



MARCH 2018

# Indigenous Conservation Programming: A New Approach

Report on Energy Conservation for First Nations  
and Métis in Ontario



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# Message from Terry Young, Vice-President, Policy, Engagement and Innovation



The Latin roots of the verb “to conserve” combine two elements: *con*, meaning together, and *servare*, meaning to keep. Conservation can bring people and communities together. It embodies the idea of preservation and protection – generally of a valuable resource. Without a doubt, energy is one of those valuable resources.

It is the bedrock on which a modern society is built. It powers our homes and businesses, our schools and cultural centres, our hospitals and arenas. It powers a safe, healthy and prosperous society.

When the Minister of Energy directed the IESO to prepare a report on options to improve conservation programs, and access to programs, for First Nations and Métis, as part of the *2017 Long-Term Energy Plan*, the IESO initiated a broad engagement process. It was important to gather information to better understand how well Ontario’s energy conservation programs are serving these groups. As part of that research, the IESO wanted to understand what energy means to Indigenous people, organizations and communities.

What became clear is that energy represents opportunity – the opportunity to enjoy warm and comfortable homes, develop and expand businesses, acquire and apply transferable skills, generate new sources of revenue and protect the environment for future generations. Energy also connects people and communities.

During the engagement process, the IESO learned that many First Nations communities have embraced energy conservation and community energy planning, but others are not as far along the continuum. We also heard that Métis citizens, particularly seniors, are struggling with the cost of energy and are not aware of the conservation opportunities available to them.

The IESO is committed to working with First Nations and Métis to enable them to participate more fully in Ontario’s energy sector. In the coming months and over the longer

term, the IESO will be working to refine existing programs and develop new ones that will be better aligned with community-identified needs, priorities and objectives. The IESO will continue to engage First Nations and Métis people regularly to ensure programs are accessible and effective. Indigenous successes will be celebrated so that other communities and organizations can learn from their peers.

The IESO is grateful to everyone who took part in a meeting, completed a survey, participated in a webinar, attended the Indigenous Community Energy Symposium, or provided feedback through some other means. You shared your views and ideas with great candour, which will enable the IESO to take concrete, meaningful action to improve energy-related outcomes in Ontario’s Indigenous communities.

Through this report, the IESO will share its findings and its recommendations with the Ministry of Energy, with a view to developing ideas and options that build on a shared commitment to change.

I hope you will keep in touch. Together, we will help to power a reliable and sustainable energy future for First Nations and Métis across the province. You can reach me at [terry.young@ieso.ca](mailto:terry.young@ieso.ca) or 416-506-2832.

Chi miigwetch; Nya: weh; Marsi; Merci; Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Young".

**Terry Young**

# Executive Summary

Conservation has proven to be a low-cost and efficient way of reducing the province's longer-term energy needs as well as the need for costly investments in new generation and transmission infrastructure.

This report was developed in response to the Minister of Energy's Direction, reflected in the *2017 Long-Term Energy Plan: Delivering Fairness and Choice*, which instructs the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to prepare a report on options to improve conservation programming, and access to programs, for Ontario First Nations and Métis, including those communities served by Independent Power Authorities (IPAs).

In response to the Minister's Direction, the IESO undertook the following:

- Reviewed various community energy plans funded through the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) program, with a goal of identifying underlying challenges and conservation opportunities;
- Reflected on feedback from First Nations and Métis gathered during engagements related to the Long-Term Energy Plan, as well as community meetings;
- Analyzed third-party evaluation report findings from the Aboriginal Conservation Program (ACP). This program provided customized conservation services to on-reserve

First Nations to reduce their electricity use and lower their monthly utility bills, and was in market from 2013 until 2015;

- Collected input through an online survey and the following in-person engagements:
  - Four regional meetings (Thunder Bay, Sudbury, London, Vaughan)
  - Indigenous Community Energy Symposium (Toronto)
  - Nishnawbe Aski Nation Climate Change Coordinators meeting
  - Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and MNO Councils meeting
  - IESO's Aboriginal Energy Working Group (AEWG)
  - Community visits to the Chippewas of the Thames and the Chippewas of Georgina Island
  - Province-wide webinar with 80 attendees registered
- Conducted interviews with community representatives and other industry representatives who provide energy conservation-related services to Indigenous customers;
- Examined the current suite of provincial Save on Energy programs to see if they meet existing community needs, and if not, identify opportunities for improvement;
- Considered options such as IESO organizational changes and external partnerships to help build momentum for energy conservation with First Nations and Métis.

Hearing directly from community leaders and representatives was an invaluable part of the research for this report. Based on these meetings, it became clear that for

many First Nations and Métis people, energy conservation has implications that can be much broader than simply implementing an energy plan. As a result, the solution to greater participation in energy conservation may well lie in a coordinated response that cuts across different levels of government.

In the *Feedback* section of this report ([see page 7](#)), barriers to greater uptake are divided into three categories – Programs, Capacity Building and Partnerships – illustrating there is no one barrier limiting participation in conservation programming, and also no single catch-all solution. For this same reason, the recommendations in this report are as wide-ranging as they are interconnected.

The IESO intends to capitalize on its role as an industry leader in the energy sector and will work to enable changes that help First Nations and Métis to realize more efficient and sustainable energy use, in the short- and longer-term.

With this in mind, the IESO will look within its own organization to identify structural, cultural, procedural and operational barriers that may need to change in order to allow greater – and more accessible – participation in conservation programming for First Nations and Métis.

Readers should also note that the recommendations included in this report are a first step, reflecting the IESO's commitment to moving forward, while at the same time continuing to seek input from First Nations communities and Métis Councils and their members on how to improve energy conservation programming across the province.

*“The more we know about Save on Energy programs before preparing our community energy plans, the better. If we write a community energy plan without knowing what type of funding is available, it's likely things won't line up and we won't get funding.”*

Participant at London regional meeting

The IESO's longer-term goal is to continue learning and fine-tuning its energy conservation programming to ensure there is consistent access, delivery, follow-up and measurement, as well as greater awareness for the benefits that accrue to First Nations and Métis when they adopt an energy-efficiency mindset.

Finally, in addition to responding to the Minister's Direction, this report is intended to serve as an information tool. Community members told us unequivocally, and unanimously, that one of the biggest stumbling blocks on the road to more efficient energy use was their difficulty in accessing information. In the Appendices, readers will find resources, samples and contacts that may help their communities move forward.



Over 300 attendees at 2017 Indigenous Community Energy Symposium met to share learnings, build collaboration and promote community energy planning across the province.



# Energy Conservation: Perceptions and Implications

On August 1, 2017, the delivery charge was eliminated from electricity bills for on-reserve First Nations residential customers. While the credit reduces the cost of electricity, participants in various engagements said that pursuing energy conservation initiatives still makes a difference, particularly for large non-residential buildings that are currently exempt from the First Nations Delivery Charge Credit.

For many Indigenous people, conserving energy is not just about managing energy costs, taking advantage of energy-efficient technology and mitigating the impacts of climate change. It touches on affordability and is seen by many as a way to improve living conditions. At its core, a healthy home is not just a basic need; it is the place that determines life outcomes for the people who live there.

Participants at all meetings indicated that energy conservation can lead to the following benefits and opportunities:

- Healthier and more sustainable communities;
- Reduced environmental impacts;
- Greater self-sufficiency and autonomy;
- Improved community capacity and awareness;
- Accelerated economic development including an increase in business and economic opportunity.

Of the things that stand in the way of greater energy efficiency in First Nations communities, participants at various community engagements noted:

- Lack of training, information and skilled resources;
- Lack of funding for dedicated energy staff;
- Absence of a coordinated and holistic approach at the federal and provincial levels of government;
- Lack of information about funding sources, including First Nations' eligibility to access existing funding sources;
- Lack of flexibility in terms of delivery timetables and performance criteria in existing programs.



*"In order to address and improve the social determinants of health in our communities, we need to give our youth stability and the promise of a better life. Any long-term plan about energy conservation needs to start in the home, and this home should be a place of comfort and safety, not cold, damp and mouldy."*

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

# Energy Affordability

While energy affordability might seem to be a natural reason to practice energy conservation, some First Nations people said that since the delivery charge was removed from electricity bills for on-reserve customers, the urgency to learn about, and practice, energy conservation at home had actually diminished.

This is not to say there is no interest in learning how to become more energy efficient in these communities, simply that it may be challenging to make energy efficiency top-of-mind.

Other participants in the engagement process said that notwithstanding the delivery charge credit, energy is still expensive. The only option for many northern remote communities is diesel – an expensive fuel source that has a negative impact on the environment. By reducing their use of diesel, these communities can reduce the associated costs as well as the associated environmental impacts.

The IESO also heard that for many Métis citizens, and First Nations people living off-reserve, the cost of electricity is of concern. The IESO sees an opportunity to increase awareness for the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) as a way of helping Indigenous people across Ontario manage their electricity costs.



## About the Ontario Electricity Support Program

[The Ontario Electricity Support Program \(OESP\)](#) lowers electricity bills for lower-income households. The OESP provides a monthly credit to eligible customers based on household income and household size. And, the credits are applied directly to eligible customers' bills.

# Demographics: Opportunities for Capacity Building

Statistics Canada data provide a glimpse into the untapped potential among First Nations and Métis people in Ontario. They have a strong desire to tackle their energy efficiency challenges themselves, on their own terms, provided they have greater access to suitable education and capacity building programs.

A stronger focus on energy conservation at the primary school level would have a beneficial spill-over effect because the information children bring home from school is often shared with extended family at home. Equally, educating youth would have a similar snowball effect because as integral members of the “sharing economy”, young people have learned how to build online communities and share their knowledge on social media.

Energy conservation knowledge is empowering, and with the right information, many community representatives indicated they see the potential for greater employment and economic development opportunities.

The following data support the notion that there is untapped potential across First Nations and Métis people in Ontario for building a strong foundation for conservation awareness and practice. Unless otherwise stated, the source of the following information is Statistics Canada’s 2016 census:


- Ontario was home to 236,680 First Nations people, 120,585 Métis, with another 13,270 respondents reporting other Aboriginal identities (7,540) or more than one Aboriginal identity (5,730).
- From 2006 to 2011, Canada’s First Nations population increased by 42.5 per cent, and Ontario’s grew by 32 per cent (2011 National Household Survey).
- In 2016, the average age of Canada’s Indigenous people was 30.6 years compared to the national average age of 41 years.

- One in four (26 per cent) First Nations people and 11 per cent of Métis live in homes in need of major repairs, compared to six per cent of the non-Aboriginal population.
- Over 40 per cent of people living on-reserve lived in homes needing major repairs, compared to 14 per cent for off-reserve First Nations people.
- Approximately 28 per cent of people who identified as First Nations in Ontario (2016) had low-income status.

*“We should be teaching our school children about possible career choices in the energy sector. This includes giving them more information about energy efficiency, conservation and renewables. They’ll bring that information home and share it with their family. What they learn in school helps the next generation, and also helps us to become more energy independent. As a new energy coordinator, I’d like the IESO to help with this kind of information.”*

Becky Big Canoe, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation





## Feedback from Regional, Community and Council Meetings

In preparing this report, four regional and two community meetings were conducted, in addition to the Indigenous Community Energy Symposium in Toronto in October 2017, a public webinar in December 2017 and a meeting with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and fifteen MNO Councils.

Feedback from these engagements is included below. It is divided into three sections:

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### Programs

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### Education/Capacity Building

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### Partnerships

# Programs

Participants at all meetings raised the following common concerns based on their experience with Save on Energy, and other conservation programs:

## On-reserve program availability

There is currently no consistency in the availability of conservation programming across First Nations communities. Different communities have access to different programs, and some have no access whatsoever.

- Eighty-eight communities are served by Hydro One, which offers the First Nations Conservation Program in communities that did not participate in the Aboriginal Conservation Program (ACP). Thirty-eight of these communities participated in the ACP.
- Nine First Nations communities are served by other local distribution companies (LDCs). Of these, the First Nations-owned utilities Attawapiskat Power Corp., Kashechewan Power Corp. and Fort Albany Power Corp. deliver a small business and a residential conservation program specifically designed for First Nations communities and delivered by Conservation on the Coast. The remaining six communities have access to the province-wide suite of Save on Energy programs which are not specifically designed for First Nation communities.
- Fifteen First Nations communities are served by Hydro One Remote Communities, which offers a mail-in rebate conservation program.
- Ten First Nations communities are served by Independent Power Authorities, and, as such, are not currently eligible for province-wide conservation programs.
- Eleven First Nations are not served by an LDC or Independent Power Authority as they are currently in the process of building their communities or do not yet have a land base.

A description of all available programs is included in the Appendices section ([see page 15](#)).

## Program promotion

Many participants said they were unaware of the Save on Energy programs, particularly programs for homeowners. They wanted to know more about these programs, as well as others that could help them lower their electricity costs. If they had heard about the Save on Energy residential programs, they weren't sure if, or how, these programs applied to them.

Some participants said they were aware of the Save on Energy residential and business programs, but felt they were ineligible because program descriptions do not refer specifically to Indigenous people.

For the Retrofit program specifically, several participants said they were not aware they were eligible because on-reserve community buildings such as arenas, pumping stations and community centres (which are typically energy-intensive) are not specifically mentioned in the program description, and they were not certain if a First Nation community would be considered a "business" under the program.

This feedback is consistent with what the IESO heard from Métis leadership with respect to Métis Council offices.

Similarly, several First Nation participants said they were not aware of the New Home Construction program, or if they qualified, because the program rules don't refer specifically to on-reserve housing.

For the above-noted programs, participants commented the IESO could be more effective in promoting Save on Energy programming to First Nations and Métis.

For existing Save on Energy programs, and when new energy conservation programs are developed specifically for First Nations and Métis, participants suggested that promotional messaging should be consistent with the cultural values of First Nations and Métis people. Rather than focusing on managing costs, for example, participants suggested that messaging should focus on "not taking more than you need."

## Program branding

Participants recommended that any new program designed specifically for First Nations and Métis be branded as a community program not as a Save on Energy program. Several participants cited the Five Nations Energy Inc. as an example of this preferred type of community-branded programming ([see page 19](#)). One energy coordinator suggested that if the IESO supplied templates for newsletters, or other educational materials, they might be more effective if they allowed for communities to brand them with their own First Nations' or Métis Council names and logos rather than exclusively as Save on Energy collateral.

## Program funding

Some participants suggested that having a dedicated funding amount for each First Nations community would be more equitable than having a global budget for all First Nations. A dedicated amount of funding would also be preferable to having communities “compete” against each other for a finite amount of program funding.

Participants also indicated the process for applying to various programs (those offered by the IESO as well as other agencies) can be burdensome. As a remedy, participants suggested the IESO streamline and integrate the process for applying to multiple programs by using a “one-stop-shop” approach. Further to this, if the IESO were to develop new energy conservation programming specifically for on-reserve First Nations communities, participants asked that they not be targeted to specific income levels because in their opinion, this approach divides the community.

## Program effectiveness

Participants suggested the IESO should set specific savings targets for First Nations communities, which LDCs would work towards together with First Nations communities. This would lead to more targeted programs, and alleviate the access issues noted earlier, particularly in remote communities where transportation costs are high and the construction season is quite short.

Participants also asked the IESO to review all Indigenous-based programs to be sure there are clear metrics and success measures.

Another common theme amongst participants was the need to consider the unique circumstances of Indigenous communities in both program design and program delivery. In reviewing and developing programs that support Indigenous communities, participants encouraged the IESO to pay close attention to program start and stop dates. They said there is often insufficient time between receiving approval for funding and implementation deadlines to actually get the work done.

Participants also reminded the IESO to consider the time of year during which programs are being implemented. Ice roads, hunting season or other seasonal issues can make participation, and the availability of materials, challenging.

Including Indigenous people in both aspects – program design and delivery – would lead to more successful programs, hopefully with better outcomes.

*“One of the most important things we learned about marketing energy conservation to Indigenous communities was that traditional means of promotion, such as direct mail, didn’t always work. What did work was engaging with the communities in person to better understand their unique situations and needs and hiring local delivery agents from within Indigenous communities.”*

Margaret Nuttall, Caroline Knight, Cara-Lynne Wade and Tina Nicholson, Union Gas

# Education/Capacity Building

Education and capacity building were discussed in depth at all meetings. Depending on the community, there are different views on what would be required in order to achieve higher energy conservation results.

Some communities are much further along in their implementation of energy conservation initiatives than others, and some have more experience and a better understanding of how the energy system works, including knowledge of how to access funding. There was general agreement that education is a key priority. The following feedback was provided:

## First Nations band staff resources are stretched

In many First Nations communities, employees who work on energy-related initiatives split their time between several portfolios, some with little day-to-day support. Priorities are regularly shuffled, and this often results in projects not being completed. Participants suggested that if there were more resources, First Nations communities could achieve more measurable success in their conservation efforts. Some participants also suggested that regional energy managers might be more effective than relying on one single resource in each community.

Some participants said their communities have energy plans in place but need support when it comes to implementation. They receive proposals from various vendors and would prefer to work with vendors they know, preferably with First Nations vendors, but this is not always possible. Many participants said they were not sure how to evaluate proposals from vendors, and that many community members didn't trust unknown vendors to come into their homes. As a result, projects get dropped. Also, several participants said it was quite difficult for them to find qualified contractors in remote northern communities.

There is also a lack of home energy data in many on-reserve communities. Without this basic information, many participants agreed it is difficult to plan and therefore to implement energy conservation initiatives.

## Knowledge transfer

A common theme throughout the engagement process was the lack of knowledge transfer by First Nations communities and Métis Councils. Participants agreed that working in isolation was inefficient, and that a collaborative approach between Indigenous communities would be more effective in delivering energy savings.

Providing a mechanism that would enable First Nations band staff and Métis Council members working on energy-related initiatives to network in person with one another – at workshops and conferences – was seen as a positive way to promote greater knowledge transfer. Other options included using social media such as Facebook to share information.

Some participants said that having better access to the IESO's technical staff would be beneficial. Knowing the right people to contact at the IESO for a critique of community energy plan findings, for example, would be useful. Such access to IESO staff would also help to build capacity within the community, rather than retaining an external consultant to do the same work.

As some communities are further along on their path to energy efficiency and/or energy independence than others, participants suggested that funding for mentorships or internships that allow them to share resources between communities would be helpful. Instead of reinventing the wheel, this type of knowledge transfer among Indigenous communities would be cost-effective and would also help bridge the training gap that some participants said was a barrier to greater uptake of energy conservation initiatives.

## Educational materials

Participants noted there is a lack of quality educational materials, and that having a broad array of such materials for school children, homeowners, community residents and businesses should be a priority.

In most First Nations communities, there is limited funding for a full-time energy coordinator and insufficient time available for them to do their job effectively. In communities with energy coordinators, some are hired on short-term contracts. Some are experienced communicators; others are not. To help community energy coordinators (and others) raise awareness of energy conservation opportunities in their communities, there was more or less unanimous agreement that conservation-related educational materials from a trusted source would be beneficial. Participants also indicated that having contractors first learn how to engage with their communities in a positive way, and getting to know the community by partnering with someone from the community, might encourage homeowners to allow contractors into their homes more readily.

*“It would be great if our leadership was more aware of where energy conservation could take our community and why it’s important. Energy conservation leads to energy independence, more control and more self-reliance from energy companies.”*

Participant from Vaughan Regional Meeting



Community members of Bkejwanong Territory participated in workshops discussing topics such as community energy planning, energy conservation and renewable energy development. The workshops were held by TREC Education, with funding from the IESO Education and Capacity Building Support Program.



# Partnerships

Housing stock – and the need to develop partnerships to improve it – was one of the most talked about issues at the IESO’s meetings. The following feedback was provided:

## Existing First Nations housing stock makes energy conservation challenging:

Participants said that in many cases, on-reserve houses were in such a state of disrepair that it made no sense to undertake energy retrofits. Mould created by inadequate insulation and ventilation is a common occurrence in First Nations communities across Ontario, as is overcrowding. In many communities, the lack of proper insulation and weather-stripping contributes to poor air quality, and this in turn, can lead to health issues.

Participants encouraged the IESO to reach out to organizations such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and other government agencies such as Green Ontario Fund, to work together to address these issues. Participants also strongly suggested that a process for building energy efficiency standards into the blueprints of on-reserve housing, rather than continuing in a cycle of inefficient retrofitting of poor housing stock, would be helpful.

At the London regional meeting, participants talked about current building practices and suggested they are poorly aligned with how people in many First Nations communities actually live. This feedback is further supported by data showing that in some remote First Nations communities, 96 per cent of households surveyed use wood

as the primary heating source. Based on this input, participants seemed ready for the IESO to play a greater role in discussions about building practices that balance how First Nations people actually live with current energy-efficient technology.

## Vendors and installers don’t show homeowners how equipment works:

Participants said that in some cases homeowners are not shown how installed devices (such as programmable thermostats) work once they are installed. This can lead to damaged equipment or quite simply to homeowners’ decision not to use these installed devices. In some cases, participants also said it was difficult to get new energy efficient appliances serviced, even with a warranty. Participants asked if the IESO could help them to address these issues.

## Distributed energy and net metering

Participants wanted to know more about how to access funding for renewable energy equipment and/or microgrids. They asked if the IESO could partner with financial institutions, or other agencies, to advise them about how to plan financially for these types of small-to medium-sized projects; for large projects, they were interested in knowing how to obtain loan guarantees.

### About GreenON

Funded through proceeds from Ontario’s carbon market, the [Green Ontario Fund](#) is a not-for-profit provincial agency tasked with reducing greenhouse gas pollution in buildings and industry to help meet Ontario’s emission reduction targets. Through programs and rebates the Green Ontario Fund helps people and businesses take climate action into their own hands.

# Implementation: Moving Forward

This report marks the beginning of a long-term process. Based on the feedback received during the engagement process, there is considerable work to be done, and the recommendations for moving the process ahead are detailed below. Going forward, the guiding principle will be to keep the energy efficiency conversation with First Nations and Métis alive. These discussions were extremely informative, and helpful, providing first-hand feedback about what is working, what's not, and what can be done to change and improve programming.

In submitting this report to the Minister of Energy, the IESO is fully committed to implementing the following action plan, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and other ministries as required:

1. Change the program delivery model, through the Conservation First Framework, to improve access to programming for on-reserve First Nations communities, regardless of their location or connection to the electricity system.
2. Develop targeted promotions of Save on Energy programs for First Nations and Métis peoples.
3. Offer both on-reserve and off-reserve First Nations and Métis energy management support services that provide training, program information and technical expertise, as resources for energy efficiency initiatives.
4. Develop a directory that lists qualified vendors with experience working with First Nations and Métis. The listing would include each category of work that is required for delivering relevant programs for First Nations and Métis.
5. Launch an online portal for First Nations and Métis to share energy related information such as educational and marketing materials.
6. Launch a Joint Advisory Committee consisting of First Nations, Métis and energy leadership. This Committee will develop a plan of action for energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction in Indigenous communities through potential partnerships with LDCs, natural gas utilities, the Green Ontario Fund (GreenON), Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Education.
7. Coordinate with GreenON to establish funding and develop programs that support First Nations and Métis where there are opportunities to reduce reliance on greenhouse gas emitting fuels.

*"The key to getting more First Nations communities to participate in energy conservation is showing our administrators how energy savings benefit the community directly. The more energy a community can save, the more operational money there is available for the community to spend on other high priority needs."*

Michael Jacobs, Cambium Aboriginal Inc.

## Conclusion

Through the research and engagement process that formed the basis for this report, the IESO had the unique opportunity to see energy conservation through a very unique lens – one that focused on understanding the energy conservation challenges facing First Nations people in some of the province's most remote communities, as well as those issues affecting Indigenous people in less remote areas.

The feedback received was that consistent access must be a priority, that delivery protocols must be improved, that more information should be available, and that training within Indigenous communities is key.

Of all the input received, perhaps most striking was a shared desire to learn more about energy efficiency, to adopt an energy efficiency mindset and to practice energy conservation more routinely. There was pragmatism, coupled with unflinching determination, in this shared outlook.

The IESO is committed to working with First Nations communities, Métis Councils and their representatives to support the achievement of their energy efficiency goals, in the short term and the longer term. This commitment is fully aligned with the IESO's broader mandate of ensuring reliability for the province's energy system, as conservation has proven to be a low-cost and efficient way of reducing the province's longer-term energy needs as well as the need for costly investments in new generation and transmission infrastructure.

The IESO is also committed to understanding how to engage with Indigenous peoples about energy conservation, and then deliver energy conservation programming that bolsters their participation in these offerings.

The IESO will continue to listen, to engage, to course correct as necessary, and to move forward, all in the spirit of enabling the province's culture of conservation.





# Appendices

In this section:

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[Energy Conservation Programs in Ontario](#)

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[Other IESO Programs](#)

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[IESO Resources](#)

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[External Materials](#)

# Energy Conservation Programs in Ontario

The following energy conservation programs are currently available in Ontario:

## **First Nations Conservation Program**

For First Nations that are customers of Hydro One Networks Inc., and have not participated in the previous Aboriginal Conservation Program, the First Nations Conservation Program offers energy-efficient upgrades (LED lights, power bars, water heating efficiency measures, appliance replacement, insulation, and more) to on-reserve homeowners and tenants in band-owned housing. Following an energy-efficiency assessment, supply and installation are done for appropriate upgrades, at no cost to homeowners or the community.

## **Conservation on the Coast**

For First Nations community members who are customers of Attawapiskat Power, Fort Albany Power and Kashechewan Power, conservation programs similar to the Save on Energy Home Assistance Program and Small Business Lighting program are offered through Conservation on the Coast.

## **Home Energy Conservation Program: Enbridge**

Helps homeowners of all home-heating types in the Enbridge service territory improve the energy efficiency of their home, lower their energy bills, receive up to \$5,000 back, and reduce their home's greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Home Reno Rebate Program: Union Gas**

With the Home Reno Rebate, customers are eligible for up to \$5,000 cash back, plus additional electric appliance rebates, for energy-saving home improvements. This program is available to all eligible homeowners in the Union Gas program area, whether they heat their home with gas, electricity, oil, propane or wood.

## **Home Weatherization Program: Union Gas**

Income eligible customers can receive free energy-saving home improvements.

## **Save on Energy: Home Assistance Program**

Helps income-eligible homeowners and tenants to improve the energy efficiency of their homes through free home upgrades such as power bars, energy saving light bulbs and low-flow showerheads. Other items such as energy-efficient refrigerators, and appliances such as window air conditioners, programmable thermostats, weather-stripping and attic/basement insulation are also available. All devices and products provided under this program are directly installed in the home and are free of charge to participants.

## **Save on Energy: Small Business Lighting Program**

This program helps small business owners manage their energy costs through turnkey installation of energy efficient lighting.

### *Eligibility*

- Businesses with average annual demand of less than 100 kW
- Participants in the Power Saving Blitz from 2008-2010 and the Direct Install Lighting or Small Business Lighting from 2011-2015 are eligible to participate

### *Eligible businesses receive:*

- Onsite lighting assessment of the facility at no cost
- Up to \$2,000 towards energy efficient lighting upgrades
- Immediate lighting installation

## **Conservation and Renewable Energy (CaRE) Program**

Hydro One Remote Communities offers the Conservation and Renewable Energy (CaRE) Program, which includes a household appliance mail-in rebate program, a commercial lighting retrofit program in existing buildings and a street-lighting retrofit program.

## **Affordability Fund Trust**

The program is designed to help people who do not qualify for low-income conservation programs and who are unable to undertake energy efficiency improvements without support.



## Other IESO Programs

### Education and Capacity Building Program

The Education and Capacity Building Program (ECB) program – provides funding to support energy initiatives that provide education, build capacity and develop the skills of First Nations and Métis to participate in the energy sector. Eligible initiatives include staff training, education workshops and awareness campaigns. The ECB program will continue to support initiatives that help build local business skills, energy literacy and youth engagement. Up to \$100,000 per initiative is available.

### Energy Partnerships Program

Open to First Nations and Métis and includes:

- *Partnership Stream:* Funds the legal, technical and financial work required to assess and develop opportunities for participating in renewable energy and transmission projects. Up to \$50,000 per community is available.
- *Project Development Stream:* Funding for costs associated with developing renewable energy projects such as obtaining regulatory approvals. Up to \$250,000 per applicant is available.
- *Remote Stream:* Up to \$500,000 per community is available for initiatives that reduce reliance on diesel fuel for the four remote First Nations that can't be feasibly connected to the transmission grid.

### Aboriginal Community Energy Plan Program

The Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP) program supports First Nation and Métis communities in the development of comprehensive, long-term energy plans. A community energy plan helps to improve energy efficiency and reduce electricity consumption at the community level. It also helps communities consider opportunities for renewable energy solutions, and can promote a greater interest, awareness and understanding about energy planning.

Funding for community energy plans is available:

- Up to \$90,000 to create a new community energy plan
- Up to \$25,000 to update an existing plan
- For remote communities, an additional \$5,000 for both streams.

Funds pay for costs directly related to projects that are considered necessary to complete the work, activities, and deliverables outlined in an approved proposal.

To date, the IESO has approved ACEPs from over 95 First Nation and Métis communities, including those communities shown in the map. (This map is interactive. See the different layers [here](#).)

### Save on Energy Training Programs

The IESO provides funding for various types of energy management training, through the Save on Energy program. Programs range from foundational courses in basic energy management to training required for industry certification and accreditation.

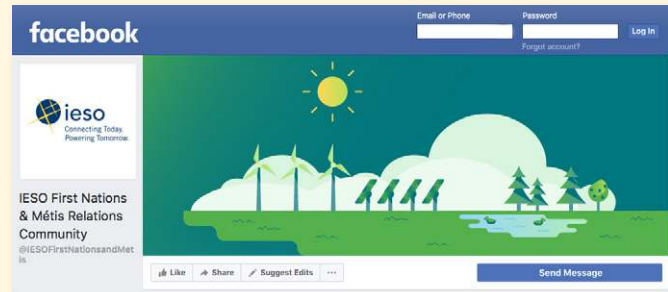
### IESO Conservation Fund

The IESO Conservation Fund provides financial support for innovative electricity conservation technologies, practices, research, and programs that will help Ontario reach its long-term energy conservation goals. The IESO Conservation Fund has supported over 200 innovative conservation and demand management projects since its inception in 2005, shaping various incentive programs, training options, tools and products.

# IESO Resources

## [IESO First Nations & Métis Relations on Facebook](#)

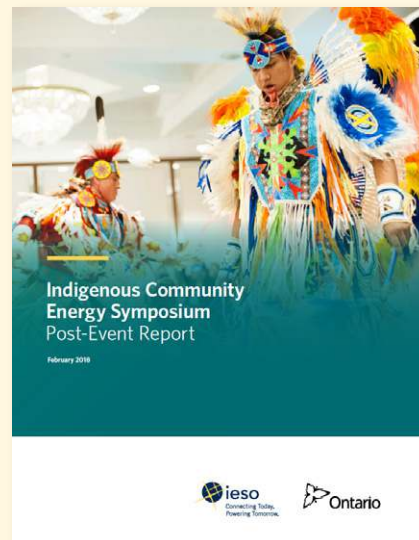
Brings First Nations and Métis communities together to discuss ideas, resources, programs, and issues around energy in Ontario.



## [IESO Indigenous Energy Symposium Post-Event Report](#)

More than 300 individuals attended this two-day conference, which brought together Ontario First Nations community and youth representatives, industry stakeholders and leading community energy experts with a common goal of sharing their learnings, building collaboration and promoting community energy planning across the province. The report identifies key themes, summarizes the discussions and presents a broader Commitment Plan for Indigenous communities that complements and supports the commitments made in the Ministry of Energy's Long-Term Energy Plan.

The Indigenous Energy Symposium was a collaboration between the IESO and the Ministry of Energy.



## [IESO Indigenous Relations webpage](#)

Provides information on long-term energy planning, Indigenous community energy planning and other programs.

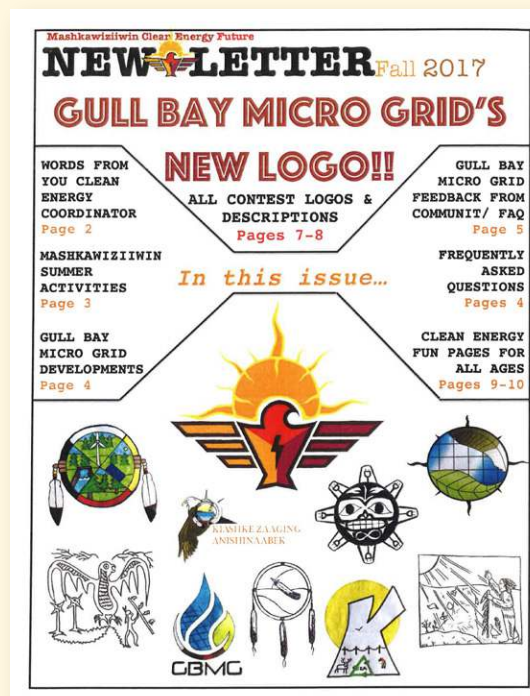


# External Materials (samples)

## Five Nations Energy Inc.'s Conservation Programming Materials



## Fall 2017 Newsletter in Gull Bay First Nation



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