

Engagement Plan

Pathways to Decarbonization

Introduction

This document outlines plans for stakeholder engagement activities associated with the Minister's [October 7, 2021](#) letter requesting that the IESO evaluate a moratorium on the procurement of new natural gas generating stations in this decade (reliability, cost, environmental considerations) and develop an achievable pathway to phase out natural gas generation and achieve zero emissions in the electricity sector that considers:

- Reliability
- Cost/affordability
- Timeline
- Impact on broader electrification of the economy
- Low emission fuels for thermal generation
- Storage combined with non-emitting resources
- New technologies

The IESO will inform stakeholders on the study approach and will provide transparency around the assumptions that will be used in the analysis. The IESO will seek feedback (based on technical research) on key assumptions to be used to ensure that stakeholder input informs the IESO's report back to the Ministry in Q4 2022.

Stakeholders and Communities

The IESO encourages all interested parties to participate in this engagement through the public engagement activities described in the Approach section below. The IESO anticipates that this initiative will be of particular interest to:

- Consumers
- Environmental organizations
- Generators
- Indigenous communities
- Municipalities

- Service providers, (i.e. aggregators of demand response and DERs)
- Storage

Engagement Objectives

- Inform engagement participants of the study approach (qualitative and quantitative), strengths and limitations of analysis, and key timelines
- Seek focused input on the assumptions used for the study. Input should be supported by technical research/studies that the IESO can use to verify or substantiate changes to assumptions
- Demonstrate the IESO’s commitment to an open and transparent planning process.

Approach

- This engagement plan will be implemented in accordance with the IESO’s approved [engagement principles](#). This is a public engagement process.
- All materials will be posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage, and, any information/input supplied by interested parties will also be posted (with consent).
- The approach includes opportunities to provide input through various channels such as webinars, written feedback, and through targeted meetings on individual topics, as required.
- The project team will consider all relevant input and illustrate how feedback was considered to shape the stated objectives.

Proposed Engagement Schedule

The anticipated timing for this engagement is presented below. Note that timing and content associated with upcoming activities are subject to change.

Timing	Engagement Activity
Feb Engagement Days	Stakeholder Engagement Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the Minister of Energy’s request and inform stakeholders of the IESO’s proposed study approach (qualitative and quantitative) as well as opportunities, limitations, and key timelines • Outline the assumptions to be used in planning for a pathway to decarbonization • Seek written feedback on the study assumptions, and on other existing or emerging technologies that should be considered
March (date TBD)	Deadline for stakeholder feedback

Timing	Engagement Activity
March/April	Optional: Targeted discussions to help inform certain aspects/assumptions of the study
March/April	Feedback published
March Engagement Days	Stakeholder Engagement Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the importance of “operability” and IESO’s approach to assess the operability of scenarios • Further outline any remaining assumptions or updates to assumptions
Q2/3 2022 (TBD)	Share additional information around assumptions and/or final assumptions (if required)
Q4 2022	Report Back to Minister of Energy

Additional Background and Resources

[Natural Gas Phase-Out Study](#)

Related Engagements

[Clean Energy Credits](#)

[2021 Annual Planning Outlook](#)

[2020 Annual Acquisition Report](#)

[Resource Adequacy](#)

[DER Potential Study](#)