

Community Feedback and IESO Response

Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Grid-Connected First Nation Communities – November 20, 2020

Following the November 20th public webinar where the IESO presented the draft program design, IESO received feedback on the program design elements discussed.

The IESO received feedback from:

- [Aamjiwnaang First Nation](#)
- [Temagami First Nation](#)

Notes on Feedback Summary

The IESO appreciates the feedback received from communities and stakeholders. The feedback has been noted and will be considered as the program design moves forward.

General Program Design:

Feedback

Both feedback submissions affirmed the draft program design will help communities more easily identify and complete energy efficiency projects for your commercial buildings. It was noted, however, that the degree of success will depend on what the final program design looks like, and what the incentive amounts are.

IESO Response

The IESO is pleased to hear that the draft program design will help communities more easily identify and complete energy efficiency projects for your commercial buildings. The IESO acknowledges that the degree of success will depend on what the final detailed program design looks like, and what the incentive amounts are. The IESO is currently working out these details and is mindful of this feedback.

Feedback

The following suggestions and comments were provided to help make the program more effective for communities:

- Maintaining an online presence on social media platforms could enable community members to more easily reach out to the IESO (especially so for communities without a Community Energy Champion).
- Considering the primary motivator for energy savings is cost savings, load shifting should be included in the IESO Save on Energy incentives.
- Allow Thermal Storage options for incentives for Grid Connected First Nation Communities.
- Provide incentives for LED/solar/off-grid street lighting.

IESO Response

- The IESO recognizes the value of using social media to connect with communities and intends to include this channel for communities to connect with the IESO and the Virtual Energy Manager (VEM).
- The [2021-2024 Conservation and Demand Management Framework](#) does not currently include load shifting technologies in any of the province wide programs. However, the IESO will consider this opportunity within the design of the upcoming First Nations program to determine whether it is a good fit with the program objectives.
- The "*Project Plan*" is intended to identify the top energy efficiency opportunities that provide the most benefit to each participating community. Measures that contribute to the most bill savings and also reduce electricity consumption could be prioritized in this plan.
- Street lighting retrofits are also being considered for inclusion in the program, pending further feasibility analysis, however, installation of new streetlights would be ineligible.

Feedback

Both feedback submissions indicated that virtual energy management support, combined with a local resource, could be effective in helping to identify energy efficiency project priorities in communities, and that no additional support would be required.

IESO Response

The IESO is pleased to hear that virtual energy management support, combined with a local resource, could be effective in helping to identify energy efficiency project priorities in communities, and that the design has been optimized to meet the needs of communities.

Program Implementation:

Feedback

One feedback submission flagged that it can be difficult to identify a person for the Community Energy Champion role. To attract experienced people, it was recommended the IESO consider developing an Energy Manager for First Nation Communities program, with the salary matching the commercial/Industrial Energy Manager Program.

IESO Response

The Energy Manager Program is designed to meet the needs of large organizations that can reasonably expect to meet the Minimum Annual Savings Target or approximately 1,000 MWh annually based on the cost-effectiveness requirements as outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. First Nations may be able to participate in the Energy Manager Program and are encouraged to determine if they meet the minimum size and other eligibility requirements. More details on the [Energy Manager Program can be found on the Save on Energy website](#).

It is an objective of the proposed new program for grid-connected First Nation Communities that energy management support tailored to First Nation communities be provided through a virtual energy manager. This is intended to provide energy management support to communities that do not meet the above requirements of the province-wide program offer.

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