



OEB Innovation Sandbox

Agenda



01 Welcome
5 min.

02 Background
5 min.

03 Highlights from the Sandbox Annual Report
15 min.

04 Discussion
30 min.

05 Wrap-up
5 min.

Today's Purpose



Provide

Update on 2023 Innovation
sandbox initiatives



Discuss

Energy sector innovation,
emerging opportunities &
challenges



Hear about

Your experience with the
sandbox

OEB Innovation Sandbox overview

Overview:

Established in 2019, the Sandbox supports pilot projects testing new activities, services and business models in Ontario's electricity and natural gas sectors.

The Sandbox provides two types of supports:

1

Information Service:

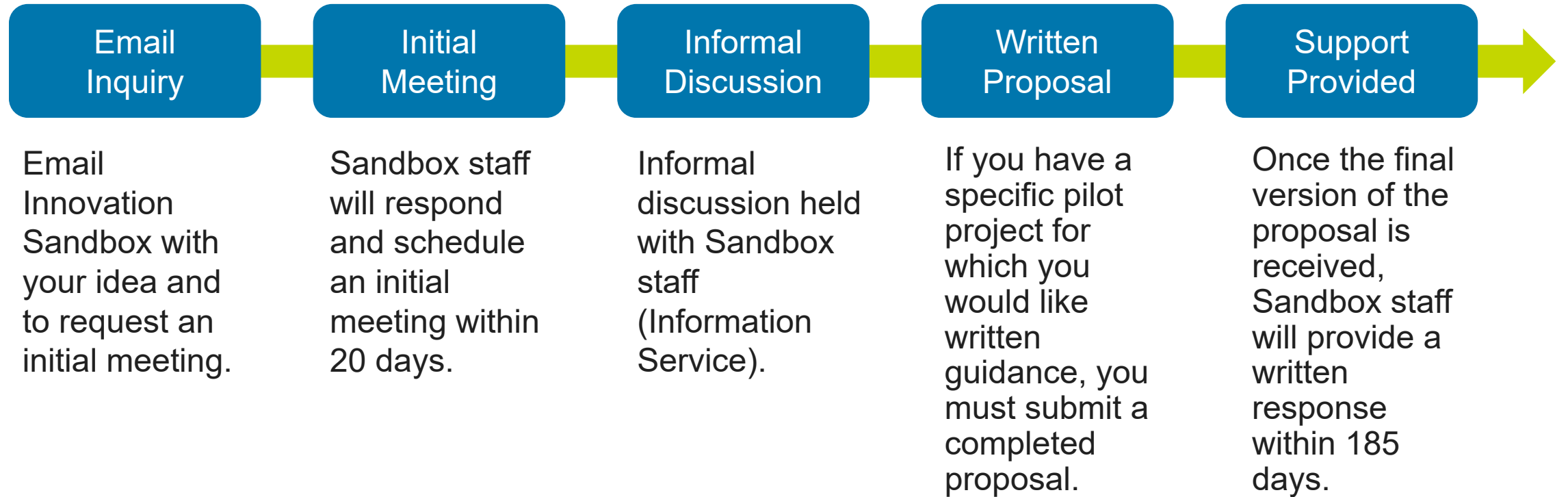
Quick, informal feedback on your idea or project proposal

2

Project-specific Support:

Written guidance on your project proposal

How the Innovation Sandbox works



Sandbox 2.0 Consultation: medium-term commitments

The 2021 Innovation Sandbox Renewal Consultation, which aimed to enhance support for innovation, culminated in a set of recommendations that are scheduled for implementation across short, medium, and long-term timelines. As of 2023, all objectives set for the medium term (outlined below) have been achieved.



Sandbox Initiatives in 2023

Joint Targeted Call

In November 2023, the OEB and IESO released the Joint Targeted Call [Interim Report](#) and held a panel discussion to provide an update on pilot projects to industry stakeholders.



Enel X

Alternative measurement and verification approaches for aggregated behind-the-meter distributed energy resources.



Essex Powerlines

Local electricity market for distributed energy resources (DERs) and two different DSO models.



Toronto Hydro

Coordinated demand response program for simultaneously addressing local and bulk system needs.



BluWave-ai

Optimized electric vehicle and battery storage operation for relief of distribution-level constraints.

Innovation Sandbox Challenge

The OEB committed to provide up to **\$1.5 million in funding** and **regulatory guidance** to support six innovative projects.



Pollution Probe

Establish a framework that will enable Ontario's rural, remote, and Indigenous communities better understand, participate and benefit from energy innovation



Hydro One

Engage low-income customers to help them play a more active role in, and better understand the effect of demand response (DR) in the energy transition.



Alectra

Pilot an electric vehicle "eMobility" customer engagement platform to support customers along their electrification journey.



Oakville Hydro

Build and use a digital tool that enhances the understanding of residential and small business customers about their role in the energy transition.



Powerconsumer

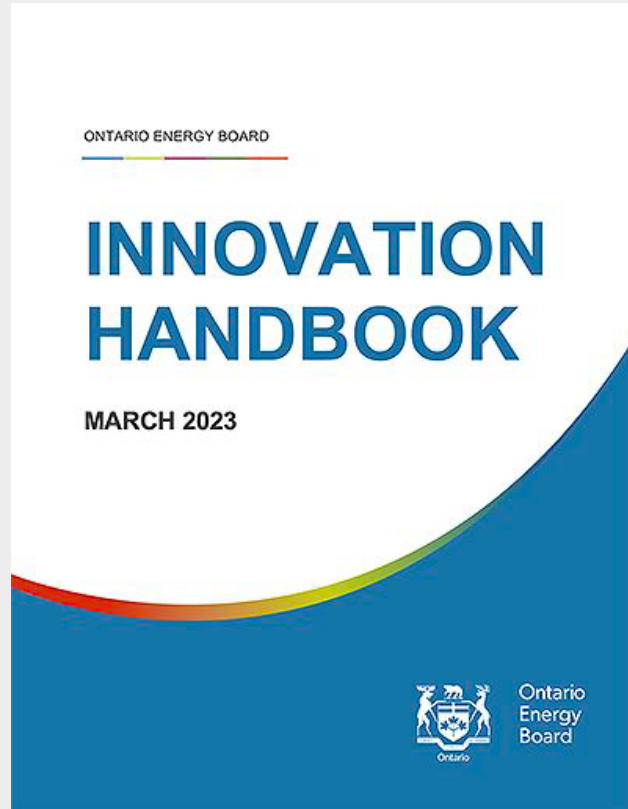
Integrating distribution system operator (DSO) pilot learnings into a process for broad implementation of utility-scale integration of flexibility services.



Taykwa Tagamou Nation

Investigating the challenges and developing recommendations to enable scalable renewable energy deployment in Ontario's First Nation Communities.

Innovation Handbook



Innovation Handbook launched



OEB staff compiled an Innovation Handbook – a reference guide with OEB policies and related materials that serves to support innovative projects and proposals.

What's coming up in 2024



The Innovation Handbook will be updated in late Summer to reflect new innovative approaches.

Licence Exemptions

The OEB can **grant exemptions** from the requirement to be licensed as a/an

- Electricity distributor
- Retailer
- Wholesaler
- Unit sub-meter provider
- Gas marketer

for a pilot or demonstration project that furthers its statutory objective to facilitate innovation in the electricity sector.

Home > Applications > How to file an application > Apply for a licence > Apply for a licence exemption

[← Go back to Apply for a licence](#)

Apply for a licence exemption

Apply for a Section 57.1 Licence Exemption

Questions & Answers



Discussion Questions

1. What's new in energy innovation? Are there any emerging themes or ideas that should be explored further?
2. How are broader technological developments, for example in AI, informing your approach to energy innovation?
3. How are you incorporating these innovations in your own projects?
4. How is energy sector innovation impacting your organization?
5. What potential do you see for emerging innovations to advance in the province? Have you experienced or do you foresee any regulatory, technical or policy barriers?
6. What do you see as opportunities to facilitate movement to deployments, for successful pilots?
7. Is there anything else you would like to share about the Sandbox?

Thank you

Mima Micic, Senior Advisor
mima.micic@oeb.ca

Kaidie Williams, Senior Advisor
kaidie.williams@oeb.ca

Warisha Rizvi, Analyst
warisha.rizvi@oeb.ca

Innovation Sandbox
innovation@oeb.ca

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