

## Southwest Regional Electricity Network Update

July 2020

The IESO is committed to providing Network members with timely and relevant updates on key electricity matters. This email provides an update on the activities underway that may be of interest to members since we last engaged with you through the first edition of [Network News](#) in April and our discussions during the [Southwest Forum](#) in March.

Please contact us at [communityengagement@ieso.ca](mailto:communityengagement@ieso.ca) with any questions, comments or ideas for future discussions in your network.

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### **Engagement opportunities:**

Regional electricity planning is active in the regions of [Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph \(KWCG\)](#) and [Greater Bruce/Huron](#) and engagement is underway to seek input into the development of a long-term electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – for each of these regions. A further study is also being undertaken to assess specific local electricity infrastructure in the Town of Kingsville and Municipality of Leamington, which was a key recommendation within the [Windsor-Essex IRRP](#). The Windsor-Essex [active engagement initiative](#) will seek input on potential options to meet future electricity needs in this specific area.

A new engagement framework is in place at the IESO. This means that designated monthly engagement meetings allow stakeholders and communities to more effectively plan their participation in IESO market and systems discussions and provide input into future decision-making. View past meeting materials [online](#). The next scheduled engagement days are July 22-24.

The IESO will participate in the 2020 virtual [AMO conference](#) August 17-19. Visit us at our booth to participate in targeted discussions around local energy solutions, innovation and ways to support community energy planning.

[Subscribe](#) to receive updates on specific regional planning activities or other subscriptions including the weekly IESO Bulletin.

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### **Sector innovation:**

The IESO's [innovation and sector evolution white paper series](#) aims to deepen the understanding of emerging economic, technical, environmental and social issues that could transform the future of the electricity markets in Ontario. A recently posted white paper explores how the coordination of market and operational processes could help unlock more of the value that Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) offer to reduce overall system costs, while supporting operational reliability, resource adequacy and efficient market outcomes. The IESO also explores how significant technological change is reshaping Ontario's electricity system in the "Development of a transmission-distribution interoperability framework" white paper. Read these papers on the IESO [website](#).

Energy efficiency helps reduce the need for new infrastructure investments, and is the cheapest resource for Ontario's electricity system. An Energy Efficiency Auction Pilot to be held in March 2021, will procure up to 13 megawatts of permanent demand reduction during winter and summer peak periods from the implementation of energy efficiency and load-shifting projects. View the final detailed design [here](#).

Plans are underway for the first local Distributed Energy Resource [electricity market pilot auction](#) in York Region, just north of Toronto, in November 2020 for a commitment period for the summer of 2021. A second auction for the summer of 2022 is expected at the end of next year. A webinar is being held on July 23 to present an overview of the draft pilot rules and describe requirements for participants. More information and how to register for the webinar is available [online](#).

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### **Podcasts and publications:**

The IESO's [Powering Tomorrow web page](#) shines a light on data, technology, research and efficiency in the energy sector. Read the latest article on [Preparing Ontario's power system for the summer](#).

Listen to the IESO's latest podcast "[Ontario's electricity system in a post-pandemic era](#)" where the IESO chats with various stakeholders to better understand how they've been navigating their operations throughout the pandemic and what the future holds for their organizations in a post-pandemic era.

Also read about how the impacts of COVID-19 on Ontario's electricity system are being closely examined. Provincial electricity forecasts continue to be reviewed and updated given the pandemic's impact on supply and demand. An article on lessons learned so far, [Forecasting Electricity Demand in Times of Uncertainty](#), was published on the IESO website in early June. Reliability updates are also provided during the engagement days sessions.

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### **Managing Ontario's electricity system and market:**

The IESO's [Reliability Outlook](#) for July 2020 to December 2021 was released. The report details Ontario's demand forecast and associated drivers and shows that overall, our system is well-positioned for the next 18 months, with adequate supply to meet demand.

A new [market renewal newsletter](#) has been released to provide updates on the fundamental redesign of Ontario's electricity markets and upcoming meetings. Sign up to receive market renewal updates on the [IESO website](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant impacts on the electricity systems since March. Visit the [IESO website](#) to read about a few insights on the system as a whole, as well as analysis on the electricity use among business and residential sectors.

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**What's next:**

Planning is underway for the next Southwest Regional Electricity Network meeting later this fall, and an online engagement tool is being developed to further enable engagement and dialogue among members. Further details will be provided to Network members in the coming months.