

# Draft Engagement Plan

## Gas Phase-Out Impact Assessment

### Introduction

The future of gas generation in Ontario has become a focus of discussion for a number of municipalities as they consider efforts to tackle climate change, raising questions and concerns from stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities these discussions have raised. The electricity system would undergo significant impacts if natural gas was taken out of the supply mix. Such an undertaking would require a comprehensive plan to develop and invest in suitable replacement supply and reorient the system around the new supply mix in order to maintain the reliability of the system.

As the provincial agency responsible for minute-by-minute operation, matching supply and demand to provide a continuous reliable source of electricity, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) plays a unique role in Ontario's power system. The IESO is also responsible for planning for future needs, ensuring that tomorrow's system can be operated reliably at lowest cost to Ontarians.

The IESO is looking to inform future discussion about the implications of a phase out of natural gas generation in Ontario. This will be done by launching this engagement that will result in the development of an assessment that outlines the implications of lowering emissions by reducing the reliance on natural gas generation. More specifically, the assessment will outline the current role natural gas plays in maintaining a reliable electricity supply across Ontario as well as provide an assessment on the reliability, cost, operability and timing issues that would need to be addressed should the phase out of natural gas be considered. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the scope of the assessment. The publication of the assessment with the conclusions of the assessment will be issued later this year.

Additional details can be found on the [engagement webpage](#).

### Stakeholders and Communities

The IESO encourages all interested parties to participate in this engagement through the public webinars and written feedback as described in the Approach section below. The IESO anticipates that this initiative will be broadly applicable to all stakeholders and communities.

## Engagement Objectives

The purpose of this engagement is to seek stakeholder input on the scope of the assessment related to the reliability, cost, operability and timing issues that would need to be addressed should the phase out of natural gas be considered.

## Approach

The implementation of this engagement plan will be in accordance with the IESO's [engagement principles](#).

This is a public engagement process. All materials related to this initiative will be posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage. In addition, any information and feedback supplied by interested parties will become part of the public domain. Information and feedback that is marked confidential will be treated accordingly by the IESO. There will be opportunities for stakeholders to provide input through webinars, and written feedback. In some instances, the IESO may hold targeted meetings to gather feedback from specific stakeholders with a particular interest and/or knowledge of an issue. The IESO will consider all relevant input and illustrate how feedback was considered in the development of the final outcomes.

## Proposed Engagement Schedule

Anticipated timing for this engagement is presented below.

Timing	Engagement Activity
April 2021	Engagement launch
May 2021	Engagement meeting / webinar - postponed <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation</li><li>• Stakeholder feedback requested</li></ul>
June 2021	Engagement meeting / webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion/questions</li><li>• Next steps</li></ul>
July 2021	IESO response to stakeholder feedback document posted
Q2-Q3	Development of assessment
Q3	Assessment posted
Q3	Engagement meeting / webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation</li><li>• Discussion/questions</li><li>• Next steps</li><li>• Close-out Engagement</li></ul>

### Additional Background and Resources

- [Letter](#) from IESO to Toronto City Council
- Annual Planning Outlook [report](#) and [webpage](#)

For more information and background on this engagement, please visit the engagement webpage.