

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph Region – June 10, 2026

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: June 24, 2026.

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph region [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph regional planning webinar held on June 10, 2026, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on draft Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) recommendations for the region. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement webpage](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by June 24, 2026.

Topic	Feedback
What feedback is there on the draft recommendations to address remaining needs?	The City of Kitchener is pleased that the planned capacity recommendations - particularly through enhanced transmission capacity, electricity demand side management (eDSM) and local generation and storage (DERs) - support housing, economic development, and the growing demand for electric vehicles and clean energy retrofits.

<p>The City also appreciates that the inclusion of eDSM and DERs can provide additional local benefits for electricity customers and for local system resilience, respectively. From a municipal economic development lens, they can drive local job creation, Small Medium Enterprise growth, and stronger regional supply chains by enabling smaller suppliers to participate in installation, services, and innovation. They can also improve business competitiveness through more stable energy costs, attract investment seeking low-carbon and resilient infrastructure, and support emerging cleantech ecosystems. eDSM can also expand municipal revenues, enhance grid resilience and business continuity, build a future-ready workforce, and enable inclusive models like community energy projects. Overall, these measures can transform energy systems into a strategic economic development tool that retains value locally (per our Buy Canadian, Stay Local strategy) and supports sustainable growth.</p>
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<p>What information needs to be considered in the draft recommendations?</p>	<p>The City supports recommendations associated with eDSM and would be interested in additional detail in what this includes. The City is interested in opportunities for custom programs being in a unique situation as the operator of a gas utility that provides DSM programming. It would also be valuable to consider a range of eDSM approaches, where possible, to find those that would maximize co-benefits that could help support the community through the energy transition, while also meeting local capacity needs. In addition, the Ontario Energy Board requires coordination between electric and gas utilities for energy planning, economic growth, and to support energy affordability.</p> <p>For local generation and storage, the City is interested in how local trades and supply chains can be leveraged in support of our Buy Canadian, Stay Local strategy.</p>
<p>How can the IESO continue to engage with communities and stakeholders as these recommendations are implemented, or to help prepare for the next planning cycle?</p>	<p>The City appreciates the opportunity to engage in regional planning and the IESO’s approach to communication that level-sets for those less familiar with electricity planning. We appreciate continued opportunities for involvement through implementation including during program development for eDSM, and local generation and storage. In preparing for the next planning cycle, the City would be supportive of municipal representation on the technical working group.</p>

General Comments/Feedback

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