

IESO Engagement Update

January 28-29, 2026

This engagement update provides a snapshot of all active IESO engagement activities. It also helps support a greater understanding of linkages between engagements, and a foundation for more comprehensive and integrated updates. For the most up-to-date information, visit the individual engagement links or the [Engagement Initiatives](#) web page.



Forecasting and Planning

Engagements to support provincial and regional electricity planning over the next 20 years.

Active Engagements	Current Status
<u>Bulk Planning – North of Sudbury</u> The bulk plan will examine the capability of the bulk transmission system’s ability to supply increasing levels of demand in the areas surrounding Timmins, Kirkland Lake, and Pinard. The study will also look at creating opportunities to potentially locate new non-emitting resources in the area, as well as the potential for new or upgraded interconnections with Quebec. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Abby Dancey <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Keir Johnston	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a North of Sudbury study.

Northern Ontario Connection Study

This study will develop options to connect remote First Nations communities to the grid that currently rely on diesel generators for electricity, improve reliability for First Nation communities that are already grid-connected, support critical minerals mining development in the region, and enable the development of new hydro and renewable resources. The study was initiated in response to a request from the government of Ontario, and a final report will be released in the early Fall.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Sonia Fazari**

- Final report is in development.

Bulk Planning – South and Central Ontario Bulk Study

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the South and Central Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Leads: **Keir Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli**

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a South and Central Bulk Study.
- A webinar took place on December 12, and feedback is due January 23.

Bulk Planning – Eastern Ontario Bulk Study

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of an Eastern Ontario Bulk Study.
- A webinar took place on December 12, and feedback is due January 23.

Regional Planning – Burlington to Nanticoke

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Jessica Singh**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- Engagement on the Hamilton Addendum will take place in Q1 2026.

<p><u>Regional Planning – Ottawa Area Sub-Region</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A webinar will be hosted in Q1 2026 to share the draft findings of the Ottawa Local Achievable Potential Study.
<p><u>Regional Planning – Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph (KWCG)</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Brooke Crewson</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Keir Johnston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A webinar was held on September 23, to provide an overview of the evaluated options and shared the draft recommendations to address the priority needs in the region. The IESO also provided an overview of the region’s remaining needs, along with the option screening analysis conducted for those needs. • The IESO’s Response to Feedback regarding remaining needs is now posted to the engagement page. • As regional planning advances, engagement will continue with respect to developing an IRRP for this region until Q2 2026.
<p><u>Regional Planning – GTA East</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Leads:</i> Keir Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<p><u>Regional Planning – GTA West</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Leads:</i> Keir Johnston and Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement will continue in Q1 2026 with a webinar to share the Needs and Options Screening.
<p><u>Regional Planning – East Lake Superior</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Keir Johnston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IESO held a webinar on December 11 to share the electricity infrastructure needs and an overview of the wire and non-wire options that will be considered to meet the needs. • Feedback will be accepted until January 30. • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<p><u>Regional Planning – Peterborough to Kingston</u></p> <p>Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Brooke Crewson</p> <p><i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through to Q4 2026.

Regional Planning – London Area

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Chiara Cozzi**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- A webinar was held on December 1, to share the draft demand forecast and scenarios for the London area.
- Feedback was accepted until December 15 and the IESO's response to feedback will be posted in Q1 2026.

Regional Planning - Northwest

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- The IESO published the Scoping Assessment Report on September 19.
- Forecast development and draft engagement plan to be shared in a public webinar in Q1 2026.

Regional Planning – South Georgian Bay Muskoka

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Engagement Lead: **Chiara Cozzi**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli, Keir Johnston**

- A Scoping Assessment webinar was held on November 4, to share the recommended planning approach for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka electrical area.
- Feedback was accepted until November 18.
- The IESO response to feedback was posted on November 25.

Regional Planning – Sudbury/Algoma

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Engagement Lead: **Brooke Crewson**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Keir Johnston**

- A Scoping Assessment webinar was held on December 18 to share the recommended planning approach of proceeding with an IRRP for the Sudbury/Algoma electrical area.
 - Feedback has been received and the IESO's response to feedback and the final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report will be posted by the end of January.
 - Engagement on this IRRP will continue through to Q3 of 2027.
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Resource Acquisition

Engagements to ensure we have the tools and processes to acquire the resources we need to maintain a reliable and efficient system.

Active Engagement

Capacity Auction Enhancements

The annual Capacity Auction is one of the procurement mechanisms included in the IESO's Resource Adequacy Framework and serves as the short-term balancing mechanism in the framework, securing the capacity required to meet Ontario's short-term resource adequacy needs.

Current Status

- An engagement session is scheduled for January 29 to discuss future enhancements for the capacity auction.
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Active Engagement

Current Status

Engagement Lead: **Joshua Acosta**

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy](#)
- [Demand Side Vision](#)

Transmitter Selection Framework

The IESO is developing a Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) to align with the Powering Ontario's Growth report's actions and plans, with a progress report due to the Minister by Summer 2024.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

Community Engagement Leads: **Nadia Mirabelli and Andreea Nicoara**

- An engagement session was held on October 15 present updates on the TSF's latest considerations for the commercial framework approach, RFP requirements, and proposed contract terms.
- Stakeholder feedback and the response to feedback is posted on the engagement webpage.
- The next engagement session will take place on January 28 to provide an overview of the procurement plans for the Toronto Third Line and how they relate to the Transmitter Selection Framework.

Enabling Resources Program

The revised Enabling Resources Program (ERP) is an integrated set of projects that will enable emerging resources to provide required system services and contribute to the safe and reliable operation of the bulk power system in Ontario. The first ERP project will incorporate electricity storage, and hybrid generation-storage pairings into the IESO-administered markets, tools, and processes.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [ERP - Storage and Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [ERP – Distributed Energy Resource \(DER\) Integration Project](#)

- ERP is comprised of two projects: Storage and Co-located Hybrid (S/H) Integration and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration.
- Engagement on S/H project commenced in July 2025 and is ongoing for design work with impacted resources and the broader sector.
- Engagement on Batch 2 of the S/H project will continue with a public session on February 5 focusing on key design modules in this batch.
- A webinar was held on November 19 for the DER project. Stakeholder feedback and the response to feedback is posted on the engagement webpage.
- Engagement on the DER project will continue in 2026.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<p><u>Long-Term RFPs</u></p> <p>The IESO is engaging stakeholders and communities on the development of a series of Long-Term RFPs that will seek resources to address needs. Engagements targeted to communities and the broader public are underway.</p> <p><i>Engagement Leads:</i> Trisha Hickson</p> <p><i>Community Engagement Leads:</i> Sonia Fazari and Abby Dancey</p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Adequacy • Hybrid Integration Project • Market Renewal Program (MRP) Implementation 	<p>Stakeholder Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on window 1 of the LT2 RFP is now complete. • Engagement on window 2 of the LT2 RFP will begin in Q1 2026. • Discussions on repowering existing facilities will continue as part of engagement on the LT2.
<p><u>Long Lead-Time Resource Procurement</u></p> <p>The IESO is engaging on the proposed design of the Long Lead-Time Resources procurement. This procurement is part of the IESO’s broader Resource Adequacy Framework – an enduring approach to identifying the type of acquisition activity to use to resolve system needs.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Trisha Hickson</p> <p><i>Community Engagement Leads:</i> Abby Dancey</p>	<p>Stakeholder Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An engagement session to discuss the draft RFP was held on December 18 and feedback is posted. • The next engagement session will provide an update on the LLT design and is scheduled for January 28. <p>Community Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community engagement session is planned for January 29 and will include the community engagement considerations, outline proposed timelines for support confirmations, and provide a breakout session for municipalities to comment and ask questions.
<p><u>Local Generation Program</u></p> <p>The IESO is engaging stakeholders on a proposal to establish a program that will enable re-contracting of existing resources, and consider opportunities for expansions and new build facilities</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jamie Jang</p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-Term RFP • Request for Information – Resource Adequacy Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public engagement session was held on June 5 to provide a summary of the feedback received and continue discussions on the design of the program. • Stakeholder feedback from the session has been posted.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<p><u>Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework</u></p> <p>The IESO is engaging on the new 12-year electricity Demand Side Management Framework, the first 3-year plan and future program opportunities</p> <p><i>Engagement Leads: Jamie Jang</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Adequacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public engagement session was held on October 16 to provide an update on the Commercial HVAC DR Program. • Stakeholder feedback and the response to feedback is posted on the engagement webpage. • Engagement continues in 2026.
<p><u>Northern Hydro Program</u></p> <p>The IESO is engaging stakeholders on the proposed final program documents and intends to discuss details regarding the launch of the Northern Hydro Program.</p> <p><i>Engagement Leads: Joshua Acosta</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Hydro Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public engagement session will be held on January 29 to present the proposed final program documents and discuss details regarding the launch of the Northern Hydro Program.

Operations

Engagements to ensure that Ontario's electricity resources are operating reliably within the IESO-administered market, while also undertaking continuous market improvements.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<p><u>Market Renewal Program (MRP) Implementation</u></p> <p>The Implementation phase of the Market Renewal Program will begin by codifying the design into the Market Rules and Market Manuals, and then proceed onto creating tools, testing, training, and readiness for bringing the renewed market to life.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Adequacy • Enabling Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public information session was held on November 26 to provide an update on market performance. • The IESO will continue to offer quarterly engagement webinars in 2026.

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- [DER Market Vision & Design Project](#)
 - [Hybrid Integration](#)
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Enforcement Modernization

The IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) is seeking input from market participants, consumers, community representatives and other stakeholders with respect to modernizing the enforcement processes to support reliability, market efficiency and market integrity.

*Engagement Lead: **Jamie Jang***

- The Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) announced new engagement relating to its Enforcement Modernization project on October 30.

Updates to IESO Monitoring Requirements Phasor Data

The IESO presented rule amendments and market manual changes, outlining new and revised requirements for synchrophasor data for Generators, Transmitters and Storage participants.

*Engagement Lead: **Josh Acosta***

- The IESO is reviewing stakeholder feedback and will post responses on the engagement site shortly.
 - Market Rule and Market Manual changes will be presented to the IESO Technical Panel in March.
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Sector Evolution

Engagements that look to the future to see how innovation, innovative technologies and new collaborations can improve how we conduct our business.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Future Clean Electricity Fund

Proceeds from the sale of IESO-owned Clean Energy Credits on the Ontario's Clean Energy Credit Registry will be directed to Ontario's Future Clean Electricity Fund. The IESO has been tasked by the Ministry with developing insights and recommendations for a Future Clean Electricity Fund (FCEF).

Engagement Leads: **Fatema Khatun**

Community Engagement Leads: **Sonia**

Fazari and Andreea Nicoara

Related Engagements:

- [Clean Energy Credits](#)

- Outreach meetings were held in October and November with municipalities to understand insights and recommendations to develop the Fund.
- The IESO recommendations report was submitted to the Ministry of Energy in December 2023.
- The IESO will work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to determine how proceeds from the Future Clean Electricity Fund will be applied to upcoming procurements and infrastructure projects, as outlined in [Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan](#). More information will be shared soon.

Hydrogen Innovation Fund

The 2025 Hydrogen Innovation Fund (HIF) is a \$30 million program that supports innovative hydrogen projects driving Ontario's clean energy transition, economic growth, and job creation. It builds on the 2023 program by expanding eligibility and funding two streams focused on grid integration and broader industrial and transportation applications, with applications opening November 4, 2025.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

Related Engagements:

- [Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot](#)

- An engagement session was held on October 1 to provide an overview of program streams, eligibility, and application requirements ahead of the November 4th application window.
- Feedback and response to feedback have been posted on the engagement webpage.

Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot

The Minister of Energy asked the IESO to submit a report by September 15, 2023, outlining a plan for the Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot tailored specifically for hydrogen producers and developers in Ontario.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

Related Engagements:

- [Interruptible Rate Pilot](#)

- The IESO submitted a report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines on September 30, 2023.
- A communication update was posted on the engagement page on October 4.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<p><u>2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Energy issued a directive to the IESO to conduct an Achievable Potential Study by December 31, 2026.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang</i></p> <p><i>Related Engagements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework • 2019 Conservation Achievable Potential Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An engagement session was held on December 9 to provide an update on the study. Feedback has been posted on the engagement webpage.
<p><u>Grid Innovation Fund</u></p> <p>The IESO is working with the Ministry to review the Grid Innovation Fund (GIF) to enhance governance and determine future innovation-focused funding.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual roundtable discussions were held on December 9-12 to seek recommendations from across the sector to enhance the GIF governance. • Written feedback has been posted. A written summary of the sessions will be posted in Q1 2026.

Updates on the Strategic Advisory Committee and Technical Panel

Group	Current Status
<p><u>Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)</u></p> <p>The Committee is a forum for its members to be informed of IESO activities and to provide timely policy advice and feedback both broadly on behalf of the electricity sector and their constituency, directly to the IESO Board and Executive with respect to the IESO's mandate.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Megan Doner</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public SAC meeting was held on October 16. A recording of the meeting has been posted on the website.
<p><u>Technical Panel (TP)</u></p> <p>The Technical Panel's mandate is to review amendments to the Market Rules for Ontario's electricity market and provide recommendations to the IESO Board of Directors.</p> <p><i>Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Technical Panel meeting was held on January 13. The panel voted to post the Adjustments to Real-Time Make-Whole Payments proposed market rule amendments. • The next Technical Panel meeting is scheduled for February 13.