

South Georgian Bay/Muskoka

Responses to Public Feedback Received on Scoping Assessment

The IESO launched a new engagement initiative to seek feedback on a draft Scoping Assessment for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka Region, to help inform the development of two Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRP) for the sub-regions of Barrie/Innisfil and Parry Sound/Muskoka. As part of this engagement, a webinar was held on October 14, 2020 that presented an overview of regional planning activities in the area, to discuss and seek feedback on the draft Scoping Assessment that sets out the regional electricity planning approach for any needs identified for further assessment, and to outline next steps in the regional planning process for the region.

Communities and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback for consideration to help inform next steps in the planning process. The presentation material is available on the engagement webpage.

Feedback was received from a local resident and posted on the [engagement webpage](#).

The table below summarizes the themes that emerged from the feedback received and IESO response. The IESO appreciates the feedback and it will be considered by the Technical Working Groups as work continues on the development of the IRRPs and ongoing engagement initiatives.

Public Feedback Received

Feedback provider(s): Sandra Stephensen

Theme of feedback: Renewable technologies should be a consideration to help reduce local demand.

Feedback received: The regional electricity planning process should include assessing the potential for renewable technologies such as solar to help reduce local electricity demand. Commercial suppliers and contractors should be included in the process to help raise awareness of this opportunity with property owners to install solar on private rooftops and vacant land. The potential for energy conservation should also be factored in as well as explore proactive ways to reduce demand.

IESO Response to Feedback

While developing long-term electricity plans for an area, the IESO and the technical working group develop recommendations on how to best meet reliability needs, taking into consideration energy efficiency, cost-effective generation, transmission and distribution, and

innovative technologies. Throughout the process, the IESO works with the local distribution companies (LDCs) and the transmitter (Hydro One in the case of the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka

Region) to ensure regional issues, requirements and plans are integrated into the electricity planning processes. Stakeholders and communities are an important part of the planning process and help to provide input into the needs of the area and the possible solutions that should be considered. As the IESO and the technical working group initiates the two sub-regional Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRP) for this region, the community interest in solar facilities will be considered as options to address identified needs as further described below.

Assumptions related to existing and committed renewable generation, including solar resources, are accounted for in the demand forecast using information from the LDC. Additionally, through outreach with the region, we seek to better understand and account for planned Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), including solar resources, and other initiatives being undertaken in the future.

In addition, the anticipated impact of provincial measures in the demand forecast include the impact of Energy Efficiency programs resulting from the recent conservation framework. To better identify the potential for additional programs to meet the forecasted electricity needs in the area, we have undertaken two Local Achievable Potential Studies. Results of these studies will inform the analysis of energy efficiency options to also help address the identified needs in this IRRP.

Lastly, the IESO continues to explore new innovative ways to meet growing electricity needs. Through the IESO's Grid Innovation Fund, new projects and pilots continue to advance the sector's thinking on the potential for new and innovative ways to reduce electricity demand and consumption. Welcome to Powering Tomorrow (ieso.ca) provides more information.