

Market Renewal Program: Market Participant Readiness Plan

- Market participants can review the plan and propose suggestions.
- Subscribe to the Market Renewal Newsletter <https://ieso.ca/subscribe> to stay up-to-date on readiness information.
- Designate an MRP Contact Person for your organization by contacting market.renewal@ieso.ca

Market Participant Readiness

Through the Market Renewal Program (MRP), the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is actively working on market enhancements to create significant cost-efficiencies for Ontario's energy consumers by redesigning electricity markets to correct inefficiencies and encourage greater competition. Market renewal will help ensure Ontarians have a stable and reliable supply of electricity at the lowest cost while those working in the sector can rely on a robust market that is prepared for whatever the future may hold.

The IESO is currently in the Implementation Phase of the Market Renewal Program, and there are many activities happening to bring a renewed market to life. One of the most critical components to the success of the renewed market, and achieving the results set out in the business case, is the readiness of market participants (MPs) to actively participate in the new market.

The IESO is continuing to engage with stakeholders to finalize the batches of [Market Rules and Market Manuals](#) that will govern the renewed market. In parallel, the IESO is working on various tasks relating to solution development, and internal and external training, among other activities.

This document will outline the key approach and timelines for Market Participant Readiness activities, and will form the foundation of the specific tactical planning that is being created to support market participants through the Market Renewal transition.

Background

[Detailed Design](#) outlines the primary concepts and the changes that MPs can expect from the renewed market, including the design, process changes and the new data flows that will be required.

These detailed design documents serve as the foundation for the business requirements and the business process updates that market participants will have to undergo.

The IESO has engaged a cross-section of MPs for their advice and input on testing and training activities, which has guided the planning and approach used for Market Participant Readiness. The IESO is thankful to the individuals who volunteered for the Technical Advisory Group, the meeting materials and discussion summaries are posted on the IESO's [Implementation Engagement](#) webpage.

The [Implementation Working Group](#) provides strategic advice and input to the IESO in support of MRP implementation activities. This working group is meant to augment the broader engagement discussions that will continue.

Market Rules and Market Manuals

Further to the [stakeholder engagement plan](#) the IESO is working closely with the stakeholder community to have visibility and engagement on the proposed Market Rules and Market Manuals. The IESO will continue to provide rules and manuals content together, as a cohesive package. The IESO is providing an opportunity for questions and discussions, and will diligently provide answers to all written comments.

Stakeholders have the opportunity to be engaged in the process by participating in the Engagement Days discussions, and accessing the specific language of these documents from the [IESO Market Renewal page](#).

The IESO will highlight opportunities to stay engaged in this process through the IESO Bulletin and the Market Renewal Newsletter <https://ieso.ca/subscribe>.

Market Participant Segmentation

The IESO has posted resources in support of [Market Participant readiness](#). The Market Participant Readiness Checklist will help MPs plan and assign resources to the testing, training and educational opportunities through Market Renewal.

Alongside the checklist, the IESO has posted [Day in the Life](#) for the various Market Participant types, including some generator fuel-types. This document spells out in specific details what day-to-day changes will be expected for participation in the new market.

These materials will set a clear foundation for MPs to plan out what are the business process changes that they will need to take on for their future participation.

IT Process Changes

The IESO is currently engaged in a range of solution development activities, which revolve around changes to three primary tools for interacting with the IESO-Administered Market: Online IESO, the Energy Market Interface (EMI), and Dispatch Services.

- **Online IESO** will be used to create new contact types, host the prudentials workflow, submit reference level information, among other uses.

- **EMI** (and the Market Information Management Application Programming Interface [MIM API]) is used to submit bids and offers (including in the Day-Ahead Market), and other relevant dispatch data.
- **Dispatch Services** is used to communicate commitment and de-commitment notifications.

MPs have been provided the [Technical Specifications for the MIM API and the Dispatch Services API](#). This gives participants the ability to assess the changes to the tools that the IESO hosts, which will then inform what changes are needed so that MP tools can seamlessly interact with these revised tools. Following the release of the Technical Specifications, the IESO proposes to begin market participant testing activities in 2024.

[New and updated reports](#) stem from the information in the Detailed Design, with additional details provided in the Rules and Manuals. The IESO anticipates ~50 new reports, and updates to a further ~100 reports. Due to the volume of changes, the IESO will provide the sample and schemas files, where applicable, to participants, and will update the Help files so that there is a clear indication of what is changing. IESO account managers will work with MPs if there are any challenges in accessing and interpreting information in Reports.

Timeline of readiness activities

Read the October 20, 2023 presentation decks for timelines: [Presentation - Training and Participant Readiness](#) and [Presentation - Market Participant Testing](#).

Market Renewal Program - Training Materials

[Self-directed learning materials](#) have been created by the IESO to assist market participant in understanding the new concepts that the Market Renewal Program (MRP) is introducing, and how participation is changing for specific resources. While every effort has been made to ensure that the content in these training publications are accurate, users are reminded that the final approved set of market rules and market manuals will govern the future market.

Market Renewal Program - Participant Tool Training

The [draft guides and manuals that demonstrate how the IESO interfaces](#) and tools are changing as a result of the Market Renewal Program (MRP) will be made available. Market participants can use these documents to help them perform certain tasks through the IESO's online tools during market participant testing next year. System changes to the registration forms in Online IESO will be implemented at Registration Go-Live, and modifications to the Market Information Management and Dispatch Services system will become effective at MRP Go-Live.

Communication, Education and Support

The IESO is preparing to support MPs through the final stages of the program by having an account management model. Each MP will be assigned a specific point of contact for all areas of testing, training and education. The account management model serves to provide a direct contact, timely

and relevant communication, and accountability for resolving issues that may arise through training and testing phases.

The IESO will continue to issue editions of the [MRP Newsletter](#), and will shift the focus to provide more detail on the current implementation activities, updates to training material, and the upcoming opportunities for testing or further engagement.

Each organisation is requested to designate a Market Renewal Program Contact Person to help stay informed on progress and important developments as your organization prepares for implementation of MRP's changes. Contacts information can be shared with Market.Renewal@ieso.ca.

Alongside the Day in the Life look at MRP for participants, the IESO will be building out a complete set of training materials so the sector can increase their understanding of key MRP concepts. This library of training materials can be used to train and educate sector participants, with the goal of greater understanding of the renewed market. Participants are welcome to notify the IESO if there are specific concepts or items that stakeholders would like to see covered in those materials.

The IESO will also be proceeding on using test case management software. As discussed with the [MRP Technical Advisory Group](#) and the [MRP Implementation Working Group](#), test case management software has shown to provide significant benefits to the testing phase, as testing outputs can be tracked and recorded to lead to less downtime and more formalized defect tracking and correction. The IESO will provide more details on the steps that participants need to take to use a test case management tool, including licensing and user agreements, and may consider the opportunities to leverage the tool when developing their own internal testing.

Working closely with MPs has been a hallmark of the IESO's activities, and with careful planning and communication, the IESO and Market Participants will be equipped to move forward confidently into a renewed market in Ontario.