

Feedback Received and IESO Responses

Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph Electricity Planning Public Webinar #4: Draft IRRP recommendations June 10, 2026

To support the finalization of the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph (KWCG) Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) the IESO hosted engagements with municipalities and the public during which the IESO:

- Provided a status update on the IRRP, including a recap of work completed to date and feedback received through previous discussions and engagements;
- Ensured applicable linkages with the parallel [South and Central Bulk Plan](#) are made; and,
- Provided an overview of the outcomes of the options analysis and draft recommendations to meet remaining needs in the KWCG region for input.

The presentation materials and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

Feedback regarding the draft recommendations to address remaining needs was welcomed until June 24th, 2026.

The IESO appreciates the input, which was considered by the Technical Working Group¹ to finalize the IRRP. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the [engagement webpage](#):

- [City of Kitchener](#)

¹ The Technical Working Group is lead by the IESO and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Alectra Utilities Corporation, GrandBridge Energy, Halton Hills Hydro Inc., Enova Power Corp., Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd., Wellington North Power Inc., Milton Hydro Distribution Inc., and Halton Hills Hydro Inc.)

The section below summarizes feedback reviewed related to the draft recommendations presented during the webinar to address remaining needs for the KWCG electrical region.

Feedback on draft recommendations to address remaining needs

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
The City of Kitchener is supportive of the recommendations to increase capacity in the KWCG region through transmission reinforcements, eDSM, and DERs, noting that these measures can transform energy systems into a strategic economic development tool to retain value locally and support sustainable growth.	Thank you for this feedback and support for investing in both wires and non-wires solutions. Local and community preferences are key considerations in the regional electricity planning process and recommendation of solutions to meet future needs. As part of the regional planning process, the IESO is recommending wire and a range of non-wire solutions, such as eDSM, distributed energy resources (DERs) such as solar generation and battery storage, as part of an integrated plan best suited to cost-effectively meet the unique and growing needs of the KWCG region, while ensuring local communities have access to reliable, grid-sourced electricity.

Further information to be considered for draft recommendations

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
The City of Kitchener is interested in further information relating to eDSM implementation, specifically relating to maximizing the benefits of gas-electric coordination, to leverage their position as the operator of Kitchener Utilities, which provides DSM programming.	The IESO acknowledges the potential benefits of coordination between electricity and gas initiatives, and welcomes engagement with local gas utilities to explore opportunities coordinate demand side management efforts. The IESO's Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) program is backed by a \$10.9-billion, 12-year funding commitment. It operates under rolling 3-year plans, which include \$1.8 billion in funding allocated to province-wide programs, plus specific streams for local projects delivered by Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) to address grid constraints.

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	The framework allows LDCs to design, propose, and deliver localized conservation programs that solve regional electricity distribution and bulk system needs and involves: • Cost Sharing: Local LDC eDSM projects are typically funded through a split between the IESO's Global Adjustment (GA) and the LDC's local rates, determined via cost-benefit calculations. • Application Process: LDCs must submit their program designs directly to the IESO for cost-effectiveness reviews, receive a confirmation letter, and then file for rate-funded approval with the Ontario Energy Board. The IESO encourages the City of Kitchener to engage the LDC to design energy conservation programs that would optimize both electricity and gas.
The City of Kitchener is also interested in how local trades and supply chains can be leveraged for the implementation of recommendations relating to local generation and storage.	For non-wires solutions recommended in the IRRP, the IESO encourages municipalities to continue to engage with their LDC and IESO procurement initiatives throughout project development to identify opportunities to facilitate local benefits such as leveraging local trades and supply chains.

Considerations for Engagements

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
The City of Kitchener would appreciate continued opportunities to engage through the implementation of IRRP recommendations.	Thank you for your feedback. Once an IRRP is developed, the transmitter, in this case, Hydro One, leads a subsequent Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP). This phase focuses strictly refining the "wires-only" solutions (such as upgrading or adding

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The City is also supportive of municipal representation in the technical working group for the next planning cycle.	transmission lines and transformer stations) recommended in the IRRP. Further into the project development phase, the transmitter and in some cases, the local electricity distributors, will begin implementing these recommendations and be accountable for engaging with communities on specifics, such as route selection, design, construction methods, and timelines. Municipalities are encouraged to continue to engage throughout such project development to provide input, and identify opportunities to facilitate local benefits. For non-wires solutions recommended in the IRRP, the IESO encourages municipalities to continue to engage with their LDC and the IESO procurement initiatives. Regional planning is a cyclical process, occurring every five years at a minimum, and can be triggered early as needed to align with evolving needs. Between planning cycles, the IESO encourages municipalities, community stakeholders, Indigenous communities, businesses and all interested parties to engage directly with their local electricity distributor to share information about current, planned or potential growth and development, as well as local energy priorities and initiatives. In alignment with the Ministry of Energy's Integrated Energy Plan, the IESO will look for opportunities to engage between planning cycles to stay abreast of changes and new developments ahead of the next plan. The Technical Working Group was established by the Ontario Energy Board as part of the formal process for regional electricity planning, and is specifically

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
	led by the IESO and composed of the lead transmitter and local electricity distributors in the region. Engagement with municipalities and other interested parties is undertaken through targeted meetings, public webinars and written comment periods. The IESO will also undertake further engagement activities as needed to inform its planning work within specific regions.

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