

Integrated Energy Resource Planning Feedback

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Planning for Growth

- Building on the recommendations of the EETP's final report, what actions should be prioritized to enhance planning across natural gas, electricity, and other fuels?
 - In order to help move forward energy planning, municipalities need to feel empowered and informed about their role in energy planning for the province. Municipalities need to be decision makers on if they want energy projects in their communities, and if they do, what types. This will require more education but also ensuring that planning processes support municipal decision making.
 - Additionally, ensuring processes like the Environmental Compliance Approval, Renewable Energy Approval and Crown Land approvals are streamlined to reflect Ontario's rapidly growing energy demand and the need to bring more projects onto the grid quickly and efficiently. Reducing the red tape associated with these approvals would eliminate unnecessary details and overlap in the approvals process. The Ministry may want to consider BC's recently announced approach of removing EA approvals if a project is supported by First Nation communities.
- The government's priority is to ensure Ontario has the energy resources it needs to support growth. Are there opportunities to enhance the province's approach to procuring electricity generation supply to better serve this priority?
 - Provide a procurement roadmap that outlines targets for amount of energy procured over at least 5 year periods and make the procurements flexible enough to allow developers, First Nations, municipalities and stakeholders the ability to participate with projects that provide the lowest cost options for the product being procured (energy/capacity).
 - One way that the province can enhance its approach in procuring energy generation supply is to internally ensure that key ministries are aligned and aware of their roles in procurement efforts. While the Ministry of Energy holds the portfolio for this matter, other ministries are heavily involved, such as MECP, MNR, IAFNR, Red Tape Reduction, Economic Development, and MTO. All ministries must be aware of growth planning, processes, and timelines.
- What actions should government consider to promote greater access to electricity and accelerate grid-connections that will support economic growth, connecting new homes, and electrifying transportation and heating?
 - The government should consider competitively procuring transmission and distribution system buildouts. This will ensure new homes, companies and projects to come on line quickly at a lower price for consumers.

- As the need for new transmission infrastructure continues to grow, what steps can government take to ensure that transmitters have the certainty they require to move forward with development work as soon as possible, while also ensuring that competitive pressures keep costs as low as possible?
 - Transmission build outs should be linked to the deliverability document that the IESO uses for their procurements. New transmission line buildouts should be identified with line capacity amounts and date in service.
 - As transmission growth becomes more necessary to ensure there is enough energy to supply the province, we would also recommend that the government competitively procure transmission line buildouts. Currently there are very few companies that have the ability to build transmission lines in Ontario, opening up the market to others will help assist in expedited and cost-effective transmission line build outs.
 - It will also be important to streamline the transmission line approval process and reduce red tape because of the need critical need for this infrastructure as demand grows.
- What policy guidance should the government provide to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) with respect to the long-term role of natural gas in Ontario's economy and opportunities for low-carbon alternatives in the gas system?
- How can the government best support Indigenous leadership and participation in energy planning and projects?
 - Continue to allow for incentives for Indigenous participation in procurements as well as set a sides on transmission line capacity for Indigenous companies.
 - The IESO is holding webinars for Indigenous communities to help shape the upcoming procurement processes. More engagement is needed before and after procurements, and for long term strategy to discuss how different communities can be involved in energy planning in Ontario, and for the government to understand Indigenous communities energy needs.
- How can provincial planning processes be enhanced to support high growth regions, ensure greater coordination between energy resources, and better integrate municipal, distributor and regional planning processes?
- What cooperation opportunities exist across other jurisdictions to support energy trade, construction of transmission infrastructure (ex. pipelines and interties), and transportation electrification?
- What types of technical information and forecasts would best support sector participants and energy consumers as the system is built out for growth and the economy increasingly electrifies?
 - Technical information that would support sector participants would be historical transmission flows, substation level forecasts and regularly updated transmission headroom forecasts.

- What further steps should the government take to enable households and businesses to manage and make informed decisions about their energy use?
- What actions could the government consider to ensure the electricity system supports customers who choose to switch to an electric vehicle?
 - Ontario residents might think that having an electric vehicle isn't feasible, too expensive, or just unsure how to have the proper equipment set up for them at their home. Education will be key, along with government programs, to help residents feel like purchasing an electric vehicle isn't a more expensive choice than a standard gas vehicle.
- What actions should government consider that would empower customers to install innovative technologies to generate or store energy on-site to reduce costs and improve resiliency?
- What specific actions could position the integrated energy resource plan to best leverage distributed energy resources (DER) that enhance local and province wide grids to support energy system needs reliably and at the lowest cost?
- What policy or regulatory changes should government consider to address financial risks and support adoption of DER in the long-term?
- With the energy sector evolving and distributors considering new roles in serving customers, what barriers exist that limit local distribution companies from taking on new duties that could enable more efficient grid operations, leverage new technologies and further the integration of DERs?
- What actions can the government take to enhance collaboration between the OEB, the IESO, local distribution companies, industry stakeholders, and local communities to support the investment and integration of DER?
- What further actions could the government take to maintain an affordable energy system for Ontarians throughout the energy transition?
 - We encourage continuing with competitive energy procurements that allow for diverse energy generation and capacity projects. Having the competitive procurements allows for the for the lowest cost option across technologies.

Becoming an Energy Superpower

- What opportunities exist to further capitalize on Ontario's leadership and expertise in nuclear technology and nuclear innovation?
 - Co-locate nuclear with other energy sources such as battery storage and solar, these technologies can manage peak demands while nuclear can continue to be baseload power that can be used to export to other jurisdictions during peak demand at higher prices.
- What opportunities should Ontario consider to leverage its position as a clean energy leader?
 - Ontario should continue to leverage the growing demand for clean energy in other jurisdictions. Ontario has a proven track record of successful expedited procurements that resulted in low-cost power (capacity) for rate payers. Ontario's ability to move quickly provides a unique opportunity to be able to respond to our own need as well as the need of other jurisdictions as long as there are sufficient interties and transmission to accommodate.