



Meeting Date: February 7, 2024

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Submitted by:

Report No: CAO-1-2024

Subject: Ontario Clean Energy Final Report

Recommendation:

THAT Report CAO-1-2024, re; Ontario Clean Energy Final Report be received for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this council report is to update council on the Ministry of Energy (MOE) review to meet Ontario's growing electricity needs and the Final Report titled Ontario's Clean Energy Opportunity.

Background:

In July 2023, the MOE launched [Powering Ontario's Growth](#), which included Ontario's first large-scale nuclear build in a generation, expanded energy efficiency programs and more competitive procurements to meet Ontario's growing electricity needs.

A panel was established in April 2022 to advise the government on how to leverage Ontario's clean grid and innovative energy sector to power Ontario's growing economy and population, especially as the Government has set an ambitious mandate to build 1.5 million homes by 2031.

The panel's final report – [Ontario's Clean Energy Opportunity](#), builds on the government's Powering Ontario's Growth plan and provides valuable insights and recommendations for future long-term integrated planning.

Analysis:

The Final Report outlines a series of recommendations that lay out the principles and next steps for Ontario to navigate and succeed in the transition towards a clean energy economy in the long term. Some of the principles include:

- Establishing a government-wide commitment to develop a clean energy economy by 2050 to align private, social and public forces, and act as a catalyst for pursuing dynamic opportunities to enhance Ontario's prosperity.
- Articulating a clear strategic policy vision to focus the sector, bring alignment in managing change and deliver an orderly transition that prioritizes affordability, reliability and resilience.
- Building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities that advance reconciliation and provide Indigenous opportunities in electrification and energy transition. Partnerships are the only way Ontario will be successful in making energy infrastructure investments at the pace and scale necessary to build a clean energy economy.
- Carefully modifying the existing institutional framework in which the Ministry of Energy continues to lead energy planning. This is the best way to achieve cross-sector coordination and prepare for electrification and energy transition. Government will need to provide direction on complex and contentious issues to ensure an orderly transition that allocates resources effectively and protects customers.
- Undertaking a series of actions to ensure that Ontario's planning and regulatory systems are ready for electrification, support the move to a clean energy economy and can manage increasing pressures in a proactive, coordinated and adaptive manner. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will play central and distinct roles in this process.
- Ensuring effective collaboration and integration in energy planning across fuels, especially electricity and natural gas, across end use sectors and across levels of government, to ensure investments and innovation can be deployed in a way that unlocks their full value.
- Most importantly, building and maintaining public support for electrification and the energy transition with a principled pragmatic approach grounded in cost-effectiveness and solutions tailored to the specific and often local needs and circumstances of people as customers, citizens and community members. Ontarians need to be able to see themselves and their community in the province's clean energy economy vision. Governments and the energy sector have important roles to play in supporting and working with customers and communities in this process.

In total, there are 29 recommendations put forward that are categorized by various sections such as: Planning for Electrification and the Energy Transition, Governance and Accountability, True Partnerships and Indigenous Partners, Innovation and Economic Development, and Consumer, Citizen and Community Perspectives.

The recommendations outlined in the Final Report are guiding principles which form the basis of a starting point for Ontario to successfully manage and prosper from the coming transformations that are taking shape in the energy sector and to meet the future demands that it faces.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services
- Vibrant Local Economy

The MOE provides oversight for providing reliable energy for Ontarian's and the local decisions that are made help shape the future of Ontario's energy landscape.

Attachments:

N/A