

Final Engagement Summary

Report Date: January 4, 2023

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Potential Study

Engagement Initiated: August 2021

Engagement Description

- The IESO conducted engagement with stakeholders to help inform a path forward to enabling Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) within the IESO's wholesale market.
- The IESO commissioned a DER Potential Study with the primary objectives to determine the types and volumes of DERs that exist and can be expected to emerge in Ontario over a 10-year timeframe, and to identify the potential for these resources to provide wholesale electricity services.
- This engagement was conducted between the IESO and its consultant undertaking the study on behalf of the IESO.

Engagement Objective

- To inform stakeholders and interested parties on the expectations and scope of the DER study
- To seek stakeholder perspectives in support of developing recommendations, priorities, timelines and considerations for DER integration efforts in Ontario

Engagement Approach

- This stakeholder engagement was a public engagement process and was conducted in accordance with the IESO's approved [engagement principles](#).
- This engagement included opportunities for participants to provide input through various channels such as webinars and written feedback.

- All materials, public feedback and commentary from stakeholders, and IESO responses to feedback is posted on the [dedicated IESO engagement webpage](#) for this initiative.

Conclusion

- The IESO hosted four engagement sessions to discuss the development of the DER Potential Study. During these sessions multiple Q&A opportunities were provided to address questions and seek input from participants. Dedicated time was provided for focused discussion on key aspects of the study including assumptions and methods applied within the study.
- Stakeholders had the opportunity to provide feedback at various stages of the development of the study, including:
 - August 2021: The IESO began engagement with an introduction to the purpose and overview of the DER Potential Study and discussed next steps as part of the development process and stakeholder input.
 - September 2021: The IESO introduced the consultant preparing the study and provided an overview of the project plan, initial assessments of the DER technologies recommended for inclusion, and other considerations such as data requirements and scenarios. Following this session, [feedback](#) was received on the DERs proposed for the study, the high-level methodology, and the scenarios to be included in the study.
 - In summary stakeholders were supportive of the criteria to be included and provided requests for clarity in a few areas along with suggestions of other measures that could be considered in the future. Specifics can be found within the feedback document.
 - November 2021 – The IESO and the consultant provided a detailed project plan including key components of inputs, methodology, scenarios and assumptions. Following this session, [feedback](#) was received on the appropriateness of these key components, final scenario assumptions and baseline assumptions for DER technologies.
 - In summary, stakeholders were supportive of final scenario assumptions.
 - June 2022 – Prior to the September 2022, release of the study, stakeholders had an opportunity to provide [feedback](#) into the recommendations posed within the study and suggest next steps to help shape future areas of exploration of DERs.
 - In summary, through the feedback received and discussions at engagement sessions, participants were fairly supportive of the recommendations within the study and made suggestions for additional actions to consider in acquiring DER potential, as well as other areas of analysis that could be undertaken to provide meaningful insights for the IESO and others in the sector. Specifics can be found within the feedback document.

- September 2022 - The IESO published the final DER Potential Study materials on the study's engagement webpage. The study materials consisted of the main report, the supplemental methodology/assumptions report, MS Excel appendices, and an update to the results presentation deck delivered during the June 22nd engagement session.
- October 2022 - Stakeholders submitted [feedback and questions](#) related to the study for the IESO to consider in the organization's future work, including but not limited to DER integration.
 - In summary, stakeholders indicate that the report highlights the most relevant results and takeaways from the study and suggestions were made for future consideration. Specifics can be found within the feedback document.
- Overall, feedback was used to refine measure list & screening criteria, prioritize scenarios, and develop a detailed study plan. Specifically, feedback was used to further refine measure characterization of smart thermostats. In addition, modifications were made to certain assessments of technologies within the report, such as including EV Smart Charging telematics, blending Vehicle-to-Building (V2B) measures with Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) measures, and removing commercial pools/spa due to expected low opportunity size and data availability.
- Thank you to all individuals who provided valuable input and insights into the development of the DER Potential Study. Engagement materials will continue to be available on the [DER Potential Study Engagement webpage](#).