

External Engagement Plan

2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study

Introduction

The IESO is undertaking a new provincial electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Achievable Potential Study to inform its DSM and system planning activities. The study will identify and quantify cost-effective electricity savings potential and associated costs from energy efficiency, demand response, and behind-the-meter (BTM) solar and storage for the period of 2026-2050. A series of engagement sessions will be held to share information and seek feedback on the objectives, methods, assumptions, and results of the study, to be finalized by December 2026.

The IESO is committed to an open dialogue with stakeholders and communities to gather input and share information around the study. For any questions about this engagement plan please contact engagement@ieso.ca.

Additional Background and Resources

On November 7, 2024, the Ministry of Energy and Electrification issued a directive to the IESO to establish the 2025-2036 electricity Demand Side Management Framework. On April 24, 2025, the IESO hosted an engagement session to introduce the new 12-year electricity Demand Side Management Framework, the first 3-year plan, and seek feedback on the plan and future program opportunities. Materials associated with this session can be found on the [Electricity Demand Side Management \(eDSM\) Framework](#) engagement webpage. The directive also requires the IESO to conduct an achievable potential study by December 31, 2026. The study will be used to inform the 2028-2030 eDSM Program Plan and other eDSM and system planning activities.

The IESO, and its predecessor organizations, have historically produced eDSM achievable potential studies approximately every three or four years. The most recent, published in 2022, was a refresh to the 2019 integrated electricity and natural gas conservation achievable potential study updating key input assumptions. Materials associated with this study can be found on [2019 Conservation Achievable Potential Study](#) engagement webpage.

IESO Objectives

1. Inform external stakeholders about the study and planning activities

- a. Result: Stakeholders are aware of the study and understand the process to arrive at its results (transparency)
2. Involve external stakeholders in developing the objectives, methods, assumptions, and results of the study
 - a. Result: Constructive feedback from stakeholders is used to inform the study, feedback is linked to the results (traceability), and results are accepted as credible

Stakeholders and Communities

- Municipalities
- Local Distribution Companies (LDCs)
- Environmental advocacy groups
- eDSM program delivery partners and Distributed Energy Resources (DER) developers and aggregators

Approach

Our engagements are designed with the intention to achieve these objectives for stakeholders and communities: inform, involve, and collaborate. The engagement webinars will inform stakeholders of the methods, assumptions, and results of the study. Additionally, they will involve and collaborate with stakeholders by encouraging feedback and purposeful conversations to improve study design.

This is a public engagement process, and all materials will be posted on the [2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study](#) engagement webpage and feedback provided by stakeholders and/or communities will be posted (with their consent).

The IESO will use the following tactics for this engagement:

- Engagement webinars
- Written feedback (forms and surveys)
- Focused group meetings

Additionally, to satisfy directive requirements regarding coordination with natural gas Demand Side Management potential research and the Ontario Energy Board's DER integration work, the IESO will additionally establish an APS Advisory Group composed of representatives from the Ontario Energy Board, Enbridge, and Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Proposed Engagement Schedule

Anticipated timing for the introduction engagement is presented below.

Timing	Engagement Activity
September 2025 until December 2026	Focused group meetings with stakeholder groups to introduce the study, understand stakeholder priorities, etc.
September 16, 2025	Introduction engagement webinar and feedback window opens
September 30, 2025	Feedback window closes
Q4 2025 – Q2 2026	Methodology and Assumptions engagement webinars
Q3-4 2026	Draft Results webinar
Q4 2026	Final Results webinar
December 2026	Engagement concludes

Related Engagements

[Electricity Demand Side Management \(eDSM\) Framework](#)

[2019 Conservation Achievable Potential Study](#)