MEETING NOTE

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Electricity Distributors Association (EDA)

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Monday, November 6, 2017 / 9:15am – 10:00am

LOCATION OF MEETING: 900 Bay Street, 4th Floor, Hearst Block, DMO Boardroom

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ATTENDEES:

Ministry of Energy
Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister
Sunita Chander, Director, Distribution and Agency Policy

EDA
Teresa Sarkesian, President and CEO

LAST MEETING: Deputy Minister, Serge Imbrogno, met with the EDA on May 2, 2017

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Long-Term Energy Plan
   a. Innovation
   b. Regulatory Streamlining and Modernization
   c. Net Metering and DERs
   d. Customer Value
   e. Conservation
   f. EVs
2. Conservation First Framework
3. Green Ontario Fund

NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Long-Term Energy Plan

EDA may have questions about conservation policy initiatives included in the 2017 LTEP: In Front of the Meter Conservation (IFMC); phasing out of incentives for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) projects; and Green Button.

Suggested Response:

Innovation

- **The LTEP reaffirms the Ministry's commitment to innovation and grid modernization. I know you and your members share in this priority.**

- **I would like to thank the EDA for its support and contributions as we formulated the LTEP. Now that it has been released, I would like to hear your perspectives on our innovation agenda.**

- **Innovative technologies have the potential to transform Ontario's energy system. New pricing plans, net metering, energy storage and the electrification of transportation will give customers more control and choice over how they generate, use and pay for energy.**

- **The net metering framework will continue to be enhanced to give customers new ways to participate in clean, renewable energy generation and to reduce their electricity bills.**

- **In partnership with the IESO, the Government will develop a program to support a select number of renewable distributed generation demonstration projects that are strategically located and help inform the value of innovative technologies to the system and to customers.**
- **In the coming weeks, my staff will be reaching out to arrange briefings with the EDA and your members on our LTEP commitments. I look forward to an ongoing discussion on how to build a more innovative sector for all Ontarians.**

Regulatory Streamlining & Modernization

- **Our Long-Term Energy Plan has stated our expectation that the distribution sector attain greater efficiencies. This includes by making regulatory requirements more streamlined and flexible, and by enabling LDCs to pursue greater partnerships among themselves.**
- **As part of LTEP, the Ontario Energy Board has been directed to find ways to take costs of the sector, including through the proportional review of rate filings.**
- **The OEB is required to consult with regulated entities on its Implementation Plan. I encourage you to participate in this process.**

Net Metering and DERs

- **The 2017 LTEP speaks to our commitment to enhance Ontario's net metering framework to provide new ways for customers to participate in renewable energy generation while also saving money on their electricity bills.**

- **Specifically, the Ministry is developing and proposing legislative and regulatory changes to enable third-party ownership and/or operation of net metering facilities and to provide flexibility and support for the deployment of a select number of virtual net metering demonstration projects.**
    - **Feedback from LDCs helped to inform our policy direction.**
    - **We are taking a measured approach, allowing for innovative projects to proceed while also not binding LDCs to offer virtual net metering.**

- **The Ministry aims to have the updated net metering framework in place in 2018.**

- **The Ministry will also be working with the IESO to develop an innovative renewable distributed generation program, which will include support for virtual net metering demonstration projects.**

- **I understand that Ministry staff met with your organization on March 14th as part of its targeted consultations on these potential additional net metering program amendments, in order to better understand regulatory and technical considerations for an expanded net metering framework.**

- **We plan to post the regulatory proposals for the enhancements to Ontario's net metering framework through the Environmental Bill of Rights and Regulatory Registries later this November. I encourage you to take the opportunity to review these proposals at that time and share your feedback on the proposed measures**.

Conservation

- **Incentives for CHP projects that use supplied fossil fuels are being phased out to help meet Ontario's climate change goals. IESO has concluded that, based on the current and projected Ontario supply mix, these projects increase emissions on a net basis. We welcome the EDA's thoughts on how to further promote behind the meter waste energy recovery projects, as well as behind the meter renewable energy projects, which continue to be eligible conservation measures.**

- **The 2017 LTEP announced that, to promote the energy efficiency of distribution systems, distribution-rate funded IFMC project electricity savings would be able to count towards LDC conservation and demand management (CDM) targets under the 2015-2020 Conservation First Framework. We encourage the EDA to promote this opportunity to its members.**

- **Following the 2017 LTEP's commitment to move forward with province-wide implementation of Green Button, we are planning to post a Green Button regulatory proposal on the Environmental and Regulatory registries for**

public comment in the coming months. We would encourage the EDA and its members to provide feedback on the proposal.

Electric Vehicles

- **The LTEP included a commitment to addressing the impacts that the continued adoption of EVs will have on the Province's distribution system.**

- **The EDA and the Ministry share many of the same perspectives with respect to the steps that need to be taken to facilitate the integration of EVs in Ontario.**

- **Now that the LTEP has been released, the Ministry is interested to hear more about the EDAs perspective on this issue.**

- **The Ministry will explore opportunities to facilitate this dialogue, and to identify opportunities for the EDA to support the Province's goals for electric mobility.**

Background:

Innovation

- The LTEP makes a broad commitment to grid modernization – overcoming barriers to ensure that LDCs can take advantage of new technologies to ensure they can make the right decisions for their customers and business. This includes the expectation that the OEB will address regulatory barriers that inhibit the cost-effective deployment of smart grid and distributed energy technologies, encouraging greater partnerships within the sector, and allow LDCs to pursue opportunities that reduce ratepayer costs. (Details on these initiatives are included in Appendix).

- The LTEP also commits to renewing and enhancing the Smart Grid Fund – which will focus on encouraging a culture of innovation within the electricity sector – and ensuring that energy storage is treated fairly in Ontario's electricity markets.

- As part of the LTEP consultation process, the EDA met with Ministry staff on December 16, 2016. There, the EDA stated that their members' stance on innovation would be included in their vision paper, the *Power to Connect*. Staff intends to hold a follow-up meeting in the coming weeks to receive EDA feedback on the LTEP.

- Many of the proposals in the LTEP reflect the recommendations in the EDA's *Power to Connect*. The *Power to Connect* is a broad, 15-year plan to modernize Ontario's distribution sector, which recommends transforming LDCs from distribution-only companies to owners, managers, and operators of distributed energy resources (DERs), such as energy storage and renewable generation.

- Like the Ministry's vision for grid modernization, the EDA's recommended approach is focused on overcoming barriers to innovation. The EDA and the Ministry share in a number of approaches, including encouraging cultural change within LDCs, promoting the cost-effective deployment of distributed energy resources, and providing regulatory clarity on what business models LDCs can peruse.

Regulatory Streamlining & Modernization

LTEP and OEB Directive

- The LTEP commits to exploring new opportunities to reduce costs for LDCs that ultimately benefit ratepayers. The key passage related to this commitment is on page 82:

  Many LDCs have entered into joint service agreements to improve customer service and reduce their operating, maintenance, and administration costs…The government will look to the OEB to explore ways of facilitating these partnerships where they make economic sense. It will also consult with LDCs on additional ways to realize these savings and provide better customer service. The OEB will continue to promote efficiencies in its own rules and requirements so that LDCs and transmitters benefit from further regulatory streamlining.
- The OEB's LTEP Directive commits the OEB to identify opportunities to:
  - "mitigate costs for ratepayers, whether directly or indirectly by, for example, enabling more efficient and proportionate review of utility applications"
  - "reduce costs and find efficiencies in the distribution sector, such as shared services amongst local distribution companies."

EDA Feedback on Regulatory Costs/Processes

- Rising regulatory costs and burden was a recurring theme in LDC input to LTEP. This input was used in the development of the OFHP policy commitments. Below are highlights from the EDA's submission.
  - "Duplication and overlap of reporting requirements should be eliminated."
  - "Administrative burden to LDCs should be minimized, streamlined."
  - "LDCs have seen a significant increase in the cost and resources associated with regulatory filings. For example:
    - A medium-sized LDC spent the equivalence of almost 1,000 business days on its 2016 Cost of Service (COS) rate application.
    - For several LDCs, the cost of preparing recent COS rate applications increased over 200% while the costs for a few LDCs increased over 300% because of increased reporting requirements. In one example, an LDC saw the cost of its COS application increase by over 200% even without an OEB oral hearing on the application.
    - A medium-sized LDC's application and interrogatory responses totaled almost 3,500 pages."

- "The government should immediately expand the scope of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment's Burden Reduction Strategy to consider the regulatory requirements placed on distributors and provide independent recommendations for streamlining requirements. This review should also be prioritized."
- "While the OEB has made an effort to streamline quarterly and annual reporting requirements, there is more work to be done. OEB should phase-out quarterly RRR (Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements) filing requirements."
- "All regulatory requirements from the OEB should provide a cost-benefit analysis for customers and distributors."
- "As part of the OEB's commitment to facilitate consumer engagement, the filing guidelines should be simplified to make the submissions consumer-friendly."
- "In harmony with the government's Digital Strategy, the regulator should immediately move to eliminate the requirement for LDCs to submit hard copies of applications and reports. This initiative will reduce hundreds of thousands of dollars of printing costs incurred by LDCs."

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan – Energy Sector Efficiencies

- On March 2nd, 2017 the Ministry announced the OFHP, which included commitments for the OEB to undertake certain actions to find efficiencies in the distribution sector. The announcement indicated the OEB would be:
  - *Encouraging shared partnerships between utilities, which would help reduce costs and encourage further innovation for small to medium-sized utilities:*
  - *Reviewing business cases behind its regulatory requirements to reduce red tape and eliminate costs that LDCs indicate are creating pressures on operating expenses.*
  - *Looking at opportunities to further drive transmitter and LDC efficiencies and productivity improvements, including the use of innovative technologies and business processes.*
- The Minister of Energy recommitted to these measures in a meeting with the EDA Board of Directors in March 2017.

Net Metering and Distributed Energy Resources

- The EDA recommends that the Ontario government should:
  - In collaboration with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), coordinate with Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) to streamline the integration of distributed generation in a way that does not compromise reliability or strand assets;
  - Immediately address regulatory issues and restrictions, such as allowing third party ownership of net metering projects; and
  - Provide certainty regarding funding, with a specific recommendation that the OEB should move to immediately complete the distribution rate design for commercial and industrial customers.

- In December 2016, the Ministry initiated stakeholder and Indigenous engagement activities on part 2 potential updates related to third-party ownership (TPO) and virtual net metering (VNM). Outreach included meetings with an advisory working group, a public webinar, a questionnaire to collect written feedback, and targeted meetings with key stakeholder groups.

- The 2017 LTEP commits to the following actions to enhance Ontario's net metering framework:
  - Legislative and regulatory amendments to enable TPO arrangements while ensuring consumer protection measures are in place;
  - Legislative and regulatory amendments to enable the deployment of a select number of VNM demonstration projects.
    - Support for VNM demonstration projects will be provided through an innovative renewable distributed generation program.

- Status and next steps of legislative and regulatory amendments:
  - Legislative changes to the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 are required to expand regulation-making authority under the net metering regulation (O. Reg. 541/05: Net Metering). Amendments were approved by Cabinet October 4, 2017 and will be tabled in November 2017.
  - Proposed regulatory changes will be posted to the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry and the Regulatory Registry for public comment following passing of legislative changes and could be in force by July 1, 2018 pending approvals.

- Status and next steps on development of the renewable distributed generation program:
  - IESO is working with ENERGY to develop the program, which will include support for VNM demonstration projects.
  - Details of the program parameters and process for selection of projects have not yet been developed.
  - Regulatory flexibility for VNM demonstration projects will be tied to participation in the program.
  - ENERGY and IESO intend to align program availability with regulatory in force dates of changes to the net metering framework (July 1, 2018). Application and selection process may begin earlier (Spring 2018).
  - ENERGY communicated the following program objectives to the IESO:
    - Demonstrating and quantifying impacts and value of innovative renewable distributed generation projects;
    - Informing regulatory and market design that enables deployment of value-added solutions;
    - Providing experience to LDCs, IESO and industry partners that will help inform business cases, resource planning and technical knowledge.

Renewable Distributed Generation (RDG) Program:

- In order to operationalize innovative renewable distributed generation projects, including VNM demonstration projects, ENERGY will be working with the IESO to develop a program to support a select number of projects.

- These projects will be innovative renewable distributed generation projects paired with DERs and other Smart Grid technologies, including VNM demonstration projects.

- Several projects have come forward expressing interest in pursuing “community net metering” or VNM projects, that may require regulatory changes, as existing licensing requirements and regulatory frameworks may not permit the scope of activities in the proposals. The ministry is conducting legal and regulatory analysis to support planned legislative and regulatory amendments.

Time of Use Compensation for Net-Metered Customers:

- ENERGY is considering the costs and benefits of enabling Time of Use (TOU) settlement for net-metered customers in Ontario. Net-metered customers are currently settled using tiered rates due to limitations with the province’s Meter Data Management and Repository (MDM/R).

- ENERGY has issued a survey to all LDCs to collect data on the costs and benefits of implementing TOU settlement and is also currently engaged with the IESO Smart Metering Entity (SME) to determine the costs of upgrades to the MDMR. The survey period has now closed and 27 responses were received, including from Alectra Utilities, Hydro One Networks, and Toronto Hydro.

- The cost-benefit analysis is expected to conclude in winter 2017 after which policy recommendations will be made on whether to proceed with implementing TOU settlement for net-metered customers.

Conservation - CHP

- Beginning July 1, 2018, proponents will no longer be eligible to apply for incentives for CHP projects that use supplied fossil fuels to generate electricity under the Conservation First Framework or the Industrial Accelerator Program.

    - The IESO determined that natural gas-fired CHP projects on average result in GHG emissions that are over four times the marginal GHG emissions rate of the electricity system.

    - Behind the meter waste energy recovery projects will continue to be eligible, as will renewable energy projects, including those paired with energy storage systems.

- The July 1, 2018 deadline to submit an application is intended to allow businesses currently planning CHP projects to work with their utility or the IESO to submit an incentive application. Once an incentive application has been submitted, it will go through the IESO's regular review and approvals process.

- Those projects that are already in-service, under contract, or have submitted an incentive application will not be affected by this policy decision.

Conservation – IFMC

- In Front of the Meter Conservation (IFMC) technologies reduce line losses and optimize voltage levels. LDCs deploy them on the distribution system to save electricity and reduce peak demand for customers behind the meter.

- The policy announced through the 2017 LTEP encourages LDCs to make their distribution systems more energy efficient by allowing electricity savings resulting from distribution-rate funded IFMC projects to count towards conservation and demand management (CDM) targets under the 2015-2020 Conservation First Framework.

- LDCs could apply for distribution-rate recovery of IFMC investments in a number of ways. For example, through:
    - A five-year cost of service and distribution system plan application;
    - An Incentive Rate-setting Mechanism (IRM) with the annual cost of service application; or
    - A standalone application as described in the OEB's *2014 Conservation and Demand Management Requirement Guidelines for Electricity Distributors*.

- LDCs will also need to resubmit their CDM Plans to the IESO indicating that they will be undertaking IFMC projects to help meet their targets. The IESO will issue additional guidance directly to LDCs.

Conservation – Green Button

- Green Button is a data standard that can empower households and businesses with access to their utility data (i.e. Download My Data) and allow them to authorize the automatic, secure transfer of their own data from their utility to apps of their choice (i.e. Connect My Data).

- The government took important steps in 2016 to support the broader adoption of Green Button:

- The Ministry of Energy consulted on a proposal to require Ontario's electricity, natural gas and water utilities to implement Green Button, and completed a cost-benefit analysis.
- The 2016-2020 Climate Change Action Plan committed to expand the Green Button program province-wide to help more households and businesses conserve energy and water.

- In the 2017 LTEP, Ontario reaffirmed its commitment to expand Green Button province wide and announced its intention to propose legislation that would, if passed, allow Ontario to require electricity and natural gas utilities to implement Green Button Download My Data and Connect My Data.

Electric Vehicles

EDA letter outlining the role of utilities to support EV uptake and integration

- The EDA submitted a letter to the Ministers of Energy, Transportation and Environment and Climate Change on June 28, 2017 outlining the role utilities can play in helping the province meet its CCAP targets for electric mobility. The letter provided several recommendations:

  1. Relevant ministries should establish a formal process to engage the EDA, utilities and other stakeholders to guide the government's overall EV strategy and to help shape relevant policies and regulations (e.g. selection of public EV charging locations);

  2. Develop a flexible regulatory and policy environment for LDCs to enable, integrate and ultimately control distributed energy resources (DERs), which would include EVs;

  3. Explore strategies to enable LDCs to access data pertaining to where EVs are located in their respective service territories; and,

  4. Provide clarity on questions related to the ability of LDCs to rate-base charging infrastructure.

- The Ministry responded on behalf of government with responses to each of these items. Given overlap with initiatives planned for LTEP, the response was largely supportive, but deferred consideration of a formal process for government to engage industry on electric mobility. ENERGY is engaging with other ministries on the best way to support this request.

- Since LTEP, the EDA has requested a discussion with Ministry staff on LTEP initiatives related to electric mobility. The Ministry is developing an outreach strategy for engaging with the EDA and utilities post-LTEP and will follow up to propose times for discussion.

LTEP and Electrification of Transportation

- The continued adoption of EVs will have an impact on the province's distribution networks. Utilities will need the tools to manage these impacts in a cost-effective way.

- The LTEP committed the government to provide LDCs with more options for integrating EVs into their networks at the lowest cost. This includes exploring opportunities for LDCs to make investments in technologies such as residential smart chargers that would avoid more costly system upgrades.

- The LTEP also committed the government to share information and data on EVs with LDCs to support system planning initiatives.

- Finally, the LTEP committed the government to engage with its partners in the energy sector and vehicle manufactures to develop a roadmap for vehicle-grid integration that will identify the broader implications of this technology for Ontario**.**

2. Conservation First Framework (CFF)

The EDA is a member of the IESO's CFF and Industrial Accelerator Program Mid-Term Review (MTR) Advisory Group, and may provide views on the MTR.

The EDA may also express concern with the IESO's implementation of the August 4, 2017 Minister's direction re: the Home Assistance Program, which requires LDCs to terminate delivery of HAP and opt in to fund IESO central delivery of the program, if they wish to count savings towards their targets.

Suggested Response:

Conservation First Framework

- **The IESO is well into the formal CFF and Industrial Accelerator Program (IAP) MTR. We are pleased to know that the EDA is a part of the MTR Advisory Group, and we look forward to the review outcomes.**

- **What impressions and concerns can the EDA provide regarding the MTR process and findings to date?**

- **The 2017 LTEP reaffirms the government's commitment to Conservation First, including by profiling the success and continued availability of conservation programs.**

Home Assistance Program

- **According to the IESO, Home Assistance Program (HAP) activity in 2016 saw a 70% decrease compared to 2015, with no HAP activity among 34**

LDCs. Furthermore, LDCs had communicated in the Residential Working Group as well as through consultations on the Affordability Fund that HAP would be more appropriately delivered centrally given challenging cost-effectiveness. Together, these developments informed the August 4, 2017 Minister's direction for the IESO to centrally fund and deliver a conservation program targeted to the low-income sector, starting January 1, 2018.

- **The IESO has communicated that the key principles of the new low-income program include: adequate funding; equitable access; a consistent offering; community engagement; and multi-fuel coordination.**

- **The IESO has communicated that opportunities will be provided for LDCs to:**

    - **Receive incremental funding to continue ongoing low-income customer and community engagement activities.**
    - **Co-brand the delivery of the program.**
    - **Capture electricity savings delivered by funding delivery costs of the centrally delivered IESO program within its service territory from the LDC's CFF Budget.**

- **I understand the IESO has been engaging with LDCs since the August 4 direction was issued, to hear their concerns and consider how to move forward. What concerns is the EDA continuing to hear since the IESO's recent communications with LDCs?**

<u>Background:</u>

CFF

- The 2015 to 2020 CFF has given the flexibility to distributors to design and deliver local and regional CDM programs that meet their customer needs.

- Recognizing the opportunity to improve the availability of programs for customers, on December 16, 2016 the Minister of Energy issued direction to the IESO to require province-wide CDM programs to be delivered in each distributor service area.

Mid-Term Review

- The IESO was directed to work with distributors to complete a formal Mid-Term Review of the 2015-2020 Conservation First Framework (CFF) by June 1, 2018.

- The IESO's review will focus on targets, budgets, progress, lessons learned (on cost recovery, performance incentive mechanisms and Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) contribution to regional planning), and alignment with Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) programs.

- The IESO's Mid-Term Review will also provide an opportunity for distributors to provide feedback on the CFF and opportunities for the 2018 to 2020 period.

August 4, 2017 Amending Direction to IESO regarding HAP

- The Save on Energy Home Assistance Program was developed to help income-eligible homeowners and tenants manage their energy use and costs by offering detailed in-home energy assessments and installing energy-saving measures at no cost.

- Social and assisted housing providers also qualify for assistance in making their buildings more energy efficient through both the residential Home Assistance program and the commercial Retrofit program.

- On August 4, 2017, to further improve the availability of conservation programs that help low-income customers, the Minister directed the IESO to centrally design, fund and deliver low-income conservation program(s) (e.g., the Home Assistance Program) across all LDC service territories beginning January 2018.

    - Reductions in electricity consumption achieved through the IESO-delivered province-wide low-income program(s) shall not count towards an LDC target

    - The direction specified that the IESO may continue to allow an LDC to deliver, funded through their allocated CDM budget, a CDM program(s) targeted to the low-income customer segment, if the LDC demonstrates a commitment to serving this sector; in this case, electricity savings achieved shall count towards the LDC's CDM Target.

- According the IESO's Home Assistance Program Communication Plan (submitted to the DMO on Oct 13, 2017):

    - **Week of October 16:**
        - Calls with Senior IESO management and London Hydro, Toronto Hydro, Alectra, and Hydro One
        - On October 18, the IESO issued a letter via email to CEOs and Energy Conservation Agreement contacts for all LDCs indicating that HAP will be centrally delivered across the province, that opportunities will be made available for LDCs to continue supporting low-income customers, and that further details related to the transition will be provided in the coming days.
        - October 19: E-blast to all LDCs
    - **Week of October 23:** IESO planned to issue termination agreements for LDCs to cease new HAP program activities through vendor contracts by December 31, 2017. The agreement must be signed by Nov. 13.
    - **Week of November 6 (TBC):** IESO to release RFP for vendor to deliver HAP province-wide

- **Nov. 13 to Nov. 24:** Ongoing discussions with LDCs that have expressed interest in option to fund delivery costs in their service territory to capture electricity savings.
- **Late November:** Webinar for LDCs will provide operational details associated with implementation of the Direction
- **January 2018:** IESO delivery of HAP and marketing commences province-wide

3. Green Ontario Fund

Integration of existing conservation programs and new GreenON programs

Suggested Response:

- **ENERGY is working together with MOECC to ensure the new programs under the Green Ontario Fund build on the success of the province's existing energy efficiency programs.**

- **The IESO's role as a partner in the delivery of certain Green Ontario Fund programs is intended to help promote an efficient and customer-focused approach and minimize duplication with existing programs.**

- **As identified in the 2017 LTEP, ENERGY staff are working with MOECC, IESO and Green Ontario Fund to explore how to further integrate conservation and low-carbon technology programs for both electricity and fuels.**

- **I encourage EDA to bring forward opportunities to align with GreenON programs and Climate Change Action Plan programs through the IESO's Mid-Term Review process, and to the Green Ontario Fund.**

Background:

- The Minister of Energy wrote a letter to IESO on February 13, 2017 requesting that the IESO support the implementation and early adoption of Green Ontario Fund services.

- On August 4, 2017, ENERGY issued an amending direction to the March 31, 2014 Minister's direction establishing the CFF to enable IESO to enter into an agreement with MOECC to support the design and delivery of GreenON programs.

- The amending direction includes the following:
    - Enables IESO to enter into agreement(s) with MOECC and Green Ontario Fund and with third party vendors to support the design and delivery of the Green Ontario Fund programs identified in the TB submission and potentially new programs MOECC is considering to target on-reserve Indigenous customers and low-income customers.

- Ensures IESO makes reasonable efforts to avoid marketplace confusion and makes prudent use of funds by avoiding duplication.
    - Ensures there are cost-effectiveness thresholds or requirements and EM&V of the associated energy savings.
    - Clarifies cost recovery for Green Ontario Fund programs.
    - Ensures IESO maintains a detailed accounting of costs, results and GHG emissions reductions.
    - Ensures IESO keeps ENERGY informed.

- The Green Ontario Fund (GreenON.ca) website and GreenON Installations Program were launched on August 30, 2017.

    - The Green Ontario Fund website is a one-stop shop for homes and businesses to programs and rebates to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions, including providing information on the suite of existing conservation and energy efficiency programs.

    - Upon launch, the website began accepting applications for the new GreenON Installations program.
        - Eligible homeowners and renters with their landlord's permission can sign up for a visit from a trained technician to install, free of charge, a complimentary smart thermostat and show them how to use it.
        - Based on information collected from the home, the home's energy systems are then analyzed by a team of energy specialists who will offer a personalized follow-up on other available incentive programs to help reduce energy costs.

    - IESO's RFPs for the agent to deliver GreenON Installations program and Home Energy Expert (GreenON Support program) closed August 17 and 29, respectively. ENERGY understands that vendors have been selected.

    - Other proposed offerings include a province-wide smart thermostat rebate program, low carbon technology incentives for homes and multi-unit residential buildings as well as for small and medium sized commercial businesses, a direct install program for small and medium sized businesses, and programs targeting on-reserve Indigenous customers and low-income customers.

APPENDIX:

Item 1 – EDA's LTEP Submission

- The Ministry has directed the OEB through the implementation directive and LTEP document to explore ways to overcome barriers to encourage a culture of innovation and to facilitate grid modernization. These initiatives include:

- Ensuring that there are no unfair barriers that disadvantage the deployment of energy storage;
- Utility participation in residential smart charging;
- The deployment of renewable distributed generation and other distributed energy resources that provide value to customers;
- The use of innovative, non-wired solutions that could, among other things, allow utilities to manage their systems better and encourage customer choice including the principles of efficiency and cost-effectiveness;
- Allowing utilities to manage their systems better and encourage customer choice including the principles of efficiency and cost-effectiveness;
- The regulatory treatment of LDC capital and operational expenditures, which can inhibit the uptake of these non-wires solutions;
- A cost-benefit framework that provides clarity on the treatment of investments, such as those with localized costs that provide benefits to other electricity system participants (also known as the diffuse benefits issue);
- The ability of utilities to make non-traditional distribution system investments and participate in market opportunities that would ultimately reduce ratepayers' costs associated with capital or other investments; and
- Opportunities for utilities to partner with their customers to use in-front and behind-the-meter applications to address system needs.