

Indigenous Conservation Programming Report: Request for Input

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Today's Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Engagement process and expectations
3. Background
4. Approach
5. Feedback Received
6. Next Steps

IESO Engagement Principles and Process

- Engagement is an essential part of the IESO decision making process
 - Section 13.2 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* the IESO is required to establish one or more processes by which interested parties may provide advice and recommendations for consideration by the IESO
- The IESO's process to engage before a decision is made or before a change occurs is guided by the IESO Engagement Principles to provide:
 - Opportunities for engagement with inclusive representation
 - Effective communication and information in an open and transparent manner
 - Effective Facilitation
 - Communicate outcomes and measure satisfaction in the process

Indigenous Conservation Programming Report - Engagement

- Objective of engagement – Ensure that all interested parties are informed of this initiative and have an opportunity to provide input on the development of the Indigenous Conservation Programming Report
- Two-phased engagement:
 - Input received via survey, discussions and meetings from First Nations communities
 - Public webinar to present an overview of feedback and to provide broader opportunity for input
- Feedback will be invited, in writing, and posted on the [engagement webpage](#) along with the IESO response to the feedback and how it was considered in the draft Report

Purpose of Today's Webinar

- To review summarized feedback from engagements with representatives from First Nations and Métis communities related to Conservation programming and to gather input to form recommendations to improve Conservation programming for First Nations and Métis in Ontario

Background

- The IESO is preparing a report on options to improve conservation programs, and access to programs, for First Nations and Métis including communities served by independent power authorities (IPAs)
- The Report is in response to one of the [Implementation Directives](#) following the release of the Minister of Energy's Long Term Energy Plan and is intended to inform the Conservation Framework Mid-Term Review in early 2018
- This report will be submitted alongside the Mid-Term Review of the Conservation First Framework (CFF) and informed by engagement
- The Mid-term Review of the Conservation First Framework (CFF) is on track for completion in Q1, 2018.
 - Key topic areas identified in Mid-term Review to-date include customer and market engagement and satisfaction, the definition of CDM, collaboration, governance and operations, planning integration, climate change as well as budgets, targets, cost-effectiveness and non-energy impacts.

Background Cont'd.

- IESO offered the Aboriginal Conservation Program (ACP), which delivered energy efficiency and in-home energy assessments for First Nations communities as part of the 2011 - 2014 conservation framework
 - Forty five of 133 Indigenous communities in Ontario participated in this Program
 - Over 3,000 homes received retrofits achieving 8 GWh of verified net savings
- Under the Conservation First Framework (CFF), the responsibility for program design and delivery was transferred to local distribution companies (LDCs) who were required to serve all customer segments, including First Nations communities within their service territory
 - First Nations Conservation Program offered in Hydro One Service Territory
 - Conservation on the Coast Program being delivered in Attawapiskat First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation which have community-owned LDCs

Background

Question for input: Is there any additional information that you require for a better understanding of the objective of this engagement?

Approach

The IESO undertook the following approach to develop a draft report:

- 1) Reviewed Community Energy Plans funded through the IESO's Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program
- 2) Analysis of Aboriginal Conservation Program third-party evaluation report findings
 - [Click here](#) for Evaluation report
- 3) Gather feedback through:
 - Indigenous Feedback Sessions at Regional Forums throughout Fall 2017 with 30 communities represented
 - London, Sudbury, Vaughan & Thunder Bay
 - Four community meetings
 - Indigenous Energy Symposium
 - IESO's Aboriginal Energy Working Group
 - A survey focused on Indigenous Conservation and Energy Issues
 - Broader engagement webinar
- 4) Develop recommendations based on feedback received
- 5) Incorporate feedback and publicly post final Indigenous Conservation Programming Report at the end of January, 2018

Approach

Questions for input:

- *Is there any additional information or outcomes about the IESO's approach that needs to be considered?*
- *Is there any further published information that the IESO should consider in its research?*

Feedback Received

Feedback has been summarized in three categories:

1) Programs

2) Capacity Building/Education; and

3) Partnerships

Feedback Received – Programs

Program Availability

- A number of First Nations communities are underserved by conservation programs with some only having access to a mail-in rebate program and others not having access to programs at all

Program Promotion

- Many participants said they were unaware of various IESO programs. Participants commented that the IESO could do a better job to promote Save on Energy programs within First Nations communities
- Programs would be more appealing to First Nations community residents if accompanied by specific First Nations community branding

Program Funding

- Dedicate a certain amount of funding through the framework's budget to serving First Nations communities rather than having a global budget that can be allocated to all customers
- One point of contact is necessary to help navigate through the different funding streams

Program Effectiveness

- Measuring the success of energy conservation in First Nations communities needs to take unique circumstances into consideration
- Programs are more successful when First Nations community members are involved in delivery
- Align Program start and stop dates with other IESO Programs like the ACEP Program

Feedback Received – Capacity Building/Education

First Nation Band Staff resources are stretched

- In many First Nations communities, employees who work on energy related initiatives split their time between Energy and a variety of other portfolios and have very little day-to-day support. Some participants suggested that First Nations communities could achieve more measurable success in energy conservation efforts if further support was provided in terms of staff resourcing.

Knowledge Transfer

- A common theme at the meetings was the lack of knowledge transfer between First Nations communities. Participants agreed that working in isolation was inefficient, and that a team approach would be more effective.
- Provide a platform to enable First Nations Band Staff who work on energy related initiatives to network in person at workshops and conferences was seen as a positive way to enable greater knowledge transfer. Other options included using social media such as Facebook to share information.

Education Materials

- Participants said that educational materials are sorely lacking, and that having a broad array of materials for school children, homeowners, community residents and businesses, should be a key priority.
- To help raise awareness for energy conservation in communities, educational materials are needed.

Feedback Received – Partnerships

Existing housing stock makes energy conservation challenging

- Participants said that in many cases, on-reserve houses were in a condition where it makes no sense to undertake energy retrofits.
- Participants suggested that the IESO work with organizations such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and other Government agencies to address these issues and to have energy efficiency standards built into the blueprints of new on-reserve housing, rather than perpetuating a cycle of retrofitting a poor housing stock.

Vendors and installers don't show homeowners how equipment works

- Participants said that in some cases homeowners are not shown how installed measures work when they are installed leading to a lack of homeowner knowledge about how these measures should be operated in order to be energy efficient.
- Participants also said that it was difficult to get appliances serviced, even with a warranty and asked if the IESO could help bridge this knowledge gap with vendors working in First Nations communities.

Distributed energy and net metering

- Participants wanted to know more about how to access funding for renewable energy and micro-grids. Participants asked if the IESO could partner with financial institutions, or other agencies, to advise First Nations communities about how to plan financially for these types of projects.

Feedback Received

Question for input:

- *Is there any specific things about the feedback received by the IESO that you would like to provide further support or contrary evidence on?*
- *Do you have additional feedback that would help the IESO form its report?*

Next steps

- Recorded webinar will be available on engagement webpage
- Feedback due to engagement@ieso.ca by January 19, 2018
- IESO will post and respond to feedback by end of January 2018