

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.

Topic	Feedback
What feedback do you have on the draft recommendations?	Durham Region supports the proposed combination of targeted eDSM and new station investments to maintain reliability and accommodate significant growth and

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	electrification across GTA East. However, the Region recommends a stronger role for non-wire solutions alongside these investments. While individual projects may not be able to meet the full scale of the identified needs, a combination of eDSM, local renewable generation, battery storage, demand response, thermal energy recovery, and other DERs could help reduce peak demand, strengthen grid resilience and potentially defer or reduce future infrastructure needs. Smaller-scale and community energy projects should also have opportunities to contribute. The IESO's scenario analysis shows that non-wire resources can complement new station capacity over the medium and long term. The Region therefore recommends clearer funding, incentives and implementation support for non-wire solutions, including support for municipalities and LDCs to advance eDSM, local renewable generation, storage and other DER projects. District energy and waste-heat recovery should also be more clearly recognized as non-wire solutions. These systems can reduce electricity demand for heating and cooling and make use of local thermal energy that would otherwise be wasted. The Courtice District Energy project is already reflected in the IRRP forecast, and greater savings from the project could further reduce demand and potentially delay future station capacity needs. The Region recommends clearer mechanisms and incentives that recognize these electricity-system benefits. Finally, the IRRP should provide greater clarity on timing, including when additional renewable generation, storage and other DERs could connect as new capacity becomes available, what can be advanced in the near term, and how non-wire opportunities will continue to be assessed as system needs evolve.
What information needs to be considered regarding the draft recommendations?	The final recommendations should provide more clarity on the funding, incentives and support needed to advance non-wire solutions, including the following: • Value of non-wire solutions. The analysis should consider more than whether non-wire solutions can

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	fully replace a transformer station. It should also consider whether investments in eDSM, DERs, storage, district energy and waste-heat recovery could reduce or defer future infrastructure needs, free up grid capacity for growth, reduce peak demand and improve resilience. Where these solutions provide broader electricity-system benefits, there should be clearer ways to recognize and support that value. • Support for LDC-led projects. The IESO should work with the OEB and local LDCs to identify opportunities and barriers for local solar, storage, DER and eDSM projects, including whether additional incentives or funding are needed. This should also consider how smaller projects could be combined to provide a greater contribution to local electricity needs. • Municipal support for eDSM. The IESO's analysis shows that additional eDSM is cost-effective and can help reduce demand at several constrained stations. Additional funding for municipalities would help increase participation through local outreach, building-owner engagement, energy benchmarking and coordination with utilities. • District energy and waste-heat recovery opportunities should be considered more directly within electricity planning. The Courtice District Energy project is already reflected in the demand forecast, demonstrating that district energy can help reduce future electricity needs. Stronger incentives should be considered for district energy and waste-heat recovery projects that reduce peak demand and potentially defer future electricity infrastructure. • New station ownership. The IESO should provide greater clarity on the ownership and delivery of the proposed new station in the Oshawa-Clarington area. Oshawa Power has expressed interest in exploring ownership based on projected growth within its service territory. This option should be considered with the affected LDCs as planning for the station advances.

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	• Growth and grid resilience - the IESO should continue coordinating with Durham Region, area municipalities and LDCs so electricity forecasts reflect planned growth, major new loads, and electrification. The analysis should also continue to consider how local generation, storage, district energy and other distributed resources can help strengthen grid resilience as demand grows.
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.	Durham Region recommends continued coordination between the IESO, LDCs, municipalities and other partners as the GTA East plan is implemented. This should include regular updates on electricity demand, eDSM performance, station investments and opportunities for non-wire solutions. The IESO should also work with LDCs to identify opportunities and barriers for local solar, storage, DERs and eDSM, including whether additional incentives, funding or regulatory support are needed. Municipal energy, growth and infrastructure planning should continue to inform electricity planning. Additional funding and information should also be provided to municipalities to help implement local eDSM and other energy initiatives that can reduce demand. Finally, the IESO should provide more clarity on timelines for implementing non-wire solutions and energy-efficiency programs following completion of the IRRP, including how municipalities and LDCs will be involved.

General Comments/Feedback

Durham Region supports timely investment in infrastructure required to maintain grid reliability and accommodate growth. However, the final IRRP should look beyond new transformer stations and continue to advance non-wire solutions such as DERs, storage, local solar, eDSM, district energy and waste-heat recovery. The Region recommends clearer funding and incentives to support these solutions, including municipal eDSM funding and support for LDC-led projects. This would help determine where non-wire solutions could reduce, defer or complement future infrastructure needs. Durham is well positioned to collaborate on implementation. The Region's Courtice District Energy System and broader district heat master planning can provide practical test cases for quantifying thermal peak reduction and avoided electricity infrastructure. Continued collaboration with GTA East LDCs can also identify how local solar, storage, demand management and other DERs support grid stabilization, community resilience and growth.