

IESO Engagement Update

December 16 and 18, 2025

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 up-to-date 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 Engagements	Current Status
<u>Bulk Planning – North of Sudbury</u> The bulk plan will examine the capability of the bulk transmission system’s ability to supply increasing levels of demand in the areas surrounding Timmins, Kirkland Lake, and Pinard. The study will also look at creating opportunities to potentially locate new non-emitting resources in the area, as well as the potential for new or upgraded interconnections with Quebec. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Abby Dancey <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Keir Johnston	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a North of Sudbury study.

Northern Ontario Connection Study

This study will develop options to connect remote First Nations communities to the grid that currently rely on diesel generators for electricity, improve reliability for First Nation communities that are already grid-connected, support critical minerals mining development in the region, and enable the development of new hydro and renewable resources. The study was initiated in response to a request from the government of Ontario, and a final report will be released in the early Fall.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Sonia Fazari**

- Final report is in development.

Bulk Planning – South and Central Ontario Bulk Study

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the South and Central Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Leads: **Keir Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli**

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a South and Central Bulk Study.
- A bulk webinar took place on December 12, and feedback is due January 23.

Bulk Planning – Eastern Ontario Bulk Study

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of an Eastern Ontario Bulk Study.
- A bulk webinar took place on December 12, and feedback is due January 23.

Regional Planning – Burlington to Nanticoke

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Jessica Singh**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- Engagement on the Hamilton Addendum will take place in Q1 2026.
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<p><u>Regional Planning – Ottawa Area Sub-Region</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A webinar will be hosted in Q1 2026 to share the draft findings of the Ottawa Local Achievable Potential Study.
<p><u>Regional Planning – Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph (KWCG)</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Brooke Crewson</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Keir Johnston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A webinar was held on September 23, to provide an overview of the evaluated options and shared the draft recommendations to address the priority needs in the region. The IESO also provided an overview of the region’s remaining needs, along with the option screening analysis conducted for those needs. • Feedback regarding remaining needs has been received and posted to the engagement page. • As regional planning advances, engagement will continue with respect to developing an IRRP for this region until Q2 2026.
<p><u>Regional Planning – GTA North (York Region)</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Chiara Cozzi</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final IRRP was posted on October 10, 2025. • This engagement is now complete.
<p><u>Regional Planning – GTA East</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Leads:</i> Keir Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<p><u>Regional Planning – GTA West</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Leads:</i> Keir Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IESO held a webinar on June 2 to share the draft demand forecast. • Feedback was accepted until June 23. Feedback and response to feedback have been posted to the engagement webpage. • Engagement will continue in Q1 2026 with a public webinar to share the Needs and Options Screening.

Regional Planning – East Lake Superior

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Jessica Singh**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- The IESO held a webinar on December 11 to share the electricity infrastructure needs and an overview of the wire and non-wire options that will be considered to meet the needs.
- Feedback will be accepted until January 30, 2026.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.

Regional Planning – Peterborough to Kingston

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Brooke Crewson**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and IESO's response to feedback received was posted on April 28.
- A webinar was held on September 11 to share the draft electricity forecast scenarios and proposed engagement plan.
- Feedback was accepted until October 2 and has been posted on the engagement page.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through to Q4 2026.

Regional Planning – London Area

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Chiara Cozzi**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- A webinar will be held on December 1, 2025, to share the draft demand forecast and scenarios for the London area.
- Feedback was accepted until December 15.

Regional Planning - Northwest

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- The IESO published the Scoping Assessment Report on Sept 19.
- A communication was sent to NW municipalities and stakeholders advising them that the Northwest IRRP had launched.
- Forecast development and draft engagement plan to be shared in a public webinar Q1 2026.

Regional Planning – South Georgian Bay Muskoka

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Engagement Lead: **Chiara Cozzi**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli, Keir Johnston**

- A Scoping Assessment webinar was held on November 4, 2025, to share the recommended planning approach for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka electrical area.
- Feedback was accepted until November 18, 2025.

Regional Planning – Sudbury/Algoma

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Engagement Lead: **Brooke Crewson**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- A Scoping Assessment webinar will be held on December 18 to share the recommended planning approach for the Sudbury/Algoma electrical area.
- Feedback will be accepted until January 12, 2026.

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
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Adequacy• Demand Side Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A public engagement session was held on June 26 to provide an update on the tie-break methodology and proposed market rule changes.• Feedback from the session along with the IESO response, has been posted.• Engagement on 2025 enhancements is now complete. The IESO Technical Panel recommended for IESO Board approval, Market Rule amendments regarding commitment management, tie-break methodology and other administrative updates.• The IESO will report back to stakeholders in Q1 2026 with next steps on engagement.
<u>Transmitter Selection Framework</u> 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. <i>Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun</i> <i>Community Engagement Leads: Nadia Mirabelli and Andreea Nicoara</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An engagement session was held on October 15 present updates on the TSF's latest considerations for the commercial framework approach, RFP requirements, and proposed contract terms.• Stakeholder feedback received following the session is posted on the engagement webpage.• The next engagement session is expected to take place in January 2026.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Roadmap

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.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [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](#)

- The DER Compensation Study is posted on the engagement website as “Final Report: Assessment of Ontario’s DER Compensation Mechanisms and Recommendations”
- A public information session was hosted on August 22 by the OEB-IESO to provide an overview of the report.
- This engagement is now complete.

Enabling Resources Program

The revised Enabling Resources Program (ERP) is an integrated set of projects that will enable emerging resources to provide required system services and contribute to the safe and reliable operation of the bulk power system in Ontario. The first ERP project will incorporate electricity storage, and hybrid generation-storage pairings into the IESO-administered markets, tools, and processes.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [ERP - Storage and Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [ERP – Distributed Energy Resource \(DER\) Integration Project](#)

- ERP is comprised of two projects: Storage and Co-located Hybrid (S/H) Integration and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration.
- Engagement on S/H project commenced in July 2025 and is ongoing for design work with impacted resources and the broader sector.
- The first public engagement session on the DER project took place on November 19 to provide an overview of the goals and scope of that project.
- Feedback was due on December 3, 2025. The IESO response to feedback will be posted shortly.

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 needs.

Engagements targeted to communities and the broader public are underway.

Engagement Leads: **Trisha Hickson**

Community Engagement Leads: **Sonia**

Fazari and Abby Dancey

Related Engagements:

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

Current Status

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Engagement on window 1 of the LT2 RFP is now complete.
- Engagement on window 2 of the LT2 RFP will begin in Q1 2026.
- Discussions on repowering existing facilities will continue as part of engagement on the LT2.
- Feedback following the October 20 Repowering webinar is now posted.

Community Engagement:

- A Q&A session for communities was held on November 13, 2025.

Long Lead-Time Resource

Procurement

The IESO is engaging on the proposed design of the Long Lead-Time Resources procurement. This procurement is part of the IESO's broader Resource Adequacy Framework – an enduring approach to identifying the type of acquisition activity to use to resolve system needs.

Engagement Lead: **Trisha Hickson**

Community Engagement Leads: **Abby Dancey**

Stakeholder Engagement:

- An engagement session to discuss the draft RFP was held on October 21. IESO Response to Feedback has been posted.
- The next engagement session will provide an update on the LLT design and is scheduled for December 18.

Community Engagement:

- On November 12, 2025, a community webinar provided an opportunity to build awareness of the procurement and its draft design. Feedback was due December 3, 2025.

Local Generation Program

The IESO is engaging stakeholders on a proposal to establish a program that will enable re-contracting of existing resources, and consider opportunities for expansions and new build facilities

Engagement Lead: **Jamie Jang**

Related Engagements:

- [Long-Term RFP](#)
- [Request for Information – Resource Adequacy Framework](#)

- A public engagement session was held on June 5 to provide a summary of the feedback received and continue discussions on the design of the program.
- Stakeholder feedback from the session has been posted with the IESO response to be posted shortly.

Active Engagement

Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework

The IESO is engaging on the new 12-year electricity Demand Side Management Framework, the first 3-year plan and future program opportunities

Engagement Leads: **Jamie Jang**

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy](#)

Current Status

- A public engagement session was held on October 16 to provide an update on the Commercial HVAC DR Program. Feedback and the response to feedback are posted now.
- Engagement continues in 2026.

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

Market Renewal Program (MRP) Implementation

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.

Engagement Lead: **Jamie Jang**

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy](#)
- [Enabling Resources](#)
- [DER Market Vision & Design Project](#)
- [Hybrid Integration](#)

Current Status

- A public information session was held on November 26 to provide an update on market performance.
- The IESO will continue to offer quarterly engagement webinars in 2026.
- The IESO is seeking qualified candidates to join the Renewed Market Advisory Forum to discuss opportunities for enhancements to the market.

Enforcement Modernization

The IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) is seeking input from market participants, consumers, community representatives and other stakeholders with respect to modernizing the enforcement processes to support reliability, market efficiency and market integrity.

*Engagement Lead: **Jamie Jang***

- The Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) announced new engagement relating to its Enforcement Modernization project on October 30.

Updates to IESO Monitoring Requirements Phasor Data

The IESO is presenting rule amendments and market manual changes outlining new and revised requirements for synchrophasor data for Generators, Transmitters and Storage participants.

*Engagement Lead: **Josh Acosta***

- An engagement session was held on June 26 to present a proposal to amend Market Rules to expand the requirement for synchrophasor data to include Electricity Storage facilities. It also covered the associated changes to the Market Manual and update on the current PMU registration and connection process.
 - The IESO Response to Feedback was posted on July 15.
 - A subsequent engagement session is planned for December 18 to present new amendments and market manual changes. Feedback is due January 2, 2026.
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Sector Evolution

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

Active Engagement

Current Status

Future Clean Electricity Fund

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).

*Engagement Leads: **Fatema Khatun***

*Community Engagement Leads: **Sonia***

Fazari and Andreea Nicoara

Related Engagements:

- [Clean Energy Credits](#)
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- Outreach meetings were held in October and November with municipalities to understand insights and recommendations to develop the Fund.
- The IESO recommendations report was submitted to the Ministry of Energy in December 2023.
- The IESO will work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to determine how proceeds from the Future Clean Electricity Fund will be applied to upcoming procurements and infrastructure projects, as outlined in [Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan](#). More information will be shared soon.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Hydrogen Innovation Fund

The 2025 Hydrogen Innovation Fund (HIF) is a \$30 million program that supports innovative hydrogen projects driving Ontario's clean energy transition, economic growth, and job creation. It builds on the 2023 program by expanding eligibility and funding two streams focused on grid integration and broader industrial and transportation applications, with applications opening November 4, 2025.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

Related Engagements:

- [Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot](#)

- An engagement session was held on October 1 to provide an overview of program streams, eligibility, and application requirements ahead of the November 4th application window.
- Following the engagement session, the IESO received three stakeholder feedback. Feedback and IESO Response to Feedback was posted on the engagement webpage on November 3.

Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot

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.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

Related Engagements:

- [Interruptible Rate Pilot](#)

- The IESO is currently holding one-on-one meetings with hydrogen developer organizations that expressed interest in the pilot and soliciting feedback on pilot design features that would support participation and leverage the flexibility of electrolyzer-based hydrogen production facilities.
- The IESO submitted a report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines on September 30, 2025.

2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study

The Ministry of Energy issued a directive to the IESO to conduct an Achievable Potential Study by December 31, 2026.

Engagement Lead: **Jamie Jang**

Related Engagements:

- [Electricity Demand Side Management \(eDSM\) Framework](#)
- [2019 Conservation Achievable Potential Study](#)

- An engagement session was held on December 9 to provide an update on the study. Feedback is due January 9, 2026.
- Engagement continues in 2026.

Grid Innovation Fund

The IESO is working with the Ministry to review the Grid Innovation Fund (GIF) to enhance governance and determine future innovation-focused funding.

Engagement Lead: **Jamie Jang**

- Virtual roundtable discussions were held on December 9-12 to seek recommendations from across the sector to help enhance the GIF governance.
- Feedback will be accepted until December 24, 2025 and a written summary of the sessions will be posted in Q1 2026.

Updates on the Strategic Advisory Committee and Technical Panel

Group	Current Status
<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:</i> Megan Doner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A public SAC meeting was held on October 16, 2025. A recording of the meeting has been posted on the website.
<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:</i> Trisha Hickson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Technical Panel meeting was held on December 2. The panel discussed the 2025 year in review and an update on the Adjustments to Real-Time Make Whole Payments engagement and the proposed market rule amendments.• The next Technical Panel meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2025.