

Feedback Received and IESO Responses

Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph Electricity Planning Process Public Webinar #3: Identified Remaining Needs – September 23, 2025

The IESO hosted a public webinar on September 23, 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 shared the detailed option analysis and draft recommendations for priority needs, as well as shared the identified remaining needs and screening options analysis. Feedback regarding the draft recommendations to address priority needs was welcomed until September 29th, 2025, however no public feedback was received. 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 Group¹ to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received regarding the identified remaining needs and screening options analysis from the following parties, and the full submission can be viewed on the [engagement webpage](#):

- [City of Guelph](#)
- [City of Kitchener](#)

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

¹ 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.)

Perspectives on high level wire and non-wire options screening

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
<p>Municipalities welcomed the inclusion of non-wire alternatives and advocated for all options to be considered, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City of Guelph welcomed the inclusion of eDSM initiatives to address needs.• The City of Kitchener thanked the IESO for the work completed on the IRRP and welcomed the inclusion of eDSM, Demand Response initiatives, and investments in wires infrastructure. These investments help meet demand in high-growth areas as electricity demand increases particularly due to large load users. The City also expressed support for local energy generation, storage, and increased rooftop and carport solar.	<p>The IESO thanks municipal representatives for reviewing the materials and sharing receptive feedback.</p> <p>As part of the regional planning process, the IESO has screened the potential for wire and a range of complementary non-wire solutions, such as eDSM, distributed generation (DG), and demand response. As a part of this screening, the IESO has screened in distributed energy resources (DERs), which may include solar generation, to help meet the needs. Options evaluation is underway to develop an integrated plan best suited to cost-effectively meet the unique and growing needs of KWCG, while ensuring residents have access to reliable, grid-sourced electricity. As part of this work, the Technical Working Group is analyzing the feasibility of distributed generation at multiple Kitchener stations.</p> <p>When evaluating all potential options, the IESO carefully considers technical criteria, cost, timing, impact on system reliability, and community preferences. In Q1 2026, the IESO will host engagements to share updates, answer questions, and seek feedback.</p>
<p>The City of Guelph shared that the high number of stations that have immediate capacity needs is concerning as lack of capacity impacts resiliency in the City.</p>	<p>Today, the electricity system in Guelph can meet reliability standards. As part of the development of the IRRP, the IESO will evaluate options to meet the technical needs that have been identified to enable growing demand and maintain reliability. As part of this work, short and long-term solutions will be identified.</p>

Considerations as assessment of options to address remaining needs continues

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
<p>Additional information was shared for consideration as the assessment of options to address remaining needs is under way, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City of Guelph shared that short circuit limitations at Campbell TS are hindering solar PV projects.• The City of Kitchener recommended that integrated energy planning should consider efficient, low-carbon heating solutions, including the use of waste heat from large electricity users such as data centres.	<p>Thank you for raising these considerations as regional planning advances.</p> <p>The IESO is aware of immediate station capacity needs at Campbell TS. As a part of addressing remaining needs, the IESO has screened in wires options, eDSM, and potentially DG for further analysis. Almost 9 MW of installed capacity of solar already exists at the station, with about 25% peak contribution factor. Please note that the IESO understands Hydro One is aware of this issue and the IESO is working with Hydro One to determine the connection room for additional DG at this station. This includes an updated short circuit analysis for the station.</p> <p>Thank you for sharing this feedback regarding district heating. Recently, the Ministry of Energy and Mines released the province's Integrated Energy Plan (Energy for Generations) that includes direction to the IESO to identify opportunities for new and existing district energy systems. The IESO looks forward to engaging more to understand opportunities for district energy systems to support the provinces' broader electricity system needs. Given that this Regional Plan will be released in Q2 2026, the IESO will consider this feedback in upcoming regional planning work.</p>

Considerations for Engagements

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
The City of Guelph appreciated the presentation, however, noted that some industry-specific terminology in the webinar was difficult for municipal staff without energy expertise to understand. Additionally, the City raised the need for more support to promote eDSM and CDM initiatives.	<p>The IESO appreciates the City of Guelph reviewing the presentation and for sharing this feedback to help inform the development of future resources. The IESO will consider this feedback for future engagements.</p> <p>Thank you for sharing this feedback regarding resources to promote eDSM and CDM initiatives. The KWCG Technical Working Group continues to evaluate additional eDSM as an option to meet local electricity needs. The IESO recognizes energy efficiency as an essential component of meeting GHG reduction targets. Through the new 2025–2036 eDSM Framework, the IESO is expanding programs to support residential, commercial, and municipal sectors. Please visit the Save on Energy website to learn more about the program offerings.</p>