeking feedback from stakeholders on how to cost-effectively enhance the value DERs can provide to Ontario’s electricity system by expanding participation in the wholesale markets.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DER Potential Study • DER Roadmap • Enabling Resources Program • Hybrid Integration Project • Innovation and Sector Evolution White Paper Series • Resource Adequacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work completed under the DER Market Vision and Design Project will be transitioned to the Enabling Resources Program engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the Enabling Resources Program engagement for further information.
<p><u>Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Roadmap</u></p> <p>The IESO is seeking feedback on the development of a roadmap to set out approaches and expected timing for enhancing DER participation in the IESO-administered markets for the products/services they are technically capable of providing.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Study of DER Incentives • DER Market Vision & Design Project • DER Potential Study • Enabling Resources Program • Hybrid Integration Project • IESO York Region Non-Wires Alternatives Demonstration Project • Resource Adequacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint meeting with the Ontario Energy Board was held on November 27 on the DER Integration Framework for Energy Innovation where updates were provided on cross-cutting issues and the work of the two organizations as it relates to DERs, including on the Joint DER Incentives Study. • The meeting also included a panel on the 2021 Grid Innovation Fund and Innovation Sandbox Projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on this initiative will commence in Q2 2024.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Next Steps

Enabling Resources Program

The IESO is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the development of an integrated plan that will outline the sequencing, timing and scope of activities to be undertaken by the IESO to enable existing electricity resources to provide electricity system services in the renewed Ontario wholesale market that they cannot, or cannot fully, currently provide.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [Capacity Auction](#)
- [DER Roadmap](#)
- [Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [Innovation and Sector Evolution White Paper Series](#)
- [Resource Adequacy](#)

- Engagement on this initiative will commence in Q2 2024.

Hybrid Integration Project

The IESO is seeking feedback on the development of participation model(s) to enable hybrid resources in the IESO-administered markets and have the capability to support Ontario's future system needs. The changes will be implemented after the implementation of the Market Renewal Project.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [DER Market Vision & Design Project](#)
- [DER Potential Study](#)
- [DER Roadmap](#)
- [Enabling Resources Program](#)
- [Innovation and Sector Evolution White Paper Series](#)

- The work completed under the Hybrid Integration Project will be transitioned to the Enabling Resources Program engagement.

- See the Enabling Resources Program engagement for further information.

Active Engagement

Long-Term RFPs

The IESO is engaging stakeholders and communities on the development of a series of Long-Term RFPs that will seek resources to address global needs.

Engagements targeted to communities and the broader public are underway.

Engagement Leads: **Trisha Hickson**

Community Engagement Leads: **Sonia**

Fazari and Sari Gerwitz

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy](#)
- [Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [Market Renewal Program \(MRP\) Implementation](#)

Current Status

Stakeholder Engagement Update:

- An engagement webinar was held on April 4 to provide an update on the key activities and the report back to the government submitted in March.
- Feedback following the April 4 session is requested by April 23.

Community Engagement Update:

- Two webinars were held for Indigenous communities and municipalities:
 - January 15 – overview of electricity needs, procuring electricity, the role of Indigenous communities and municipalities.
 - January 17 – growing electricity demand and the need for new infrastructure.
- 15 feedback submissions following the webinars were received and have been posted to the [community engagement webpage](#).

Next Steps

- The next LT2 RFP Stakeholder engagement webinar will be held in Spring.
- Community engagement will continue with a closed webinar for municipalities on March 26.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Next Steps

Resource Adequacy

The IESO is engaging stakeholders to further develop a long-term competitive strategy to meet Ontario’s resource adequacy needs reliably and cost-effectively while recognizing the unique needs of different resources.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [DER Market Vision & Design Project](#)
- [DER Potential Study](#)
- [DER Roadmap](#)
- [Enabling Resources Program](#)
- [Long-Term RFP](#)

- A [Resource Adequacy Update](#) was provided in June where the IESO announced the results of a recent procurement for long-term supply. A total of 882 MW was secured for the province’s planned storage fleet, while complementary processes such as the growing Capacity Auction are securing resources to respond to upcoming system needs.

- Several Resource Adequacy initiatives such as the Procurements and Capacity Auction Enhancements have branched off into their own respective engagement streams (see related engagements).
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Operations

Engagements to ensure that Ontario’s electricity resources are operating reliably within the IESO-administered market, while also undertaking continuous market improvements.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Market Renewal Program (MRP) Implementation</u></p> <p>The Implementation phase of the Market Renewal Program will begin by codifying the design into the Market Rules and Market Manuals, and then proceed onto creating tools, testing, training and readiness for bringing the renewed market to life.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Cynthia Sidalak</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Adequacy• Enabling Resources• DER Market Vision & Design Project• Hybrid Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connectivity Testing is continuing and will end on May 24, 2024. All Sandbox applications are available for Market Participants to conduct Connectivity Testing.• The IESO provided responses to feedback and questions received from participants on the Market & System Operations batch draft market rule and market manual amendments that was published on July 14, 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The IESO will be hosting an engagement webinar where the IESO will provide stakeholders with an update on the transition to the new market, decommissioning of Physical Bilateral Contracts (PBCs), and a brief overview of Final Alignment.
<p><u>IESO Market Rule Amendments, Chapter 3, Confidentiality, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement</u></p> <p>The Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) of the IESO is proposing amendments to Chapter 3 of the Market Rules. The purpose of these proposed changes is to modernize and clarify rules related to some of MACD’s enforcement processes, including confidentiality and how it handles disputes under the IESO Dispute Resolution Process.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A webinar was held in February 2024 to discuss the proposed market rule amendments and feedback received from the November session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback following the February 6 engagement webinar is available on the engagement webpage.• MACD is continuing to undertake stakeholder engagement and outreach to seek further feedback.

Sector Evolution

Engagements that look to the future to see how innovation, new technologies and new collaborations can improve how we conduct our business.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Expanding Third Party Access to the Smart Metering Data</u> The Smart Metering Entity (SME) has been directed by the Ontario Energy Board to undertake an assessment to expand third-party access to smart meter data. The assessment will evaluate the opportunity to include additional organizations beyond the Canadian Government entities and may address other opportunities for data access expansion. <i>Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted sessions were held on November 27, 28 and 30, 2023 with stakeholders to continue conversations to gain insight and gather feedback on expanding third party access. Feedback received during the targeted engagement sessions is being analyzed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final report will be submitted to the Ontario Energy Board by April 30, 2024.
<p><u>Future Clean Electricity Fund</u> Proceeds from the sale of IESO-owned Clean Energy Credits on the Ontario’s Clean Energy Credit Registry will be directed to Ontario’s Future Clean Electricity Fund. The IESO has been tasked by the Ministry with developing insights and recommendations for a Future Clean Electricity Fund (FCEF). <i>Engagement Leads: Fatema Khatun</i> <i>Community Engagement Leads: Sonia Fazari and Andreea Nicoara</i> <i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Clean Energy Credits</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the First Nations Energy Symposium in November 2023, the IESO shared information about the FCEF with communities that expressed an interest in learning more. Outreach meetings were held in October and November with municipalities to understand insights and recommendations to develop the Fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IESO recommendations report was submitted to the Ministry of Energy in December 2023. Next steps pending Ministry of Energy’s review and decisions.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot</u> The Minister of Energy asked the IESO to submit a report by September 15, 2023, outlining a plan for the Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot tailored specifically for hydrogen producers and developers in Ontario. <i>Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun</i> <i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interruptible Rate Pilot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IESO held meetings in July and August with hydrogen developer organizations that expressed interest in the pilot and solicited feedback on pilot design features that would support participation and leverage the flexibility of electrolyzer-based hydrogen production facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IESO provided an update that the submission of the plan for the hydrogen interruptible rate pilot to the Ministry of Energy has been postponed until there is further clarity on the federal government’s Investment Tax Credit (ITC) related to clean hydrogen production. • An updated timeline will be provided once further details on the ITC are available.
<p><u>IESO York Region Non-Wires Alternatives Demonstration Project</u> The IESO, with support from Natural Resources Canada, is undertaking a demonstration in York Region to explore market-based approaches to secure energy and capacity services from Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) for local needs. <i>Engagement Lead: Maia Chase</i> <i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DER Market Vision & Design Project • DER Potential Study • DER Roadmap • Innovation and Sector Evolution White Papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An engagement session is being planned for Q2 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IESO is reviewing next steps on this engagement.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Innovation and Sector Evolution White Papers</u></p> <p>The IESO intends to develop and release a series of white papers to support the creation of a shared, fact-based understanding of emerging opportunities and trends.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DER Potential Study • DER Roadmap • IESO York Region Non-Wires Alternatives Demonstration Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This engagement remains on hold. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IESO is reviewing next steps on this engagement.
<p><u>Low-Carbon Hydrogen Strategy</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Energy has asked the IESO to investigate and propose program options to integrate low-carbon hydrogen technologies into Ontario’s electricity grid.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways to Decarbonization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first group of successful applicants was announced in October 2023, and the second announced in November 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This engagement has now concluded. • A final engagement summary report will be posted to the engagement webpage in Q2 2024.

Updates on the Strategic Advisory Committee, Technical Panel and Transmission-Distribution Coordination Working Group

Group	Current Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)</u></p> <p>The Committee is a forum for its members to be informed of IESO activities and to provide timely policy advice and feedback both broadly on behalf of the electricity sector and their constituency, directly to the IESO Board and Executive with respect to the IESO's mandate.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAC met on March 20 for its first public session of 2024 • The SAC met on March 20 for its first public session of 2024 • Key agenda items included a report from David Collie on the EETP report and recommendations as well as an IESO presentation on the RSS roll out. • SAC members also agreed to continue the important work on developing additional Challenge Statements on priority topics across the sector with targeted audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next two public SAC meetings will take place on June 26 and October 2 with registration and materials available closer to each meeting date.
<p><u>Technical Panel (TP)</u></p> <p>The Technical Panel's mandate is to review amendments to the Market Rules for Ontario's electricity market and provide recommendations to the IESO Board of Directors.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The April 9 Technical Panel meeting included a vote to post for broader stakeholder engagement, the MRP Market and System Operations and Calculation Engine batch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Technical Panel meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024.

Group	Current Status	Next Steps
<p>Transmission – Distribution Coordination Working Group</p> <p>The Transmission-Distribution Coordination Working Group (TDWG) works closely with LDCs and other stakeholders to inform the DER Market Vision and Design Project. This is a key focus area of IESO’s Distributed Energy Resources (DER) integration activities and is what much of the near-term DER Roadmap efforts build towards. The TDWG will provide a forum for in-depth engagement on Transmission - Distribution coordination.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DER Market Vision & Design Project • DER Roadmap • IESO York Region Non-Wires Alternatives Demonstration Project • Innovation and Sector Evolution White Paper Series 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from March 28th session is due by April 25, 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next TDWG meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2024, and it will be hosted by Alectra Utilities.