

Fact Sheet: Ontario's Electricity System Reliability

- A reliable electricity service is essential for the comfort, safety and security of the people of Ontario, supporting the province's economy and quality of life.
- From its control centre outside Toronto, the IESO ensures the reliability of the province's power system, balancing the supply of and demand for electricity on a second-by-second basis and directing its flow across high-voltage transmission lines so it's available to Ontarians when and where they need it.
- The IESO also prepares for Ontario's electricity needs by assessing the system requirements for today and tomorrow. For example, its Annual Planning Outlook provides a 20-year forecast for Ontario's supply and demand needs. The IESO develops its forecasts in consultation with key stakeholders, local communities and municipalities, looking at available supply alternatives and recommendations for transmission infrastructure.
- The IESO works with its Canadian and U.S. neighbours to maintain continuous reliability of the interconnected North American power grid. In addition to contributing to the development of enforceable standards, the IESO is the first system operator in North America to be accountable for cyber security matters in the electricity sector.
- Investments in energy efficiency also play a key role in the reliability of the electricity system. Under the Save on Energy brand, the IESO delivers a suite of energy conservation programs and educational resources, which help consumers reduce their energy costs and reduce electricity demand on the power grid.
- As new technologies create opportunities for local energy solutions, the IESO's Grid Innovation Fund supports community-based energy projects that contribute to a reliable and affordable electricity system. The IESO also works closely with First Nations and Métis communities to develop plans to meet the specific reliability needs of particular regions.