IESO Engagement Update October 15-17, 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 | Next Steps |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|
|--------------------|----------------|------------|

<u>Bulk Planning - Northern Ontario</u> <u>Bulk Study</u>

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

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey Indigenous Engagement Lead: Keir

Johnston

Final report has been posted.
 Engagement is now closed.

Final report has been posted.

Bulk Planning - North of Sudbury

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

The IESO will continue to engage at the appropriate milestones.

- Last update was held September 30; feedback due October 31.
- Next update scheduled for October 8, Indigenousfocused webinar.



new or upgraded interconnections with Quebec.

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey Indigenous Engagement Lead: Keir

Johnston

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

- with Indigenous communities across all transmission planning activities. For the Northern Ontario Connection Study, the IESO is making good progress with Indigenous communities, particularly the diesel-reliant Matawa communities.
- Proactive and ongoing outreach has been conducted with all diesel-reliant communities to review and discuss the report.
 There are two Nations that IESO has yet to meet with, though this is not for lack of multiple outreach attempts requesting a meeting.
- The IESO has sought an extension to the date for report submission to the government. IESO will continue working with communities to ensure their feedback is accurately reflected in the reportback.
- Final report is tracking for release before the end of Q4 2025.

Fazari

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.
- Last update was held September 30; feedback due October 31.
- Next update scheduled for October 8, Indigenousfocused webinar.

<u>Bulk Planning – Eastern Ontario</u> <u>Bulk Study</u>

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.
- Last update was held on September 30; feedback due October 31.
- Next update scheduled for October 8, Indigenousfocused webinar.

| Regional Planning | Burlington |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| to Nanticoke | |

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Engagement Lead: Keir Johnston

- This engagement is complete.
 The IESO response to feedback and final IRRP report was posted on November 28, 2024, and shared via email with participants subscribed to receive updates.
- Engagement on the Hamilton Addendum will take place in 2025.

<u>Regional Planning – Ottawa Area</u> Sub-Region

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh

Indigenous Engagement Lead: Nadia

Mirabelli

Regional Planning — Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/ Guelph (KWCG)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Brooke Crewson
Indigenous Engagement Lead: Keir
Johnston

- This engagement is complete.
- The IESO response to feedback and final IRRP report was posted on July 31 and shared via email with participants subscribed to receive updates.
- This engagement has concluded.
- In August, the IESO posted responses to feedback that was received in May 2025.
 - 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.
- A webinar will be hosted in Q4 2025 to share the draft findings of the Ottawa Local Achievable Potential Study.
- Feedback regarding remaining needs due October 21.
- As regional planning advances, engagement will continue with respect to developing an IRRP for this region until Q1 2026.

Regional Planning - Toronto

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito
Indigenous Engagement Leads: Keir
Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli

- The IESO held a public webinar for the Options Analysis and Draft Recommendations on September 25.
- The IESO is accepting feedback on the Options Analysis and Draft Recommendations until October 9.
- The IESO responses to feedback for the Local Achievable Potential Study Draft Results webinar and IRRP Options Analysis and Draft Recommendations will be posted on October 31.
- The final IRRP will be published on October 31.

| Regional Planning | - GTA | North |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------|
| (York Region) | | |

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi

Indigenous Engagement Lead: Nadia

Mirabelli

- A webinar was hosted on September 22 to share the options analysis and draft recommendations to address electricity needs in the GTA North, and to seek feedback.
- Feedback was accepted until October 3 and posted on the engagement webpage.
- The IESO is preparing a written response to feedback and will post it shortly.
- The final IRRP will be posted on October 10.

Regional Planning - GTA East

Regional electricity planning is underway this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh
Indigenous Engagement Leads: Keir
Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli

- A webinar was hosted on July 16 to share the draft demand forecast and engagement plan, and to seek feedback.
- Feedback was accepted until August 6 and posted on the engagement webpage, along with the IESO's response to feedback.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.

Regional Planning – GTA West

Regional electricity planning is underway this region.

Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito
Indigenous Engagement Leads: Keir
Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli

- The IESO held a webinar on June 2 to share the draft demand forecast.
- Feedback was accepted until
 June 23 and posted on the engagement webpage.
- The IESO is preparing a written response to feedback and will post it shortly.
- Engagement will continue in 2025 with a public webinar to share the Options Screening.

Regional Planning - East Lake Supe •

Regional electricity planning is underway this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Engagement Lead: Keir Johnston

- A webinar was hosted on July 9 to share the draft demand forecast and engagement plan, and to seek feedback.
- Feedback was accepted until July 30 and posted on the engagement webpage, along with the IESO's response to feedback.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.

| Regional | Planning - Peterb | orough t |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------|
| Kingston | | |

Regional electricity planning is underway 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, 2025 to share the draft electricity forecast scenarios and proposed engagement plan.
- Feedback was accepted until October 2 and will be posted on the engagement page.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through to Q4 2026.

Regional Planning - London Area

Regional electricity planning is underway this region.

Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi Indigenous Engagement Lead: Keir The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and IESO's response to feedback received was posted on April 28. Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.

Johnston

Regional Planning - North of Dryden Addendum

Regional electricity planning is completed this sub-region.

Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito Indigenous Engagement Lead: Keir

 The Final Addendum and the IESO's response to feedback was published on September 2.

Engagement is now closed.

Johnston

Regional Planning - Northwest

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito

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

- The Scoping Assessment is underway to determine the best planning approach to meet the electricity needs of the South Georgian Bay Muskoka electrical region.
- Engagement will commence in 2025.

Resource Acquisition

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

Current Status

Next Steps

Capacity Auction Enhancements

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.

Engagement Lead: **Trisha Hickson** Related Engagements:

- Resource Adequacy
- Demand Side Vision

 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 has now
 completed. 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 Q4 2025 with next steps on engagement.

Transmitter Selection Framework

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. Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Community Engagement Leads: Nadia Mirabelli and Andreea Nicoara

- An engagement session was held on June 25 to summarize feedback from the April 22 session and to present the final TSF Registry program rules and next steps for the registry launch.
- Stakeholder feedback received following the session was posted on the engagement webpage.
- TSF Registry was successfully launched on July 31, 2025.

 Next engagement session is scheduled for October 15.

Current Status

Next Steps

<u>Distributed Energy Resources (DER)</u> <u>Roadmap</u>

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
- <u>Enabling Resources Program</u>
- Hybrid Integration Project
- <u>IESO York Region Non-Wires</u> Alternatives Demonstration Project
- Resource Adequacy

- The DER Compensation Study is posted on the engagement website.
- A public information session to discuss the recently published report was jointly hosted on August 22 by the OEB-IESO.
- This engagement has now been concluded.

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 is comprised of two projects which will be engaged on separately to provide the appropriate level of focus and technical discussion for each design.
- The two projects are Storage and Co-located Hybrid (S/H) and Distributed Energy Resource Integration.
 Engagement on the Storage and Co-located Hybrid Integration design took place on July 24, 2025, with feedback from the sector received by the end of August.
- The next public session on the S/H project is scheduled for October
- The first public session for the Distributed Energy Resources project will take place during November to provide an overview of the goals and scope of that project stream.

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:

- A webinar was held on August to share information regarding the August 14, 2025, Addenda, introducing a new "Transmission Connection Cost Exceedance" mechanism.
 - This concludes engagement on window 1 of the LT2 RFP.

Community Engagement:

- A follow up webinar focused on a Q&A session was held September 25.
- Another Q&A session is planned for November 12 and will follow the same format as the September 25 session.

Next Steps

Stakeholder Engagement:

 Engagement on window 2 of the LT2 RFP will begin in Q4.

Medium-Term RFP

The IESO is engaging stakeholders on the development of a second Medium-Term RFP (MT2) aimed at re-committing resources with contracts expiring between 2026-2029 to secure Ontario's future energy needs.

Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Related Engagements:

- Long-Term RFP
- Resource Adequacy

- The IESO has now concluded the evaluation of Proposals for the MT2 RFP.
- Additional information is provided in the Results Table.
- The IESO has now concluded the second medium-term procurement and has executed a total of 46 Energy and Capacity contracts.

Current Status

Next Steps

Long Lead-Time Resource Procurement

The IESO is engaging on the proposed 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

- The IESO hosted an engagement session on September 16 to discuss considerations related to the design of a LLT resource procurement
- Feedback was accepted until September 30 and is posted to the LLT webpage. Response to feedback will be posted in October.

Community Engagement

 A webinar for communities is planned for November 12.

- Next public engagement session is scheduled for October 21 to discuss the draft RFP
- In addition, a
 dedicated session on
 repowering existing
 facilities is scheduled
 for October 20. The
 session will discuss
 eligibility
 considerations
 regarding expansions
 and upgrades of
 energy resources to
 inform eligibility across
 the suite of IESO
 procurements,

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: Trisha Hickson

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 in Q4 2025.

<u>Electricity Demand Side</u> <u>Management (eDSM) Framework</u>

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

Engagement Leads: Jamie Jang

Related Engagements:

Resource Adequacy

- A public engagement session was held on August 21 to present the proposed final design of the new Industrial program. The response to feedback will be posted on the engagement page shortly.
- The next public engagement session will focus on the Commercial HVAC Demand Response Program and take place on October 16.

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

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.

 A public information session was held on August 21 to provide an operational overview. In Q4 2025, IESO will establish a forum to discuss opportunities for enhancements to the market.

Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang

Related Engagements:

- Resource Adequacy
- Enabling Resources
- <u>DER Market Vision & Design</u>
 <u>Project</u>
- <u>Hybrid Integration</u>

IESO Market Rule Amendments, Chapter 3, Confidentiality, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

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.

Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang

- A webinar was held in February 2024 to discuss the proposed market rule amendments and feedback received from the November 2023 session.
- 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.

Updates to IESO Monitoring Requirements Phasor Data

The IESO proposes to update Market Rule Appendices 4.15 and 4.16 to clarify requirements for generators and transmitters to install phasor technology infrastructure and provide phasor data to the IESO. The proposed changes are intended to align with requirements in other North American ISOs and RTOs. The IESO is seeking feedback from stakeholders on these proposed updates in Market Rule Appendices 4.15 and 4.16.

Engagement Lead: Megan Doner

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.

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

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

Current Status

- 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.

Next Steps

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.

Current Status

Next Steps

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

engagement session on October 1 to provide an overview of program streams, eligibility, and application requirements ahead of the November 4th application window.

 The feedback deadline is October 15.

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.
- report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines on September 30, 2025.

The IESO submitted a

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:

- <u>Electricity Demand Side Management</u>
 (eDSM) Framework
- 2019 Conservation Achievable Potential Study

- A new Achievable Potential Study was launched in response to a ministerial directive.
- The first public engagement session introduced the study and took place on September 16.
- The response to feedback following the September 16 session will be posted on the engagement page shortly.

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

| Group | Current Status | Next Steps |
|-------|----------------|------------|
|-------|----------------|------------|

<u>Strategic Advisory Committee</u> (SAC)

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.

Engagement Lead: Megan Doner

 A public SAC meeting was held on July 16, 2025. A recording of the meeting has been posted on the website. The next public meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025. Materials for the meeting will be posted shortly.

Technical Panel (TP)

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.

Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson

- A Technical Panel meeting was held on October 7. The panel unanimously voted to recommend the Capacity Auction enhancements related to the tie-break methodology, as well as the proposed amendments under the Post Go-Live True-Ups for the Renewed Market.
- The next Technical Panel meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2025.