GTA East Regional Electricity Planning Webinar – July 16, 2025

Response to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the GTA East electricity plan or Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) on July 16th, 2025. During the webinar, the IESO provided an overview of the regional electricity planning process and status, shared the draft electricity demand forecast scenarios, and draft engagement plan for input. The presentation materials including the methodology, webinar recording and data tables and are available on the Engagement Webpage.

The IESO appreciates the feedback received, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group, consisting of the IESO as the lead, the local transmitters (Hydro One Networks Inc.) and the Local Distribution Companies (Elexicon Energy Inc., Hydro One Distribution and Oshawa Power Utilities Corp.), to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received from the following parties; the full submission can be viewed on the Engagement Webpage:

- Municipality of Clarington
- Town of Ajax

The section below summarizes feedback received related to key developments, projects and initiatives that should be considered in the GTA East IRRP.

Electricity Demand Forecast Considerations

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Include additional considerations into the forecast scenarios, such as: • The Town of Ajax shared energy conservation must be the central focus of all planning scenarios. • The Town of Ajax shared the proposed scenarios should include a diverse set ranging from low growth, high efficiency pathways to high growth, rapid electrification trajectories. Each scenario should reflect varying assumptions around key drivers such as electrification, economic development, policy and technology adoption. • The Town of Ajax recommended embedding energy efficiency and demand-side management as key levers in all scenarios rather than treating them as optional.	The IESO appreciates this feedback and recognizes the importance of incorporating a diverse range of scenario drivers in the forecast. As a first step, three forecast scenarios are being considered in the GTA East Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP): • The reference scenario will reflect data and assumptions that reflect today's trends and policies in electrification, economic development and technology adoption; and, • A high and low demand scenario will reflect a reasonable increase and decrease from the reference case, with adjustments made to account for changes in key drivers such as economic growth, electrification trends, and policy impacts. Your local distribution company plays a key role in ensuring the forecast scenarios reflect your municipality's plans, helping to shape the reference, high and low demand forecast scenarios and identify potential future needs. As one of the most cost-effective resources, energy efficiency and demand-side management programs play a key role in supporting grid reliability. By reducing electricity demand, we can help defer more costly infrastructure investments. During the July engagement webinar, the IESO presented a high-level overview of the load forecast scenarios and shared supporting Data Tables, which include forecasted demand and energy savings from planned electricity demand-side management programs and distributed generation. These savings lower the overall forecast that must be addressed in the plan. Later in the regional planning process, during the options evaluation stage, the IESO will also assess the potential for additional energy efficiency measures as an option to further reduce

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
	or defer the needs. More information on options development can be found here.

Scope and Planning Approach

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
The Municipality of Clarington shared that the GTA East IRRP outlines distribution requirements and transmission lines, but not how electricity will be delivered to end users.	Thank you for this feedback. The Technical Working Group is comprised of the IESO and the transmitter(s) and local distribution companies (LDCs) who serve the community. Delivery to individual customers is addressed through local plans, led by the LDC and Transmitter when the needs: • are local in nature, • require limited investment in wires, and (transmission or distribution solutions) • do not involve upstream transmission upgrades. On the other hand, as part of the regional electricity planning process, needs are identified more broadly across the region when they: • impact more than one area/municipality and local distribution company and, • present an opportunity to explore a greater range of integrated solutions. Once the forecast is finalized, technical studies will be undertaken to identify needs arising on the system. The Technical Working Group welcomes feedback on electricity interests or concerns, as it may help inform broader planning considerations for the GTA East. Findings will be shared during an upcoming public engagement webinar.
Include additional considerations into the potential options, such as: • The Town of Ajax encouraged applying a climate resilience lens to ensure new generating stations, transmission and distribution infrastructure are designed and built to withstand extreme weather.	The Technical Working Group appreciates this feedback and understands the importance of accounting for temperature trends in the forecasting development. The Technical Working Group has developed the forecast scenarios based on known drivers, including Climate Change Action Plans and accounts for extreme weather

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• The Town of Ajax encouraged exploring renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, district energy systems and waste-to-energy systems.	adjustments. Details about extreme weather methodology in the regional planning process are available here and additional information about how the GTA East IRRP will account for weather impact on demand can be found in the forecasting methodology. The Technical Working Group will also take into consideration community support expressed for climate resiliency as part of the options evaluation process. During the options evaluation, the IESO will screen and evaluate wire and non-wire options, including increased energy efficiency, renewable and low-carbon options such as solar, wind, biomass, district energy systems and waste-to-energy systems to meet the needs. As part of this work, the Technical Working Group will consider reliability, cost, technical feasibility, maximizing the use of the existing electricity system (where economic), and community preferences (such as climate resiliency). Both the screening outcome and detailed evaluation will be in shared in future public engagement webinars. For more details regarding the analysis of non-wire alternatives during IRRPs, the IESO has developed a guide to the current general approach for evaluating non-wires alternatives (NWAs). The IESO welcomes additional information on renewable energy sources and also encourages interested parties to learn about opportunities available under the Local Generation Program and through Save on Energy.

Planned Engagement

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
The Town of Ajax recommended utilizing online surveys, polls and an informational video on the planning process to ensure broad and inclusive input. They also recommended using interactive workshops	The IESO appreciates this feedback and will consider it as part of future engagement activities.

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
or community open houses for residential, commercial, institutional and industrial consumers.	

General Feedback

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
The Town of Ajax would like the IESO to take a proactive role in driving energy efficiency by working closely with Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) to implement programs across residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sectors to ensure conservation is valued and utilized.	The IESO agrees that demand management options play a very important role to reduce demand. As one of the lowest-cost resources, investment in energy efficiency and demand-side management plays a unique role in ensuring a reliable, affordable, and sustainable grid now and into the future. To capture the opportunities and grow the savings from energy efficiency, the IESO is continuing to lead the way in energy-efficiency programming in North America through a $10.9 billion, 12-year funding commitment from the Ontario government that will provide ongoing and expanded opportunities for residential and business electricity consumers across the province to manage their electricity use and electricity costs. New funding is now available for local distribution companies (LDCs) to support their customers participation in the province-wide Save on Energy programs, and the IESO is working with LDCs and the OEB to create a framework to co-fund opportunities for LDCs that want to develop and implement local programs to address distribution system needs, that also provide upstream benefits to the IESO-controlled provincial electricity system. More details about current and planned programs and budgets and targets can be found here and more detailed program information is shared on SaveOnEnergy.ca.