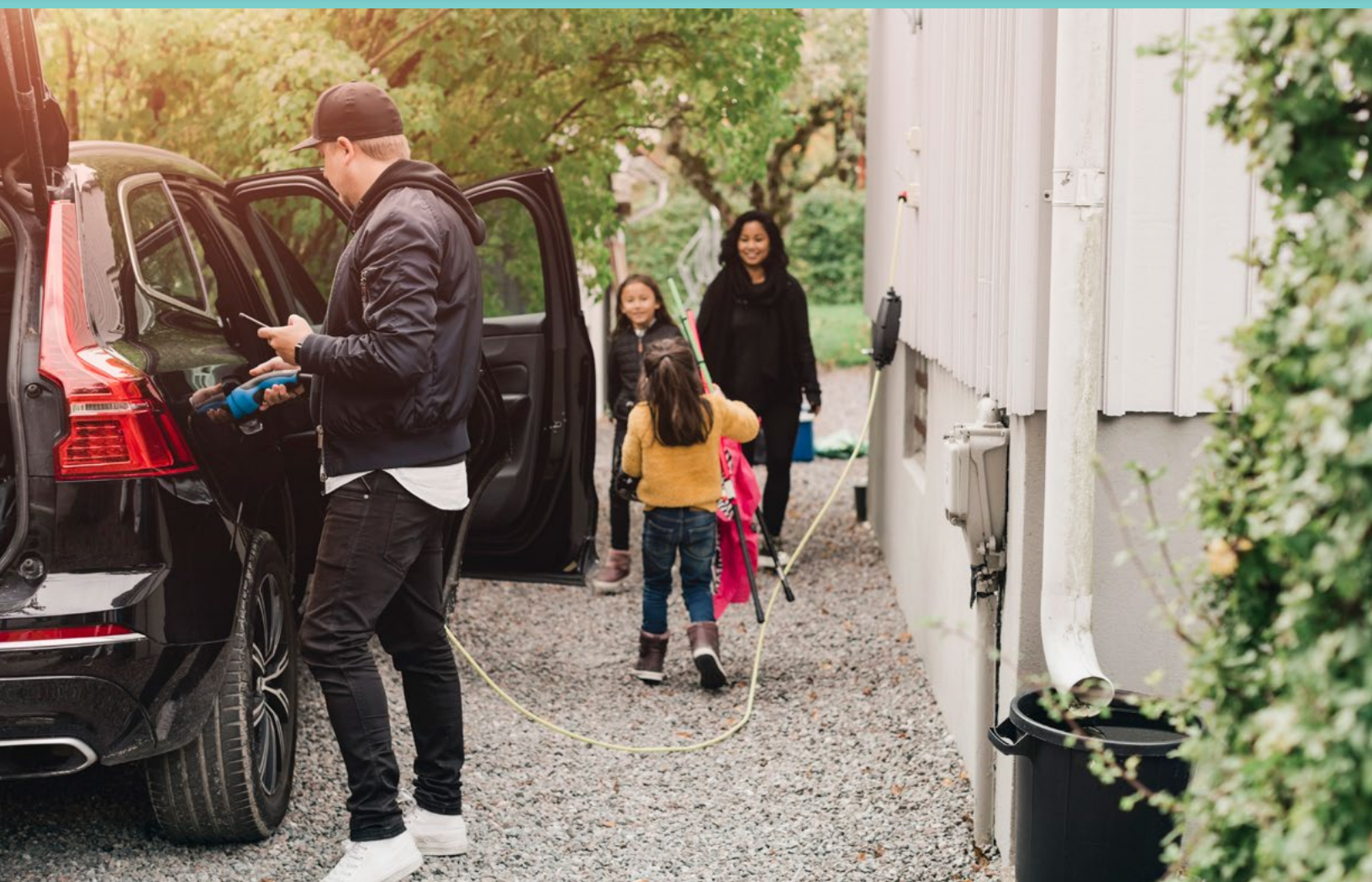


# Ontario's Electricity System Is Changing – **Here's What It Means for Communities**



**A reliable, affordable, and sustainable supply of electricity is fundamental to the well-being of Ontario residents, businesses, and institutions.** Each and every day, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) ensures electricity is available where and when it's needed. This includes managing the power system in real-time, planning for the province's future energy needs, enabling conservation, and working with industry and communities across Ontario to support their energy goals.



**We work with:**

**Generators** produce large amounts of electricity to meet Ontario's needs. Ontario has one of the cleanest energy supplies in the world.



**Transmitters** transport electricity over long distances from power plants to communities.

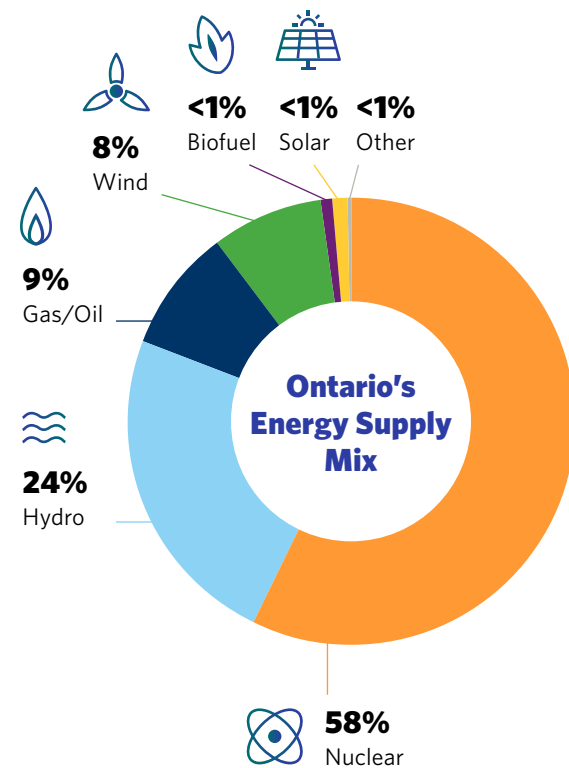


**Local Distribution Companies** (the "local hydro company") deliver electricity directly to homes and businesses in your community.



**Energy consumers** and the communities they live in count on electricity being available.

## Communities Are Shaping Ontario's Electricity Future



What happens in communities sets the pace of change in Ontario's energy sector. Economic development and electrification are driving up electricity demand, while available generation is decreasing and technologies continue to evolve. Our system is also becoming more decentralized, digitized, and decarbonized.

With the ongoing electrification to reduce emissions in key sectors, including transportation and manufacturing, there is a demonstrative shift in consumer and industry preferences and expectations of the system that powers their day-to-day life.

To ensure a resilient future, the IESO is leading and engaging the energy sector to work cohesively and collaboratively with communities to support the transformation in our electricity system.

### Bringing Communities to the Table

- Direct outreach with municipalities is an integral component of the electricity planning work necessary to ensure local needs and priorities are considered for adequate and reliable electricity supply.
- Ongoing dialogue fosters continued opportunities for local and regional input and relationship-building.
- Collaboration with municipalities creates a common understanding of planned growth, energy priorities, and preferences.

## Your Community's Role

Municipalities across Ontario are driving change by increasingly implementing their own electricity initiatives to achieve economic, environmental, and social objectives; and play a critical role in shaping local, regional, and provincial energy futures by hosting new facilities and infrastructure to support community needs.

As the level of government most closely connected to the daily lives of businesses and residents, municipalities can expect to play a key role in our energy future:

- **LEVERAGE ENERGY EFFICIENCY.** Save costs, achieve sustainability goals, and make businesses more competitive.
- **INFORM ELECTRICITY PLANNING DECISIONS.** Participate in discussions about future electricity needs, including whether new transmission infrastructure or other resources are needed.
- **INTEGRATE LOCAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS.** Small-scale generation, energy storage, electric vehicles, and reducing demand are some of the options that contribute to municipal economic development and sustainability goals.
- **HOST NEW GENERATION.** As the IESO procures new generation across the province, developers may engage with communities about building new facilities.
- **ELECTRIFY TRANSPORTATION.** Increasing electrification of vehicles and fleets, and associated charging infrastructure, helps reduce emissions and support customer preferences.
- **KEEP CONSTITUENTS INFORMED.** Understanding and communicating local energy needs and priorities, how it connects to what's happening provincially helps communities to get involved.

### Information Sharing and Collaboration

Ontario is divided into unique electricity planning regions that are based on electrical boundaries; and the IESO's Regional Electricity Networks serve as a platform to discuss local electricity issues and solutions to meet the unique electricity needs of each region and Ontario as a whole.



By joining a network communities can regularly interact directly with the IESO and other members on issues and innovations. Members receive opportunities to participate in meetings, communications providing timely updates and access to information about key topics and initiatives. We encourage municipal leaders, organizations, and residents to join a regional electricity network and stay connected. [ieso.ca/Regional-Electricity-Networks](https://ieso.ca/Regional-Electricity-Networks)

## Resources

- **ELECTRICITY TOOLKIT FOR MUNICIPALITIES:** understanding the role communities play in Ontario's Electricity System [ieso.ca/Municipal-Toolkit](https://ieso.ca/Municipal-Toolkit)
- **SAVE ON ENERGY:** energy- and cost-saving incentives and resources for individuals, small business and industry, and contractors. [saveonenergy.ca](https://saveonenergy.ca)

## Get Involved

- Engaging with communities is an important part of maintaining a reliable electricity supply, now and in the future. [ieso.ca/Regional-Planning](https://ieso.ca/Regional-Planning)
- Subscribe to a regional electricity network or join a dialogue about regional planning on behalf of your community [ieso.ca/subscribe](https://ieso.ca/subscribe)

## Connect

Municipal engagement is integral to the IESO's decision-making process. We offer individuals and organizations opportunity to provide input and feedback about proposed decisions or changes that affect them. The IESO supports transparency, efficiency, and consistency in our engagement efforts.

For more information about how to get involved, or other inquiries, please contact us [communityengagement@ieso.ca](mailto:communityengagement@ieso.ca)

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