

# Feedback Form

## Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA East Region – April 20, 2026

### Feedback Provided by:

Name: Sarah Shields

Title: Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change

Organization: Town of Whitby

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: May 8, 2026

Please note I am submitting these comments on behalf of our Planning and Economic Development Team.

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the GTA East [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the GTA East regional planning webinar held on April 20, 2026, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the identified electricity needs and initial screening of potential options. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

**Please submit feedback to [engagement@ieso.ca](mailto:engagement@ieso.ca) by May 11, 2026.**

Topic	Feedback
<p>What feedback do you have on the wire and non-wire options that will be considered to meet the region's electricity needs?</p>	<p>The Town of Whitby's community priorities are reflected in the Council-endorsed Community Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP), which establishes a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. To support this target, Whitby's approach emphasizes a clean, resilient, and locally supported electricity system.</p> <p>The Town encourages greater prioritization of non-wires solutions, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Renewable energy (e.g., solar)</li> <li>-Local distributed generation</li> <li>- Energy storage</li> </ul> <p>These solutions directly support both Phase 2 (Mitigation) by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and Phase 1 (Resilience) by strengthening the reliability and adaptability of Whitby's energy system. Whitby is also advancing policies that will increase electricity demand over time, including both community and corporate transportation and building electrification through the implementation of the Whitby Green Standard and our Zero Carbon Whitby Plan. As a result, it is important that electricity planning supports this transition in a way that is flexible, cost-effective, and aligned with long-term climate goals. While both wires and non-wires options will be required, the Town encourages the IESO to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure early and robust consideration of non-wires solutions</li> <li>- Prioritize solutions that enable local generation, storage, and demand management.</li> <li>- Align regional electricity planning with municipal growth, electrification, and climate objectives</li> </ul>
<p>What additional information should be considered in the evaluation of wire and non-wire options?</p>	<p>The Town of Whitby is a high growth municipality and is forecast to grow by over 100,000 people between today and 2051. A significant proportion of this growth (and almost all of the Town's grade-related growth) will be in the Community of Brooklin. Brooklin is currently experiencing electrical capacity constraints with limited growth opportunities until upgrades are in place. While the Town notes that upgrades are planned to the three transformer stations in Whitby over the coming years, it is important to stress that there is a significant amount of growth potential through active Development Applications that would benefit from the advancement of these upgrades sooner than the planned medium-term timeline.</p>

Topic	Feedback
	<p>To this end, the Town has been working with its local distribution company (Elexicon) to determine both interim and long-term capacity solutions. Another important priority for the Town is the development of a new hospital near Highway 407 and Highway 412. The Town requests that electrical infrastructure capacity upgrades required to support this key development.</p> <p>In addition, as noted above, the Town continues to advance both corporate and community goals to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, as outlined in the Community Climate Emergency Response Plan and Zero Carbon Whitby Plan. As electricity demand increases to support building and transportation electrification, it is important that the evaluation of both wire and non-wire options considers alignment with long-term climate objectives and local energy resilience priorities. This includes assessing the ability of proposed solutions to support low-carbon and renewable energy integration, enable local distributed generation and energy storage, and improve system flexibility and reliability. Consideration should also be given to the role of demand management and peak load reduction in supporting electrification without over-reliance on large infrastructure investments, as well as the contribution of solutions to community resilience, particularly in response to extreme weather and grid disruptions. Ensuring that electricity planning supports these objectives will be critical to enabling municipalities to meet their climate targets while maintaining a reliable and resilient energy system.</p>
<p>Are there other types of information that would be helpful for us to provide in future engagements to enhance understanding of community perspectives and insights?</p>	<p>Development approvals and implementation that provide housing options for significant population growth should not be stalled due to lack of new infrastructure and improvements to existing.</p> <p>In addition, information that could further support municipal participation in future engagements includes greater visibility into how wire and non-wire options align with climate objectives, including potential greenhouse gas implications and contributions to local energy system resilience. As well, as insights into the role and potential scale of distributed energy resources, such as solar and energy storage. This information would help municipalities</p>

Topic	Feedback
	better align regional electricity planning with local climate, growth, and infrastructure strategies.

## General Comments/Feedback

Click or tap here to enter text.