2026 GTA East IRRP Fact Sheet

Regional planning is a collaborative process that evaluates a range of cost-effective supply- and demand-side resources, as well as transmission options, to ensure the regional electricity system remains reliable, affordable, and capable of supporting future growth. Developed with input from municipalities, Indigenous communities, utilities, and regional stakeholders, Integrated Regional Resource Plans reflect the unique characteristics and needs of its electrical planning area.

About the Planning Region

Greater Toronto Area (GTA) East is the traditional territory of many nations, including several Indigenous communities that may be potentially impacted or may have an interest based on treaty territory, traditional territory or traditional land use: Alderville First Nation, Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and Métis Nation of Ontario.

Region boundaries extend from Lake Ontario northward to the southern parts of Scugog and Uxbridge, and includes the municipalities of Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, and parts of Clarington within Durham Region.

Between 2025–2044, electricity demand is forecast to increase by approximately 104 per cent in the summer and 129 per cent in the winter, driven by population growth, new development, and increasing electrification.

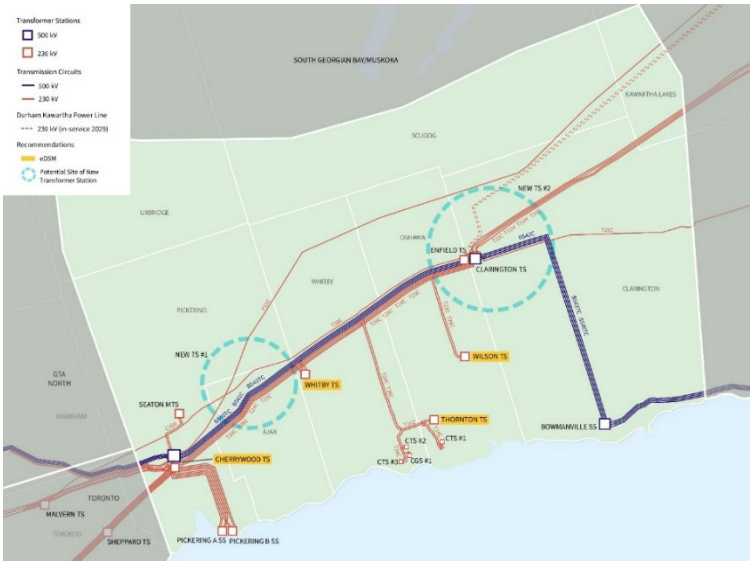
Meeting Regional Needs

As part of the 2026 GTA East Integrated Regional Resource Plan, the IESO has identified investments to address growing electricity needs and provide flexibility for future solutions that can be considered through subsequent planning cycles.

The plan recommends building a new transformer station in the Pickering-Ajax-Whitby subregion; and developing new transformer station capacity in the Oshawa-Clarington subregion that will be supplied by the Durham-Kawartha Power Line. This will increase the amount of electricity available to communities, support future growth, improve reliability, and reduce strain on existing stations by balancing demand across a larger network of stations. Station design, ownership, and siting details will be confirmed through subsequent development and implementation activities.

In addition, the plan recommends targeted energy efficiency and demand management programs at four existing stations to moderate electricity demand growth, maximize the utilization of existing infrastructure, and reduce the overall cost of meeting future electricity needs.

GTA East Recommendations Map



Plan Benefits

- ✓ **Increase station capacity** in GTA East so more power can be delivered from the high-voltage grid into communities via the distribution system.
- ✓ **Create flexibility** for more options to meet future electricity needs as communities continue to grow and require more electricity.
- ✓ **Serve new and developing communities**, including the Seaton community in Pickering that is planned to eventually accommodate a population of 70,000 residents.
- ✓ **Support local priorities** across Durham Region by advancing electrification initiatives that align with municipal climate and energy strategies.
- ✓ **Improve the resilience** of the electricity system by providing more ways to deliver power when equipment is out of service for maintenance or unexpected events.
- ✓ **Offer system and ratepayer cost savings** through targeted electricity demand-side management programs that will moderate electricity demand growth and maximize the utilization of existing infrastructure.

Next Steps

- Following the selection of a transformer station proponent, new stations will proceed with planning and approvals, which includes site assessment, environmental review, regulatory processes, and the IESO's System Impact Assessment process to ensure reliability and support its timely integration of the transformer station into the electricity system.
- In collaboration with local distribution companies, advance targeted energy efficiency and demand-side management opportunities. This includes assessing implementation approaches and expected energy and demand savings to help inform future forecasts and system planning.

- Through annual Technical Working Group meetings, review potential changes to demand forecasts, electrification uptake, and eDSM performance — and determine whether additional studies or transmission system actions are warranted to support reliability.

Engagement

Throughout the 18-month IRRP process, the IESO undertook extensive engagement, including three public webinars and targeted discussions with municipalities and Indigenous communities. The IESO also responded to 19 stakeholder submissions, all of which are publicly posted on the GTA East engagement webpage. Feedback consistently emphasized the importance of balancing regional growth with affordability, reliability, energy efficiency, and decarbonization objectives. There was broad support for fully assessing non-wires alternatives — such as conservation, storage, and distributed energy resources — before pursuing major transmission investments, while ensuring the electricity system can meet the region's projected long-term growth.

Other Area Activities

Previous electricity plans recommended transformer stations that receive electricity from the provincial grid and lower the voltage for distribution to homes and businesses.

  - Enfield Transformer Station, in-service 2019, located in Clarington that enables future residential, commercial, and industrial electricity growth across Durham Region and the east GTA; and
  - Seaton Municipal Station, in-service 2023, located in Pickering, that provides connection capacity for approximately 20,000 homes and businesses in Pickering and Ajax to support community growth and enable renewable energy resources.

- Through the Gatineau Corridor End-of-Life Study the IESO recommended the Durham-Kawartha Power Line, a 53-kilometre line between Clarington and Peterborough expected to be completed in 2029, that will ensure reliability in the Peterborough to Quinte West area is sufficient for the next 20 years.
- The South and Central Bulk Plan recommended the Bowmanville to East GTA Power Line, a 45-kilometre connection between Clarington and Pickering, expected to be completed in 2032, that will enable new small modular reactors near Darlington Nuclear Generation Station, as well as a greater flow of supply from other resources in eastern Ontario into the Greater Toronto Area.
- The Toronto Third Line, identified in the 2025 Toronto Integrated Regional Resource Plan, is a proposed 65-kilometre underwater transmission line that will strengthen electricity supply to the city of Toronto, connecting between Bowmanville Switching Station in Clarington to Hearn Switching Station in downtown Toronto.
- Balancing the needs and risks of ratepayers and suppliers, the IESO's competitive procurements align electricity resources with the system's evolving needs, ensuring the continued availability of electricity from various sources to maintain the reliability, sustainability, and affordability of Ontario's electricity system.