

Inwood Energy Storage Project Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan



Inwood Energy Storage Project

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Acronyms and abbreviations

Name	Description
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
Class EA	The pre-approved Environmental Assessment planning process under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>
CIEP	Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan (this Plan)
EAA	Environmental Assessment Act
Hydro One	Ontario's primary electricity transmission and distribution service provider
IESO	Independent Electricity System Operator
IESO LT2(c-1) RFP	Refers to the Long-Term 2 Capacity Services (Window 1) Request for Proposals, as administered by the IESO to address electricity needs within Ontario
km	Kilometre(s)
m	Metre(s)
GW	Gigawatt(s)
MW	Megawatt(s)
MWh	Megawatt hour(s)
kV	Kilovolt(s)
PIN	Property Identification Number
RES	Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc.

Definitions

Name	Description
Landholders	Landholders are defined as owners of land that RES has an interest in, or is pursuing an interest in, for the purposes of development, access, transmission etc.
Neighbours	For the purpose of this Plan, the Project's neighbours are: Landholders with property immediately adjacent to the project site within 120 m. Users of local roads and infrastructure near/adjacent to the project site. Any other stakeholders living, working, or who are regularly within 3.5km of the project.
Community	For the purposes of this Plan, the community is defined as any person, group, or business who lives/is based within, or has a connection to the geographic area surrounding the proposed project site. This includes the communities of Township of Enniskillen, the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston, and the Township of Dawn Euphemia.
Study Area	The study area is the area where potential social impact has been identified based on the unique qualities of the project, community, and context of the development.
Municipal Project Lands	Any properties that are subject to the land use authority of an applicable local municipality, in this case, the Township of Enniskillen.
Project Site	Project Site, the real property upon which the BESS project is to be situated.
Stakeholder	A person, business, or group with an interest in the project, including but not limited to members of the public, agencies, municipalities, and interest groups.
Project Developer	A person, company, partnership, or group that is planning and/or undertaking an energy storage project.
Indigenous	For the purposes of this Plan, defined as a First Nations or Métis community, organization, or representative.
Agriculture Impact Assessment	An assessment that evaluates a project's effects on agricultural lands and activities.
UL-Certified Batteries:	UL-Certified Batteries: Batteries that have been tested and certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to meet established quality and safety standards.
Battery Management System (BMS):	An integrated software that monitors, controls, and protects the batteries' current, voltage, temperature, state of charge and State-of-Health to prevent safety risks and ensure reliable operation and performance.
Official Plans	Policy documents adopted by municipalities under Ontario's Planning Act that set out the long-term vision, land use designations, and development policies to guide growth, infrastructure, and land management within their jurisdiction.
Zoning Bylaws	Municipal regulations that implement the policies of an Official Plan.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

After more than a decade of strong supply, Ontario is entering a period of emerging electricity system needs, driven by increasing demand, nuclear refurbishment and retirement, as well as end-of-life for many existing generators. To address this need, Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has launched the Long-Term 2 Capacity Services (Window 1) Request for Proposals (LT2(c-1) RFP) process to competitively procure up to 600 megawatts (MW) of year-round, dispatchable capacity services from new electricity resources in the province.

This procurement is part of the IESO's broader resource adequacy framework to procure electricity resources for short, medium, and long-term timeframes, balancing the needs and risks of both ratepayers and suppliers. This process aligns the acquisition of electricity resources with the system's evolving needs, ensuring the continued availability of electricity from various sources to maintain the reliability, sustainability, and affordability of Ontario's electricity system. Procurements are competitive and open to all resource types that meet eligibility requirements, with submissions for the LT2(c-1) RFP due December 18, 2025.

Renewable Energy Systems Inc. (RES) (the Project Developer) is proposing the Inwood Energy Storage Project (the Project), an up to 240 MW utility-scale lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at 5930 Courtright Line in Enniskillen, Ontario, under the IESO's LT2(c-1) RFP process. The Project is proposed on approximately 12 hectares (30 acres) of agriculturally zoned land located in Enniskillen Township, approximately 4 kilometres (km) west of the Inwood urban area located in Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston. The Project will connect to the 230 kilovolts (kV) rated transmission lines owned by Hydro One, running alongside the northern boundary of the Project Site, to deliver dispatchable capacity services into the Provincial electricity grid. [See Figure 1. Project Area for proposed site plan.](#)

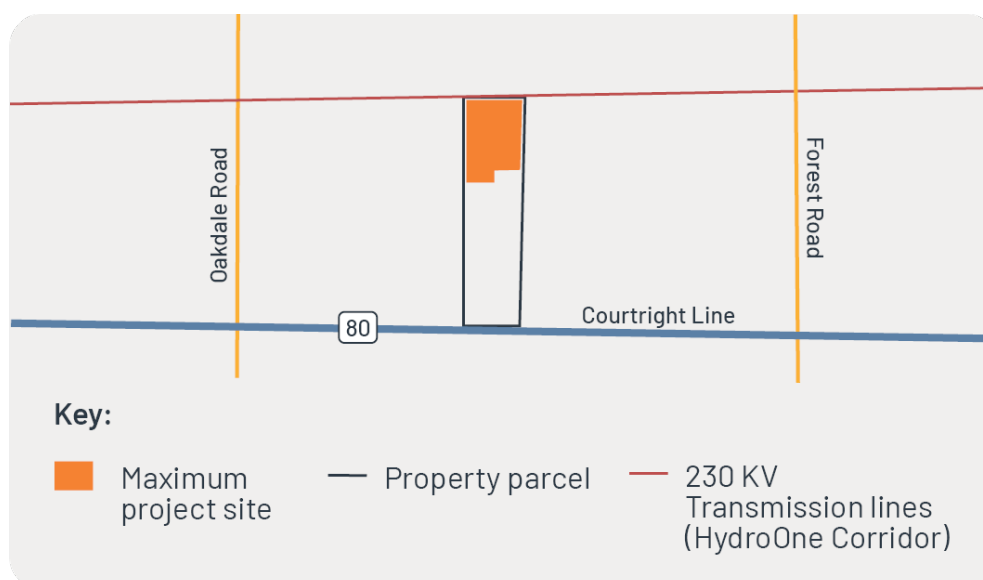


Figure 1 Project Area

The Project will consist of:

- An array of fully enclosed, UL-certified batteries (Underwriters Laboratories' quality and safety certification)

- Bi-directional power conversion systems for converting from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) and vice versa
- A switching yard for connection into the existing transmission lines
- A project substation

As the Project is at an early stage of development, detailed equipment specifications have not been finalized. We anticipate more project information to be made public should the project move forward after being awarded a contract by the IESO.

To learn more about the Inwood Energy Storage Project, please visit the project website:

www.inwoodenergystorage.com

1.2 Local and regional benefits

The economic benefits of the Project will be refined and updated throughout its development. However, the project is expected to deliver the following local and provincial benefits:

	Economic boost: Attract significant new investment into Southwest Ontario.
	Local jobs & investment: Up to 250 new construction jobs and estimated 10 long-term operations jobs.
	Grid reliability: Deliver up to 240MW of new, flexible capacity to stabilize supply during peak demand, reduce outages, and ensure reliable power.
	Affordable energy: Enough to power nearly 72,000 households.
	Indigenous participation: Ongoing dialogue with rightsholders, and Indigenous partnership and ownership with local First Nations.
	Support for landholders: Fair agreements and new income opportunities.
	Community Benefit Fund: Co-designed by stakeholders, to provide direct and targeted benefits.

2 About RES

Founded in 1981, RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission, and distribution. An industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 28 GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and plans to bring more than 26 GW of new capacity online in the next five years. RES has also secured over 450

MW worth of Power Purchasing Agreements (PPA) with commercial and industrial clients in Canada, and over 2 GW globally.

As a service provider, RES has the skills and experience in asset management, operations and maintenance, and spare parts, supporting 45 GW of renewable assets across 1,300 sites. RES brings to the market a range of purposeful, practical technology-based products and digital solutions designed to maximise investment and deployment of renewable energy.

RES entered the Canadian market in 2005 and now employs nearly 50 people across the country, with offices in Montreal, Calgary, and Toronto. RES is engaged in all technologies: wind, solar, battery energy storage, transmission & distribution, and green hydrogen, and specializes in development, engineering, construction, operations and maintenance, asset management, and digital services across Canada.

RES has developed and/or constructed 3.5 GW of renewables projects in Canada, including involvement in around 18% of all wind projects in the country. Within Ontario alone, RES has developed and/or constructed 15 projects totalling over 700 MW of wind, solar, and energy storage capacity. Notably, RES developed the province's first utility-scale battery energy storage system in 2014, located in Strathroy, Ontario.

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy bringing together global experience, passion, and the innovation of its 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied. Visit: www.res-group.com

3 Technical Overview

3.1 Battery Energy Storage System Technology

The Project will utilize a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) designed specifically for utility-scale applications. A BESS stores energy and releases it as electricity when needed. Unlike fuel, it doesn't burn anything. It simply moves energy in and out of rechargeable batteries (storage devices) through chemical reactions. This makes BESS reusable, clean, and a key tool for everything from powering phones to balancing the electricity grid.

The batteries discharge to release energy, when necessary, for example during events of electricity grid congestion or low energy supply. BESS consists of self-contained, modular battery units housed in prefabricated, factory-tested enclosures. In addition to the batteries, BESS requires additional components that allow the system to be connected to an electrical network. The system components comprise of:

- **Battery Units:** Self-contained, modular enclosures that arrive factory-assembled and tested. Each unit integrates the battery cells, control software, and safety equipment.
- **Battery Management System (BMS):** Provides real-time monitoring of temperature, voltage, and performance, ensuring safe and efficient operation.
- **Thermal Management (HVAC):** Keeps the batteries within safe operating conditions, regardless of outdoor weather.
- **Fire Detection & Suppression:** Automatic systems installed within each unit, designed to contain and prevent the spread of fire; ensuring conditions that could cause a fire are prevented before they can occur.
- **Power Conversion Systems:** Convert electricity between direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC).

- **Project Substation & Switching Yard:** Located on-site to connect the system to the existing 230 kV transmission corridor along the northern boundary of the Project Site.

The Project will exceed all applicable design certifications and standards for environmental protection, safety, and operation. At the end of its life, the equipment will be fully removed and responsibly disposed. The system will be compliant with stringent provincial, federal, and international safety standards, including:

- UL 1642: Standard for Lithium Battery Cells
- UL 1741: Inverters, Converters, Controllers, and Interconnection System Equipment for Use with Distributed Energy Resources
- UL 1973: Batteries for Use in Stationary and Motive Auxiliary Power Applications
- UL 9540: Standard for Energy Storage Systems and Equipment
- UL 9540A: Test Method for Evaluating Thermal Fire Propagation in Battery Energy Storage Systems
- NFPA 855: Standard for Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems

3.2 Transmission and connection

A critical part of the Project is ensuring that the stored electricity can be delivered safely and reliably into Ontario's electricity grid. The project has been designed by considering a transmission connection to the existing 230 kV transmission corridor located along the northern boundary of the Project Site. This direct connection greatly reduces the need for new transmission infrastructure and minimizes environmental and community impacts.

Connection Plan

The on-site project substation will convert the electricity stored in the batteries to the appropriate voltage and the switching yard will allow for a safe, reliable connection to the provincial grid. The connection to Hydro One's existing transmission corridor is a significant advantage, as it:

- Reduces land disturbance and construction impacts,
- Improves cost-effectiveness and efficiency, enhancing project viability, and
- With an existing transmission corridor directly adjacent to the project site, the Project avoids the need for long transmission lines crossing private or public lands. This reduces visual impacts, avoids unnecessary land use conflicts, and supports seamless integration into the grid.

The interconnection process will follow a rigorous regulatory and technical review with the IESO and Hydro One to ensure that the project meets required technical and safety standards required to connect into the Provincial electricity grid. More information about the project's connection process will be shared should the Project be awarded a contract under the LT2(c-1) RFP.

4 Permitting and Planning Pathway

4.1 Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA)

The Inwood Energy Storage Project is at an early stage of development. If the project is successful, it will then be required to complete a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

The Class EA is a standardized process for projects with predictable and manageable environmental effects. It includes:

- Completion of various technical baseline studies.
- Evaluation of the potential environmental effects of the project.
- Development of mitigation measures to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects before they occur.
- Identification of future commitments and environmental monitoring requirements.

The engagement that has begun as part of the LT2(c-1) process will be expanded and deepened during the Class EA. At each key milestone, such as the launch of the Class EA, RES will share updated project information and create additional opportunities for community and stakeholder input to help refine the design and mitigation measures.

RES will approach the Class EA with a commitment to transparent, inclusive, and meaningful engagement with residents, rightsholder, municipal partners, agencies, and other interested parties.

4.2 Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

As part of the pre-bid submission process, the IESO requires that projects proposed on prime agricultural lands complete, to the satisfaction of the municipality, an Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Component One (1) as per the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) Guidelines for the AIA Component One Requirement (May 21, 2025). The IESO also requires that completion of the full AIA (Components Two and Three) be completed to the satisfaction of the municipality within 18 months of the IESO contract date.

RES has elected to voluntarily complete the full AIA (Components One, Two and Three) for submission to the Township of Enniskillen as part of the pre-bid process. The AIA is expected to be submitted for review by late October/early November 2025. The AIA framework requires such development to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to prime agricultural areas, and to design the project in a way that respects local agricultural activities.

5 Community and Indigenous Engagement

5.1 Purpose of the Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan

This Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan (the Plan) describes RES' approach, strategy, and methods for consultation with rightsholders, stakeholders, and the local community during the development and construction phases of the Project. The Plan outlines the communication and engagement activities RES intends to carry out as part of the IESO LT2(c-1) RFP process. It has been developed in line with best-practice engagement standards.

Engagement undertaken through this Plan will inform:

- Planning approvals at municipal, provincial, and federal levels.
- Referrals made pursuant to applicable environmental and heritage consultation legislation and policy frameworks.
- Project design and construction considerations and mitigation strategies.
- Ongoing relationship building with stakeholders, rightsholders, and local communities.
- Transparent record of consultation to support regulatory submissions and land use planning processes.

RES is committed to engaging early, openly, and respectfully, considering local needs and priorities, and making a positive contribution to the regions where we operate. The objectives of this Plan are to:

- Guide and coordinate engagement activities during the planning and assessment phase, with clear tools, timeframes, and responsibilities. (Separate engagement plans will be prepared for the construction and decommissioning phases.)
- Early identification of rightsholders and stakeholders to allow for engagement and relationship building to understand potential social, environmental, and economic impacts as well as opportunities.
- Support discussions with relevant municipal authorities early in the development process.
- Outline approaches with Indigenous rightsholders to ensure the project is developed in a collaborative and culturally meaningful way, such as through the incorporation of relevant Traditional Knowledge and values.
- Improve understanding of the local context, including the perspectives of vulnerable groups, and align project design with community aspirations.
- Support meaningful participation in the planning and assessment process and provide effective responses to identified concerns.
- Define mechanisms to integrate feedback into technical, environmental, and planning assessments and, where practicable, use it to refine project design.
- Define collaboration approaches on local benefit-sharing opportunities so that these are co-designed, targeted, and appropriate for the project's context.
- Meet or exceed regulatory consultation requirements.
- Develop approaches to communicate on project milestones and ensure timely and proactive notification to stakeholders and rightsholders.

5.2 Engagement Principles

RES' approach to engagement is guided by our company values: Passion, Accountability, Collaboration, and Excellence, and by our vision to be a "Power for Good," creating a future where everyone has access to affordable, zero-carbon energy. Our principles are:

- **Listening first** – your feedback will help shape decisions
- **Transparency** – sharing clear, timely updates and communication at all stages
- **Respect** – collaboration in the design and development and addressing noise, traffic, and safety concerns
- **Fairness** – ensuring accountability and that benefits are shared locally

RES brings a dedicated, experienced team that draws on lessons learned from other projects in Canada to establish respectful, trust-based relationships with local communities. We recognize that no two communities are alike; investing in early engagement allows us to tailor our approach to local context, helping residents and rightsholders participate meaningfully in project planning and development. A robust engagement process also enriches technical and environmental assessments and supports positive outcomes for both the project and the community.

6 Engagement Identification and Mapping

6.1 Landowners

RES is committed to reaching the appropriate landowners and residents near the project site to ensure they are informed and involved as the Project progresses. Properties immediately adjacent to the project area were identified, and efforts were made to use the most up-to-date publicly available information to contact the current owners or occupants. Door knocking outreach and mailing notifications will be conducted for the upcoming Open House to ensure that landowners are engaged early.

If you own property near the project site and believe you may not have received project updates or invitations due to a recent change of address or ownership, please contact RES so that we can ensure you are included in future engagement activities.

6.2 Indigenous Nations and rightsholders

RES has prioritized taking a proactive approach to Indigenous engagement. It is guided by respect for Aboriginal and Treaty rights, early and ongoing engagement, and the creation of tangible economic, employment, and capacity-building benefits.

To identify Indigenous Nations that may be affected by or have an interest in the project, a preliminary search was completed using the online “Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System” (ATRIS) to identify communities located within approximately 100 km of the project site and based on publicly available consultation protocols established by the Nations. These included:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- Caldwell First Nation
- Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Mississaugas of the Credit
- Moravian of the Thames
- Munsee-Delaware Nation
- Oneida Nation of the Thames
- Walpole Island First Nation

Preliminary outreach will include project introductions sent to the identified Indigenous Nations via e-mail. RES acknowledges that Indigenous Peoples and rightsholders are distinct from other stakeholders and commit to conducting Indigenous engagement separately from local community engagement. This includes tailoring communications and engagement methods to meet the unique, individual needs of different Nations and rightsholders. This can include in-person and virtual meetings, phone calls, community gatherings, and grassroots participation in local community events, as applicable.

6.3 Subject Matter Experts

As part of project development, RES will engage directly with subject matter experts (SMEs) to ensure that technical, safety, and community concerns are properly addressed. These meetings will provide opportunities to gather input, clarify requirements, and integrate professional expertise into the planning process.

Key activities will include:

Fire Chiefs and Emergency Services: Meetings will be arranged with the Fire Chief and local fire departments to review emergency response protocols, fire safety requirements, project information sessions and site access and layout considerations. Their input will help shape the Fire Risk Management Plan that RES is developing in collaboration with local Fire Departments and Emergency Services. The Fire Risk Management Plan will address prevention, preparedness, and response measures tailored to battery energy storage operations, ensuring alignment with local emergency response capacity and expectations.

Consultants and Technical Studies: RES will work closely with environmental, acoustic, and engineering consultants to carry out required due diligence. These experts will assess potential project impacts and provide recommendations that will be incorporated into design and permitting activities.

Planning and Public Works Departments: Regular engagement will be scheduled with municipal planning and public works staff to confirm alignment with local Official Plans, Zoning by-laws, infrastructure needs, and road use considerations. These discussions will help anticipate and mitigate potential conflicts while ensuring consistency with community development priorities.

Through these targeted meetings, RES will ensure that expert feedback is documented and integrated into project decisions. This process will strengthen the technical basis of the project while building transparency and trust with local authorities, stakeholders and rightsholders.

7 Engagement Approach and Activities

7.1 Engagement tools and activities

We will tailor engagement according to individual group needs and preferences, the type of information being conveyed, and the level of feedback required.

Engagement will include a combination of:

- **Involvement:** to facilitate participation in the identification of issues/impacts, areas of interest/concern and strategies to address the issues raised. Furthermore, to understand general sentiment and track this over time.
- **Informing:** to improve knowledge and awareness of RES, its activities, the Project, and key issues/impacts as they arise.

RES will use a range of communication and engagement tools tailored to each identified group to ensure timely, transparent, and inclusive engagement throughout the project's lifecycle.

- **Government agencies and elected officials** will be engaged through targeted briefings, correspondence, and one-on-one discussions.
- **Host landholders, nearby neighbours, and Indigenous Nations and rightsholders** will receive direct communication through tailored emails, letters, electronic and call updates, one-on-one and in-person meetings to address site-specific concerns.

- **Community members and local groups** will be kept informed through public notices, newsletters, the project website, open houses, and community sessions.
- **Local businesses and service providers** will be engaged through business-focused briefings and updates as the project progresses.
- **The wider public and media** will be reached through news releases, website updates, and other public information channels.

This approach ensures that information is accessible and consistent, while providing appropriate opportunities for dialogue based on the role and interest of each stakeholder group.

7.2 Community Open House

The community open house will be held in the community at an accessible location. The objective will be to share information with the public and consult with participants about issues of importance to them. The meeting will be held in the early evening, mid-week, to allow for maximum attendance. The format of the meeting will be casual, with attendees able to drop-in at any point throughout the meeting to view a series of information panels on the project and to ask questions and discuss the project directly with RES. Project staff will be on hand to speak with attendees.

The meeting will provide members of the public with an opportunity to:

- Meet RES staff face-to-face
- Obtain information about the project
- Share thoughts, opinions, concerns and/or support for the project
- Discuss the project with other stakeholders, and
- Have their questions answered.

At the meeting RES will provide preliminary project information, including:

- Information about RES
- Explainer on Battery Energy Storage Systems
- Details about the IESO's LT2(c-1) RFP process and associated timelines
- General overview of the Project Site
- Preliminary technical and environmental considerations, and
- An overview of the Class EA process.

7.3 Feedback and Enquiry

We have established a dedicated project phone number, project email, and project website to manage public enquiries and feedback. Please see the more information on these communication channels below:

- Project phone number: **+1 (226) 401 0514**
- Project email: inwoodenergystorage@res-group.com
- Project website: www.inwoodenergystorage.com

All communications through these channels – including enquiries, feedback, and email signups will be documented and managed through a centralized database.

All in person interactions with stakeholders, rightsholders, or the community will be recorded promptly and consistently. We recognize the value of feedback as they are important for continuous improvement and are committed to managing feedback with honesty, transparency, and in a timely manner.

RES commits to responding to all public enquiries within a reasonable timeframe.

8 Implementation Plan

8.1 Engagement Timeline

Figure 2. Provides an overview of the Project’s timeline for the consultation activities for the LT2(c-1) RFP submission timeline. The dates for consultation and engagement activities are subject to change pending further project development, feedback from stakeholders, and other factors such as changes in the IESO’s RFP timelines.



Figure 2. Proposed Engagement Timeline

RES will update this Plan to reflect additional consultation and engagement activities to be undertaken during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phase, as applicable based on potential award.

8.2 Document review and update

RES understands that different groups have different expectations regarding the form, frequency, and nature of communications, consultation, and engagement. As such, this Plan is intended to be a “living document” that outlines a communications and engagement process that could change subject to the requirements and expectations of Indigenous rightsholders and other stakeholders.

This Plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary over the life of the Project to ensure consistency with the commitments and conditions set out in the Environmental Assessment (EA), permits, and other applicable approvals. Any updates will be undertaken in compliance with these regulatory requirements and will be

informed, where appropriate, by ongoing engagement with rightsholders and stakeholders. Updates may address:

- rightsholder and stakeholder feedback and subsequent changes to the Project
- changes in the construction and development relevant to commitments established through the EA and permit approvals
- changes to rightsholder, stakeholder, and community information requirements
- lessons learned from the engagement process over the life of the project.