

Ontario Energy Board City of Ottawa Submission on DER

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Current Actions

- Ottawa is in a unique position of developing a renewable energy strategy, a climate master plan and an official plan concurrently. To the maximum extent possible we are working to integrate this work and the exercise is forcing us to think holistically
- We have involved our electrical LDC's, particularly Hydro Ottawa, in this planning. Distribution capacity and costs driven by prospective development will be taken into consideration through a consultative approach with the goals being reduced development costs, reduced costs to the electrical rate base and enhancement of any aspects of sustainability (particularly around the climate emergency)



Land Use

- The City is encouraging intensification as it has the potential to improve key aspects of sustainability and costs to operate the City
- DER solutions have the potential to reduce land use requirements, thereby contributing to intensification. We are open to examining ways that they could be encouraged while respecting the OEB's reasonable objective of avoiding cross subsidization



Costs to the Rate Base

- We note that brownfield work on the distribution system can be expensive. Can DER's be incented to avoid brownfield work with a net benefit to costs for the rate base? We note the falling costs of the most applicable DER's such as solar and battery storage and continued potential of regional demand response.
- We note that differing schedules for cost recovery of wires solutions vs. DER solutions in response to demand pressures may present a market distortion.
- We note that DER solutions have the potential to be introduced incrementally whereas wires solutions are typically a large step investment sometimes with potential to become a stranded asset to some degree. How can this risk differential be reflected from a regulatory perspective?



Climate Emergency

- The City of Ottawa declared a climate emergency on April 16th, 2019. It included a list of actions along with a budget allocation
- Requesting that generating capacity (metered, net-metered and behind the meter) on the distribution system be reserved for zero-emission resources is likely beyond the purview of the regulator but it does fit with the direction of our political masters. We will be advocating for this stipulation at the appropriate fora with a view seeing it put into effect.

CITIES CLIMATE IMPACTS & ADAPTATION POST-CARBON TRANSITION

OTTAWA CITY COMMITTEE ADOPTS CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

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