

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA East Region – September 14, 2026

Feedback Provided by:

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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 September 14, 2026, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the detailed options analysis and draft recommendations to meet the needs. 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 by October 5, 2026.

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What feedback do you have on the draft recommendations?	The screening out of distributed energy resources (DERs) plus storage, as even a partial solution in the near term, is a missed opportunity to modernize our local systems and

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	build energy resilience. The recommendations seem to push any consideration of such facilities beyond the next 4-6 years. Now is the time when we should be focused on developing micro-scale and community scale generation so that we don't need to rely on fossil fuel generation to fill the gaps created by the loss of Pickering NGS and growing demand. Screening out these non-wires alternatives as partial solutions for the next 4 to 6 years is a barrier and discourages their development in this region. The existing IESO programs (Long Term Procurement and Enabling Resources Program) to solicit bids to provide renewable-plus-storage excludes smaller scale generation (100 kW to 10 MW). Small potential generators "may find the complexities, scale requirements, and cost structures of the LT procurements, direct market participation via ERP, or corporate PPAs prohibitive or less advantageous given their specific community-oriented objectives." (quote from Solar Share submission to the Local Generation program engagement feedback at https://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Engagement-Initiatives/Engagements/Local-Generation-Program). If small scale local generation opportunities are more likely to connect through the distribution system rather than the transmission system, the IESO's planning process should work with LDGS to include, encourage and help coordinate a scale-appropriate process for identifying smaller, local generation opportunities. The process needs to work for participants who may not be primarily in the energy business, so ease up on the jargon and acronyms, and provide a manageable process. Work closely with municipalities that have community energy plans to find interested participants.
What information needs to be considered regarding the draft recommendations?	Explain how the energy provided by the Durham Region District Heating project is being incorporated into the IRRP and how this energy will be valued as part of the system. Will Durham taxpayers be compensated by the IESO for developing this system in the same way that other generators are paid for their contributions? With targeted supports, local behind-the-meter and community-based renewable generation and storage could be better incented/leveraged to reduce the demand in the GTA East. What is the status of the proposed Local Generation Program referenced on this IESO page

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	https://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Engagement-Initiatives/Engagements/Local-Generation-Program? A report was expected in 2026 but nothing recent is posted on the engagement page. With respect to local generation, CJD suggests it should be a key input to the options evaluation and analysis in parallel with eDSM measures. We support the comments made by The Atmospheric Fund and Solar Share in regard to the local generation program. Their submissions are found in the feedback section of the IESO page noted above) about ways to motivate and support local generation.
How can the IESO continue to engage with communities and stakeholders as the recommendations are implemented, or to help prepare for the next planning cycle.	We urge the IESO, in partnership with the LDCs, to commit to building capacity to accept renewable generation into the GTA East system as soon as possible (including regulatory and technical supports). This should enable and support development of a distribution system operator framework that incentivizes both behind the meter and community scale generation projects. Fund/support municipalities that have community energy plans to reduce GHG emissions and increase energy efficiency in new developments (and retrofits) that will reduce the impact of growth on energy demand. The Province is currently reviewing the Ontario Building Code. Urge the MMAH to incorporate significant improvements in energy efficiency in the updated OBC and contain/lower future energy demand province-wide.

General Comments/Feedback

We urge the IESO to stop “greenwashing” nuclear power projects. The management of nuclear waste produced across the energy lifecycle is a toxic problem lasting thousands of years, from mine tailings to used fuel to decommissioned plant wastes. NWMO still has a plan that only deals with some of the waste that already exists. If we must have the Darlington and Pickering developments, then at least make the plants more energy efficient. Reduce their impacts on Lake Ontario by redirecting the “waste heat” from the cooling system water into district heating systems that can serve the site and adjacent urban areas. Work with the Region of Durham to do so. Incorporate solar, wind and storage onsite and use these sites as places to innovate and pilot advancements in renewables and storage. We also encourage the Province and IESO to revise the Municipal Energy Planning process to provide greater support and funding for energy retrofits, renewables and storage and electrification at the local scale to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for generation, transport and space heating.