

Integrated Regional Resource Plan Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph Engagement Plan

I. Introduction

This Engagement Plan outlines the background, objectives and proposed timelines to inform and seek input on the development of the 2020 Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph (KWCG) Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP).

The [KWCG region](#) is located in southwestern Ontario and encompasses the Region of Waterloo and the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph, and the townships of Wellesley, Woolwich, Wilmot, North Dumfries. Portions of Perth, Oxford and Wellington counties and the municipalities of Blandford-Blenheim, Centre Wellington, Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch are also included in the region (see Figure 1). The region's electricity is delivered by 10 LDCs: Alectra Utilities (Guelph), Centre Wellington Hydro, Waterloo North Hydro, Energy+, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro, Wellington North Power, Halton Hills Hydro, Milton Hydro and Hydro One. Hydro One is also the transmission asset owner.

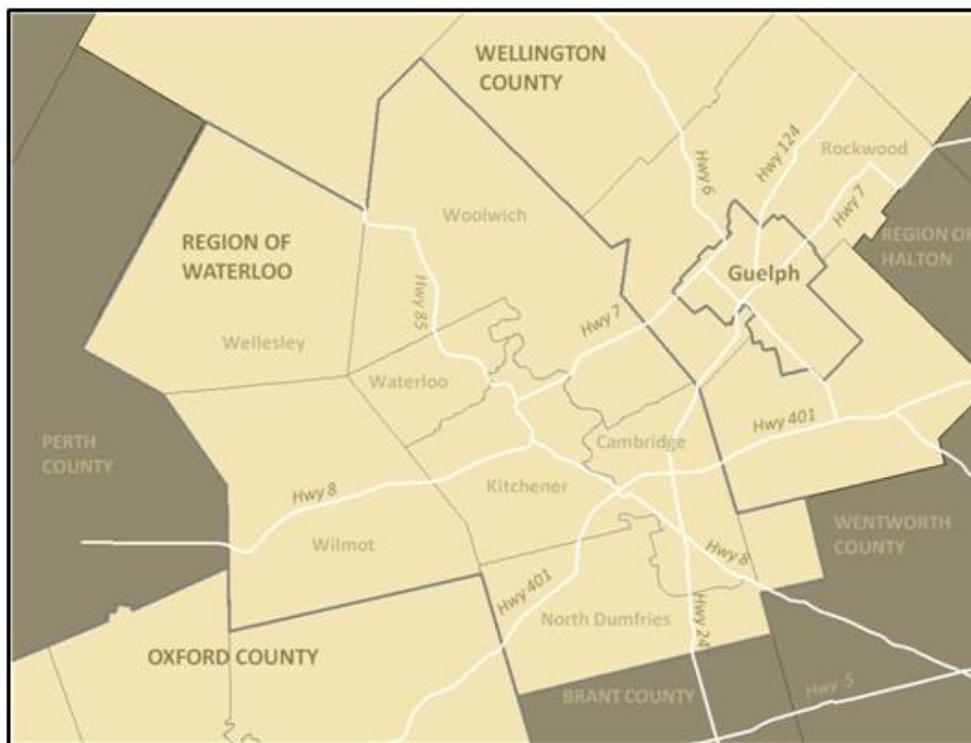


Figure 1 – Map of KWCG Region

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Input into the IRRP will be invited on:

- Population and growth rate forecasts and information on local economic development, projected growth and future plans especially around areas of intensification to determine the electricity demand forecast and needs for the region
- Potential options to address local needs identified through the planning process over the near (up to five years) to medium term (up to 10 years)
- Opportunities to align community energy plans, community-based energy solutions, and other economic development plans, for implementation in the medium to long term (up to 20 years), with the IRRP

As part of the engagement, the IESO will also conduct targeted outreach to specific communities in the areas in which localized needs and issues have been identified. The content and outcome of these discussions will be shared more broadly through other activities that will be undertaken as part of this engagement initiative.

The IESO encourages all parties with an interest in this initiative to participate in this engagement. All comments and inquiries in this engagement initiative can be directed to engagement@ieso.ca

This engagement plan may be subject to review and updates as the process evolves.

II. Ontario's Regional Planning Process

Regional electricity system planning is a process for identifying and meeting local electricity needs to ensure a reliable electricity supply is contemplated within 21 electricity regions across the province. Regional planning is part of a broader planning context, which includes bulk and distribution system planning, with the objective of maintaining a reliable and cost-effective electricity supply. Each region's unique needs and characteristics are looked at from a 20-year outlook, and energy efficiency, generation, transmission and distribution, and innovative resources such as distributed generation are taken into consideration as options to meet those needs.

In each region, the IESO works with the local distribution companies (LDCs), the transmitters and communities to ensure that regional issues and requirements are effectively integrated into the electricity planning process.

Regional planning is a continual process, with electricity reliability evaluated at a minimum of every five years in each region.

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Community engagement plays a key role, and the IESO encourages all interested parties to join this discussion to:

- Learn more about the regional planning process, who is involved and the local electricity needs
- Provide input into shaping the region's electricity future by discussing options for meeting local needs, including applicable and cost-effective non-wires alternatives (such as conservation and demand management and distributed energy resources), and discussing the local community's support for development of these options
- Share perspectives for future growth in the area, and how to work together to shape the area's future electricity supply
- Determine opportunities for coordinating and aligning local planning activities and initiatives with the regional planning process

For more information, visit the Regional Planning Process webpage at:

<http://www.ieso.ca/en/get-involved/regional-planning/about-regional-planning/how-the-process-works>

III. Background

2015 KWCG Integrated Regional Resource Plan

The first cycle of regional planning for the KWCG region was completed with the release of an [IRRP](#) and [Regional Infrastructure Plan \(RIP\)](#) in 2015. Two major transmission projects required to address local needs in the near to medium term.

The Guelph Area Transmission Refurbishment Project (GATR) was placed into service in Q4 2016 to address imminent supply needs in South-Central Guelph and the Kitchener area and to minimize the impact of potential supply interruptions to customers in Waterloo, Guelph and surrounding areas. The GATR project included the installation of two 115 kV/230 kV auto-transformers, switching facilities, and the upgrade of an existing transmission line in Guelph.

The second transmission project involved switching facilities work at the Galt Junction to improve supply reliability for the Cambridge-Kitchener 230 kV Sub-system, which was completed in October 2017.

2018-2020 KWCG Regional Planning Process

The current regional planning cycle began with the [Needs Assessment](#) report published by Hydro One in December 2018 that identified areas of needs requiring further assessment and coordinated regional planning. The [KWCG Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and IRRP](#)

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[Terms of Reference](#) determined the need for an integrated planning approach and formation of a Technical Working Group.

The KWCG Technical Working Group, led by the IESO and comprised of the transmitter and Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) serving the region, is responsible for developing an IRRP. The IRRP will include a set of recommended actions to maintain reliability of supply to the region over the next 20 years (2018-2037). To inform IRRP development, the group will work to gather data, identify needs and issues, examine integrated options, recommend actions, and develop and implementation plan.

The KWCG Technical Working Group will meet throughout the duration of the engagement initiative and provide reports through various engagement opportunities.

IV. 2020 KWCG Integrated Regional Resource Plan

Through the IRRP process, the Technical Working Group will assess the adequacy and security of KWCG's electricity supply, and will recommend an integrated set of actions required to meet the needs of the region. This work will focus on the following priority areas:

- End of life needs optimization
- Medium-term integrated planning for specific capacity needs emerging in the Waterloo North Hydro and Energy+ service territories
- Capacity
- Restoration
- Connection capability for distributed energy resources (DERs)

In identifying and addressing needs, the goal of the IRRP is to illustrate the integration of forecast electricity demand growth, conservation and demand management (CDM) with transmission and distribution system capability, relevant community plans, other bulk system developments, and the uptake of DERs. Both non-wires and wires will be examined as possible solutions, and communities and stakeholders will be engaged on the options throughout the IRRP process.

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V. Interested Parties

Input from community engagement activities will be considered in the development of the IRRP, and the IESO encourages all interested parties, or their representatives, to participate in this engagement. Parties that may have particular interest in this initiative include but are not limited to:

- Municipalities (particularly planning, sustainability and economic development staff)
- Indigenous communities
- LDCs
- Consumer groups and associations (e.g. community/resident associations, Business Improvement Areas, home builders associations, etc.)
- Local Boards of Trade and/or Chambers of Commerce
- Academia and research organizations (e.g. colleges and universities)
- Other public sector organizations (e.g. hospitals and school boards)
- Energy service providers
- Private entities

VI. Engagement Goal, Objectives and Scope

This engagement will aim to ensure that all interested parties understand the objectives of this initiative and are informed in order to provide input on the development of the IRRP for the region.

The IESO is seeking input to ensure the IRRP is comprehensive, aligned with community perspectives on local needs, incorporates options to meet the growing electricity demand in the KWCG region, and ensures a reliable source of electricity over the next 20 years.

Through this engagement, the IESO will seek input on the following:

- Population and growth rate forecasts
- Local economic development
- Future plans and projects that may have an impact on local growth rates and electricity demand (e.g. regional transit expansion, electrification of transit, large incremental loads connecting to the system, significant DER projects, etc.)

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- Future potential options for addressing local electricity needs, including non-wires alternatives (such as conservation and demand management and distributed energy resources) and local support and interest for developing those options in the near- (five year), medium (10 year) and long-term (20 year)
- Information from municipal plans including plans for project implementation with the potential to impact electricity use, specifically from community energy plans, Energy Reporting/CDM Plans, Official Plans and Secondary Plans

Topics out of scope for discussion include:

- Projects and plans already underway as determined in the previous planning cycle
- Existing energy contracts
- Policy-level decisions or direction
- Regulatory Policy
- Existing program rules

VII. Approach and Methods

This engagement initiative will be conducted in accordance with the IESO [Engagement Principles](#).

This is a public engagement process. Materials will be posted on the dedicated webpage: <http://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Engagement-Initiatives/Engagements/Integrated-Regional-Resource-Plan-Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph>. In addition, any information/input supplied by interested parties will be posted (with consent).

The approach for this engagement initiative includes opportunities for interested parties to provide input through various channels such as face-to-face meetings, webinars, information sessions, conference calls and/or written feedback. The IESO will consider all relevant input and illustrate how feedback was considered to shape the stated objectives.

This engagement initiative will be supported by the following:

- Broader public engagement – All interested parties will have an opportunity to provide input at various stages throughout the development of the KWCG IRRP. Details of these opportunities will be posted on the engagement webpage
- Direct community outreach where necessary after which a summary of discussions will be posted on the dedicated regional planning engagement webpage

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VIII. Proposed engagement schedule for KWCG Region IRRP

Date	Materials	Expected Actions
March 2021	Final KWCG IRRP	Posted with IESO responses to feedback received
Q1 2021	Feedback on public webinar #2 due	Posted
Q1 2021	<p data-bbox="505 768 748 867">Public webinar #2 Presentation</p> <ul data-bbox="553 905 911 1486" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="553 905 911 1171">• Overview of options examined and IRRP and recommendations, including details on evaluation of alternatives <li data-bbox="553 1213 911 1486">• Discuss considerations for communities and interested parties to consider in their medium- to long-term planning 	<p data-bbox="987 768 1341 846">Presentation and recorded webinar posted</p> <p data-bbox="987 888 1341 1024">Seek input on further discussions needed to initiate near-term projects</p>

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Date	Materials	Expected Actions
September 2020	Status update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication 	
January 16, 2020	IESO response to feedback	Finalize engagement plan and response to feedback posted, including rationale
December 19, 2019	Feedback on public webinar #1 due	Feedback posted
December 5, 2019	Public webinar #1 Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the regional electricity planning process in Ontario • Update on planning activities underway • Summary of preliminary regional demand forecast and needs and draft engagement plan 	Presentation and recorded webinar posted Seek input on draft engagement plan, electricity demand forecast and preliminary needs identified

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Date	Materials	Expected Actions
November 21, 2019	Launch KWCG IRRP engagement initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Draft Engagement Plan 	
May 9, 2019	Final KWCG Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and Terms of Reference Communication	Final version posted following a two-week comment period
May 9, 2019	KWCG Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and Terms of Reference – Responses to Public Comments	Posted
April 25, 2019	Deadline for public comment on draft KWCG Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and Terms of Reference Region of Waterloo	Posted

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Date	Materials	Expected Actions
April 11, 2019	Draft KWCG Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and Terms of Reference Communication	Draft posted for public comment

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Last updated September 9, 2020

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