

*How Ontario municipalities can evaluate
local renewable energy under the new IESO procurement process*

Power Playbook

Part 2: Pre-engagement and granting Municipal Support Confirmations

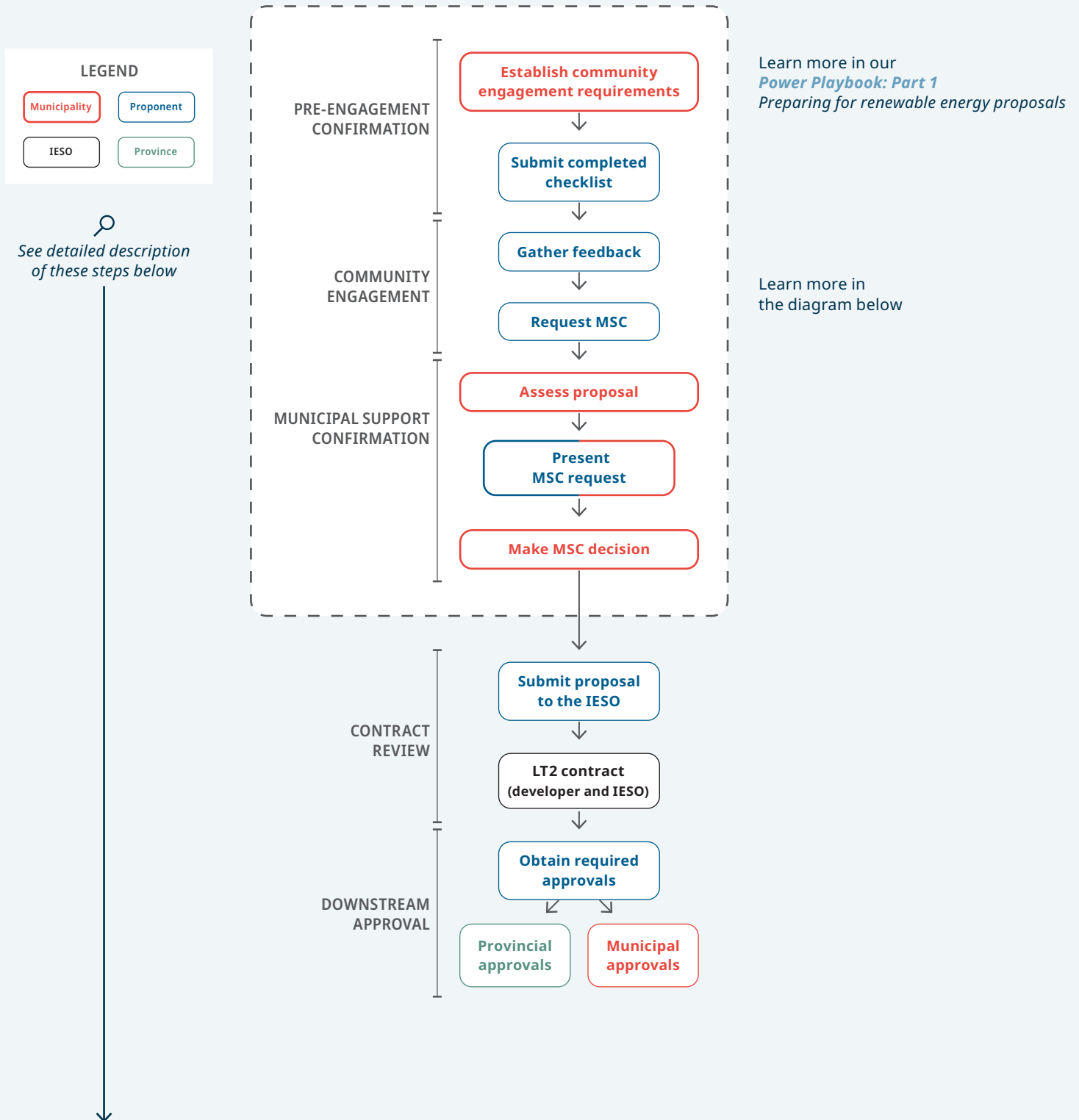
Under Ontario's new Long Term 2 (LT2) process,
**municipalities have a say in which wind, solar and battery
projects can proceed within their jurisdiction.**

**The MSC stage is where municipalities have the most
scope to secure benefits for their communities.**

During the Municipal Support Confirmation (MSC) phase, project proponents request an MSC from the municipality, and council decides whether to grant one. If no MSC is granted, the proponent cannot submit their energy development proposal to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).

The LT2 process

This process highlights best practice approaches Ontario municipalities are using to evaluate projects before granting an MSC. The strategies and tips provided here are recommendations, not requirements, and municipalities may choose to use a different approach. Since the LT2 is unfolding in real time, we're learning alongside municipalities and will continue to refine these strategies as new insights emerge.



Details of MSC process

PRE-ENGAGEMENT CONFIRMATION

Establish community engagement requirements

A proponent must follow the municipality's established engagement requirements to be considered for an MSC.

Create a **checklist of information** a proponent is expected to provide before submitting their request for an MSC, such as:

- description of project and proposed site
- company's history and track record with similar projects
- overview of the proposed technology
- any known concerns and plans to mitigate them
- list of studies or evaluations required

This is also a good time to establish the roles of municipal departments and staff in the different parts of the MSC process.

TIP: Most municipalities assess projects individually and grant a Municipal Resolution in Support of Proposal Submission (MRSPS), rather than passing a blanket resolution for all projects that meet set criteria. Both MRSPS and blanket resolutions are types of MSCs.

TIP: Municipalities can request that any information they require be submitted as a package, such as a pre-consultation application.

TIP: Proponents may not be able to give specifics at this stage, but they should commit generally to providing a community benefit agreement, and provide examples of benefit-sharing from previous projects. Making this information public can help increase community buy-in.

Submit completed checklist

Proponent must provide all required information.

TIP: This step must be done at least 60 days before the IESO's submission deadline.

Gather feedback

Proponents must **gather feedback** according to the municipality's community engagement requirements. For projects in populated areas, this might look like an open house (virtual or in-person) for residents. Municipalities can require proponents to:

- notify all nearby residents about a month before it takes place
- post signs about the open house
- create a website with information

Proponent **notifies local councillors** about upcoming community engagements.

TIP: Notify nearby residents about the proponent's upcoming delegation to council, and include:

- a project summary
- the proponent's contact information
- description of the MSC granting process (optional)

TIP: Proponents and the public should be made aware that these community engagements are part of the MSC process, and they are separate from potential downstream planning act approval processes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Request MSC

Proponent submits request, including summaries of all community engagement events.

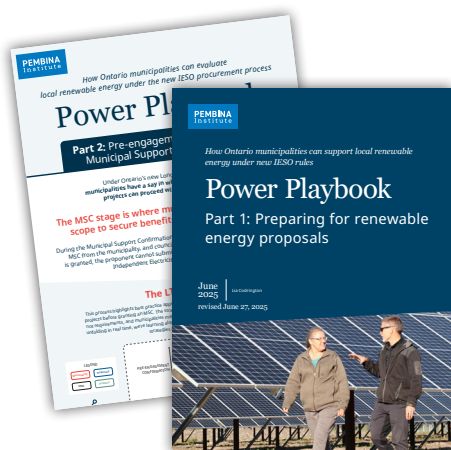
TIP: Charge an application fee to pay for municipal staff's recommendation report for council.

Electricity demand in Ontario is forecast to grow by 75% by 2050

The province will need — as soon as 2029 — both new energy assets like wind turbines and solar panels, which produce affordable electricity, and new capacity assets like batteries, which help the grid meet peak demand. The LT2 competitive procurement process will help ensure Ontario has enough of these resources available to meet its needs.

We'd like to thank Ramara Township, the City of Ottawa, Will Baigent (City of Vaughan), Bruce County Planning & Development, Grey County, and the Oxford County Community Planning Office for sharing their processes with us and making this infographic possible.

The City of Ottawa's [LT2 process protocol](#) may also be a useful tool for municipalities developing their own processes.



Our **Power Playbook** series of guides helps municipalities as they assess such projects.

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