
2026 eDSM Achievable Potential Study

Advisory Group Terms of Reference
October 9, 2025



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Objectives and Scope	2
3. Composition of the APS Advisory Group	3
4. Organization and Administration of Meetings	4
5. Communications	5
6. Normal Order of Meeting	5
Appendix 1 – eDSM APS Scope	7
Appendix 2 – November 7, 2024 Minister’s Directive language concerning eDSM APS	8

1. Introduction

In November 2024, the Minister of Energy and Electrification directed the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to implement a new framework for demand-side management, including a requirement to conduct an achievable potential study for electricity demand-side management (eDSM), which shall be completed by December 31, 2026.

The objective of the APS is to identify and quantify electricity savings and associated costs from energy efficiency, specific fuel-switching, demand response, and behind-the-meter (BTM) solar and storage measures for the period of 2026-2050. More details on specific measure scope are available in Appendix 1. The study will consider three demand scenarios to better inform policy direction as well as informing the development and review of eDSM frameworks, program planning and resource planning. Additional details and updates on the APS can be found on the [APS engagement webpage](#).

To support this project, an APS Advisory Group will be established to ensure this is coordinated with the relevant research on natural gas efficiency conducted by the OEB and their work on the integration of DERs into distribution system planning and operations, as well as the use of DERs as non-wires solutions. These terms of reference are intended to provide guidelines for the APS Advisory Group.

2. Objectives and Scope

The APS Advisory Group will provide a forum for members to provide input and advice on the APS, particularly relating to relevant natural gas Demand Side Management (gDSM) potential research and OEB initiatives relating to DER integration, to satisfy the coordination requirements for eDSM APS stated in the Minister of Energy and Mine's [November 7, 2024 directive](#) to the IESO (see Appendix 2).

Comments and advice will be collected at Advisory Group meetings on specific items and topics. Specifically, the APS Advisory Group will provide non-binding input into assumptions and other study considerations such as:

- Advise on 2024 gDSM potential study inputs and study results applicable for development of the eDSM potential study (and discuss when divergence between studies warranted)
- Share insights into applicable market research and input assumptions
- Identify relevant DER and gDSM program/regulatory/policy developments that should be considered in the APS modelling assumptions
- Review electrification modeling approach to ensure non-duplication and assumption alignment with gDSM potential modelling
- Considerations relevant for enabling future "integrated" gDSM-eDSM potential studies

The APS Advisory Group’s activities are supplemental and complementary to the broader APS engagement through the IESO’s standard engagement framework, including both public webinars and private meetings with select stakeholders such as the LDC community.



3. Composition of the APS Advisory Group

APS Advisory Group members are expected to be able to commit time and resources to support the group, provide feedback, attend scheduled meetings, review information/ materials (some of which may be communicated between meetings), and execute mutually agreed upon action items.

Direct meeting participation will be limited to member organizations. While individual participation in advisory group meetings is flexible (members may attend as their schedules allow), the member organizations listed below are fixed and represent the core advisory body. The meetings will also be open to observers from the Ministry of Energy and Mines. At the discretion of the Chair, project consultant Cadmus and subject matter experts from the project team or member organizations will be invited to attend specific meetings to provide additional expertise or advice relevant to the agenda items under discussion. Independent experts or other guests may be invited to attend meetings to present on relevant topics at the discretion of the chair.

Table 1 below indicates the initial composition of the APS Advisory Group. All parties to the APS Advisory Group will make best efforts to communicate any required changes to the personnel listed below during the project with advance notice to minimize disruption to the activities of the advisory group and broader project. Roles and responsibilities for APS Advisory Group parties are detailed in Table 2.

Table 1 | APS Advisory Group

Organization	Role	Primary Representative (s)
OEB	Member	Josh Wasylyk
Enbridge	Member	Karen Sweet
IESO	IESO Project team	Tom Aagaard (Chair) Pantea Parvinhosseini (deputy chair)
Ministry of Energy and Mines	Observer	Kevork Hacatoglu Parvez Khan Mark Thompson

Table 2 | APS Advisory Group Members

Role	Responsibilities
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent the interests and present the views of their individual companies/constituency, not themselves• Ensure that all relevant staff (including senior management) in their organizations are kept apprised of APS Advisory Group activities and discussions• Commit the time to attend at least 80% of APS Advisory Group meetings; for meetings they are unable to attend, assign and empower a delegate to attend and act on their behalf.• Provide input into agenda development• Contribute time and staff resources to action items outside of APS Advisory Group meetings,• Follow APS Advisory Group TOR and act in manner to support APS Advisory Group objectives
Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate meeting logistics including scheduling meetings• Circulate meeting material• Facilitate meetings (Chair)• Develop meeting agendas• Prepare meeting notes and track action items• Support communication efforts to keep the broader distributor community informed of key discussions and outcomes of the APS Advisory Group
Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present/discuss their positions and views to APS Advisory Group, where requested

4. Organization and Administration of Meetings

- The IESO project team will chair the meetings.
- The Chair will provide all meeting agendas and support material at least three business days in advance of the meeting so that members have the opportunity to prepare in advance.
- Meetings will be held approximately monthly online for the duration of the project from September 2025 to December 2026. Meeting frequency may be adjusted as required by the APS Advisory Group schedule and deliverables.

- IESO will take draft meeting minutes including actionable items and their resolution. The IESO project team will circulate the draft meeting minutes and materials to all APS Advisory Group members who may review and provide any comments to the Chair at or before the next subsequent meeting. Final meeting minutes and materials will be posted publicly (see Section 5).
- All members are to use best efforts to review or provide relevant materials in advance of the meeting to support productive meetings.
- The Chair will coordinate attendance through online meeting invitations. These invitations are intended for members and registered Observers only and are not to be forwarded to any other parties without the consent of the Chair.

5. Communications

- Information on the work of the APS Advisory Group will be communicated to broader stakeholders through the publication of the final Terms of Reference, meeting agendas, final meeting notes, and final presentations, on the IESO website, and summary communications (e.g. updates provided during broader engagement webinars).
- Information provided through the above-mentioned methods should be considered public and can be shared freely.
- Written information and data provided through the APS Advisory Group will be assumed to be nonconfidential unless identified by the sharing party. Information or data identified as confidential will be treated as confidential by all APS Advisory Group parties.

6. Normal Order of Meeting

- The Chair shall ask attendees to introduce themselves to determine who is present.
- The Chair will recap any item of note from the previous meeting and deal with any outstanding action items.
- The Chair shall note any new items that are on the agenda in the order that they appear on the agenda. Committee members may request for additional items to be added under new business on the agenda.
- The Chair will manage the meeting to ensure everyone has a voice and no one dominates the discussions.

- At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair will close with a summary, recap the agreed to action items, inform members of the next steps as well as next meeting date. Developing a draft agenda for next meeting is optional, depending on when the next meeting is.

Appendix 1 – eDSM APS Scope

eDSM type	Sectors	Notes
Energy efficiency	All	Includes Operational & Maintenance (O&M) measures
Demand response	All	Includes EV demand flexibility
Behind-the-meter DER	All	Specifically solar PV, battery storage, heating and cooling thermal storage
Beneficial Electrification	Residential, Commercial & Institutional	Limited to electrification of wood/propane/oil-fueled space and water heating

Sectors: Residential, Commercial & Institutional, and Industrial

Appendix 2 – November 7, 2024 Minister’s Directive language concerning eDSM APS

2. The IESO shall conduct an achievable potential study or studies for eDSM as follows:

(a) The first study shall be completed by December 31, 2026

(b) The second study shall be completed before the completion of the formal review described in section I.1; and,

(c) The third, and all subsequent studies, with potential extensions subject to appropriate approval shall be completed no later than four years after the release of the previous study.

3. The achievable potential studies described in section I.2 should, as far as appropriate and reasonable having regard to the respective characteristics of the electric and natural gas sectors be coordinated with achievable potential studies or related research and analysis for natural gas efficiency conducted by the OEB.

4. The IESO’s work on the achievable potential of DERs should align with the work of the OEB on the integration of DERs into distribution system planning and operations, as well as the use of DERs by distributors as non-wires solutions

**Independent Electricity
System Operator**

1600-120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1T1

Phone: 905.403.6900

Toll-free: 1.888.448.7777

E-mail: customer.relations@ieso.ca

ieso.ca

 [@IESO_Tweets](https://twitter.com/IESO_Tweets)

 linkedin.com/company/IESO