

# Final Engagement Summary Report

## Date: September 16, 2021

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## Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Grid-Connected First Nation Communities

Engagement Initiated: October 2020

### Engagement Description

On September 30, 2020, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines directed the IESO to deliver a new suite of energy efficiency programs in 2021-2024. A portion of the funding is dedicated to programs supporting on-reserve First Nation communities in implementing energy efficiency projects. The directive in its entirety can be accessed through the [IESO's Ministerial Directives web page](#). The IESO conducted this engagement to obtain feedback from communities to help inform the design of future energy efficiency programs for First Nation communities in Ontario.

### Engagement Objective

The objective of this engagement was to work with communities to discuss and obtain feedback to help inform the design of future energy efficiency programs for First Nation communities in Ontario, specifically to identify new energy efficiency opportunities for commercial and institutional buildings in First Nation communities.

### Engagement Approach

This was a public engagement process and was conducted in accordance with the IESO's approved [engagement principles](#). The approach for this engagement initiative included opportunities to provide input through various channels such as surveys, webinars, and written feedback. All materials, including feedback and commentary from communities, and IESO responses to feedback, was posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage for this initiative.

### Conclusion

Community engagement began with an October 2020 engagement meeting where IESO provided background on energy efficiency and existing programs, and an update on the new 2021-2024

energy efficiency framework. The IESO discussed the objective to create a new program to support energy efficiency projects for grid-connected, on-reserve commercial and institutional building, and launched a survey that focused on three different aspects of energy efficiency programs for First Nation communities:

- Access to Current Save on Energy Business Programs
- Challenges to Implementing Energy Efficiency Projects
- Community Owned Commercial and Institutional Buildings

Via the October survey, along with discussion during the engagement meeting, as well as through technical interviews to help confirm energy efficiency opportunities, the following community challenges to potentially be addressed in the program were identified:

- Difficulty accessing sufficient funds for implementation of energy efficiency projects
- Challenges demonstrating the long-term financial and community benefits of energy efficiency upgrades (the “business case”)
- Identifying specific retrofit opportunities in buildings
- Identifying and securing contractors to purchase materials and/or install retrofit projects
- Managing the installation process

Building on the discussion in the October meeting, and the above insights from the survey responses and technical interviews, in a November engagement meeting the IESO presented the draft program design and sought feedback from communities on program design elements. Two communities submitted feedback following the meeting, both of which affirmed the draft program design will help communities more easily identify and complete energy efficiency projects for commercial buildings. Additional suggestions and comments provided to help make the program more effective for communities were considered in the final program design.

In the July, 2021 meeting, the IESO presented the detailed program design for the First Nation Community Buildings Retrofit Program and showed how the design was informed by feedback from communities.

The Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Grid-Connected First Nation Communities engagement concluded following the July online meeting. Program launch and application intake will begin in fall 2021.