

# Feedback Received and IESO Response

## Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph Electricity Planning Process Public Webinar #2: Priority Needs – May 27, 2025

The IESO hosted a public webinar on May 27, 2025, for the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph (KWCG) electrical region as part of its engagement to inform the development of a long-term electricity plan - the Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP). During the webinar, the IESO presented identified electrical infrastructure with priority needs and discussed potential options to address them while seeking feedback on these proposed options to meet priority electricity needs in the KWCG electrical region. The presentation materials and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group<sup>1</sup> to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the [engagement webpage](#):

- [City of Kitchener](#)

The section below summarizes feedback received related to key developments, projects, and initiatives, as well as local issues and concerns that should be considered in the electricity planning for the KWCG electrical region.

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<sup>1</sup> The Technical Working Group is lead by the IESO and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Alectra Utilities Corporation, GrandBridge Energy, Halton Hills Hydro Inc., Enova Power Corp., Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd., Wellington North Power Inc., Milton Hydro Distribution Inc., and Halton Hills Hydro Inc.)

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
<p><b>The City of Kitchener emphasized the importance of integrating non-wire solutions that align with its climate action strategy, support local energy generation, and enable coordinated planning, including leveraging its role as a gas distributor, to address capacity needs and advance the clean energy transition.</b></p>	<p>At this stage of the regional planning process, the IESO has finalized the demand forecasts, identified priority electricity needs based on the forecast, and recently shared screening results to address priority needs. To meet the priority station capacity, supply capacity, and load restoration and security needs, the IESO has screened in a mix of wire and non-wire options, including transmission-connected generation and distributed generation.</p> <p>The IESO agrees that an integrated approach is important and appreciates the City of Kitchener’s feedback as work progresses to develop the KWCG IRRP. During upcoming milestones, the IESO will present remaining needs, options, and draft recommendations at upcoming engagement sessions. During these sessions, the IESO welcomes feedback on community preferences and considerations for all options. To ensure that the IRRP reflects the needs of the municipalities, Indigenous communities, community members and interested stakeholders, all interested parties will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft recommendations prior to completion of the IRRP.</p> <p>The IESO welcomes the City of Kitchener interest in leveraging their role as a gas distributor and welcomes input on the amount of demand that can be supplied from low-carbon fuels. To learn more about this opportunity, please see the response below.</p>
<p><b>City of Kitchener recommended exploring integrated energy solutions such as waste heat recovery and district energy systems to meet growing demand.</b></p>	<p>Thank you for providing these recommendations. The Technical Working Group acknowledges the benefits of coordination between electricity planning, gas planning processes, and district heating and cooling. As planning work advances, the Technical Working Group welcomes input on electricity needs and options. The IESO will</p>

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	<p>engage with the local gas utilities on options for remaining KWCG electricity needs in Q4 2025.</p> <p>The Ministry of Energy and Mines recently released the province’s <a href="#">Integrated Energy Plan</a> (‘Energy for Generations’) that reflects a coordinated and long-term approach to ensure Ontario has access to reliable and affordable energy. The IESO looks forward to working with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ontario Energy Board, local distribution companies, municipalities, and gas utilities as part of this new approach.</p>