

OECA Ontario Energy SYMPOSIUM 2026

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Building collaboration, transparency,
and long-term adaptability across
Ontario's energy system

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Key Messages

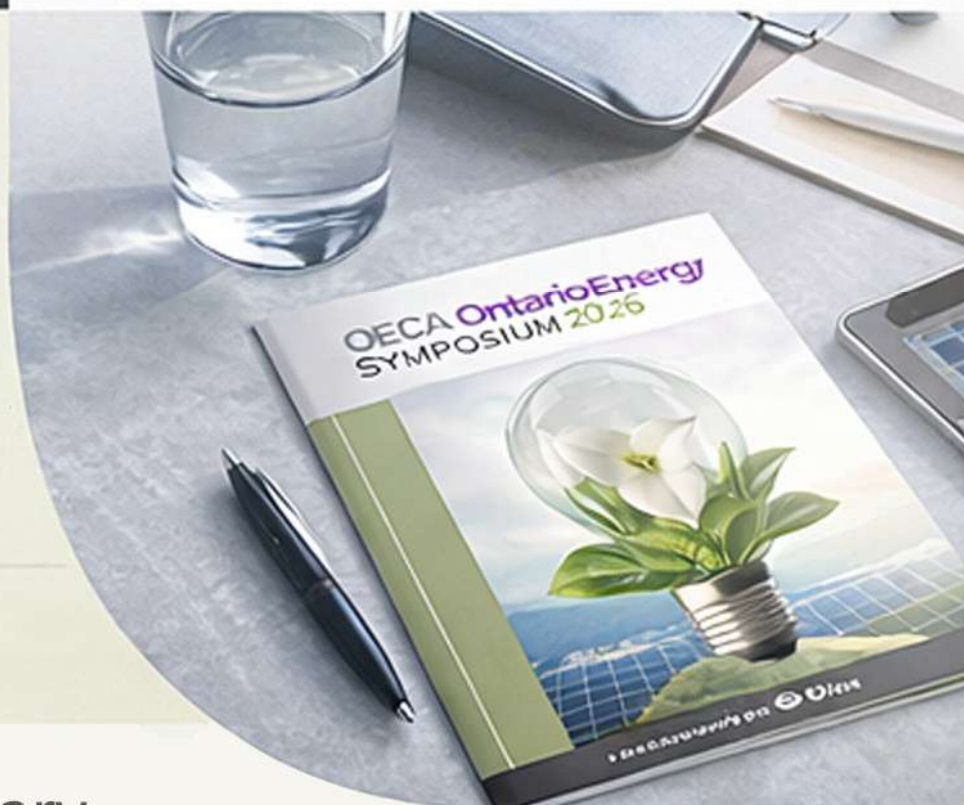
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Executive Summary

Ontario's energy system is changing.

Demand is rising, infrastructure is evolving, and new technologies are reshaping how electricity is planned, priced, and managed. Yet many organizations are still working within structures built for a different era.

The OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026 exists to close that gap.

Organized by OECA, the symposium brings together leaders from government, utilities, regulation, engineering, sustainability, and innovation to build shared understanding and strengthen long-term coordination. It provides a neutral, non-political, and non-commercial space for open dialogue, collaboration, and solutions that support adaptability, resilience, and public trust across Ontario's energy system.

Key Messages and Highlights

OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026: A neutral, non-commercial forum bringing together senior leaders to address the challenges facing Ontario's evolving energy system.

- **Why Now:** Ontario has transitioned from a surplus to a constrained power situation. Load growth, infrastructure changes, interprovincial dynamics, and shifting market structures have created a new planning environment.
- **What's Different:** This event is not a policy conference or vendor showcase. It is a candid, system-level discussion focused on coordination, risk management, and long-term adaptability.
- **Who Attends:** Participants include municipal leaders, utilities, regulators, engineers, analysts, innovators, industry and end users.

The Goal: To foster shared collaboration, trust, and institutional alignment that will support long-term system resilience and maintain public confidence

Key Messages for Media

- Ontario's energy system has entered a fundamentally new market reality, in demand, growth and current asset performances.
- Assumptions about planning, pricing, and risk that were previously effective may no longer be applicable.
- The primary challenge lies not in technology or policy, but in achieving coordination among institutions with differing mandates leaving known gaps in proactive development of networks.
- The OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026 provides a unique, neutral setting for system-level dialogue.
- Long-term resilience will depend on the ability of organizations to adapt collaboratively.

"Ontario's energy system is not just changing — it is operating under a fundamentally different set of assumptions. The OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026 isn't about promoting solutions. It's about ensuring that the people who plan, regulate, operate, and invest in the system are developing a shared understanding of where it is heading and what long-term resilience will require."

Collaboration: Building a Shared Energy Future for Ontario

OECA convenes leaders across government, industry, and innovation to strengthen long-term planning, transparency, and adaptability

[KITCHENER, On, January 14, 2026] Ontario's energy system is undergoing a period of significant change. Shifts in demand, infrastructure upgrades, technological advancements, and heightened public expectations are redefining how electricity is planned, managed, and governed. These changes extend across the entire system, impacting municipalities, utilities, regulators, innovators, and energy users. Despite this interconnectedness, many organizations continue to work in silos, each guided by distinct mandates and planning frameworks.

Convening for Collaboration

To address these challenges, the OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026 will gather senior leaders from across the energy sector in a first-of-its-kind collaborative forum. Organized by OECA, a volunteer-based, cross-sector organization, the symposium offers a neutral, non-political, and non-commercial environment. Here, participants can engage in open dialogue, share insights, and develop a shared understanding of how the province's energy system is evolving. The aim is to explore what these changes mean for long-term planning, investment, and public confidence.

Focusing on Systemic Coordination

Rather than advocating for specific policies or predetermined solutions, the symposium seeks to enhance the fundamental ways in which the energy system is understood and coordinated. With dynamic changes in pricing, risk, infrastructure, external load pressures and public expectations, institutions must learn to adapt together. OECA's mission is to foster the collaborative conditions necessary for long-term adaptability, resilience, and shared success within Ontario's energy sector.

Why This Conversation Matters

From fragmented responsibilities to coordinated action in Ontario's energy future

Energy infrastructure and governance decisions made today will have lasting impacts on Ontario's economic competitiveness, environmental performance, and community resilience for decades to come. Increasingly, the challenges facing the energy system are systemic rather than isolated. Key factors include:

- Diverse responsibilities divided among organizations with varying mandates
- Information flows that do not always drive investment environments in building assets.
- Sector-specific experiences of risk
- Public trust tied to transparency and coordinated action

The OECA Ontario Energy Symposium provides a rare opportunity for collective examination of these realities, transcending institutional boundaries. This collaborative approach is essential for evolving planning, communication, and decision-making processes.

Addressing Ontario's Most Pressing Energy Challenges

The symposium centres on five interconnected priorities:

- Energy resilience and grid modernization
- Electrification and infrastructure readiness
- Municipal and utility coordination
- Transparency, information sharing, and public trust
- Innovation, AI/Data Centres, and next-generation energy systems

Ontario's energy future cannot be built through isolated optimization. Utilities, regulators, municipalities, engineers, innovators, and energy users all operate under distinct mandates, yet they are increasingly shaped by common forces. OECA's role is to facilitate the alignment of these diverse perspectives.

OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026: Purpose, Format, and Impact

Purpose of the Symposium

The OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026 is established to provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the evolving realities of Ontario's energy landscape. The symposium serves several critical functions:

- Facilitating the exchange of cross-sector perspectives on the ongoing transformation of Ontario's energy system.
- Identifying areas where mandates, incentives, and planning assumptions differ among stakeholders.
- Developing a shared language concerning risk, pricing, infrastructure, and public confidence.
- Enhancing cooperation between organizations that must plan independently yet function within a unified energy ecosystem.
- Focusing on system literacy, trust-building, and long-term resilience, rather than promoting advocacy or specific outcomes.

OECA's Role

The Ontario Energy Collaborative Alliance (OECA) functions as a volunteer-based, cross-sector organization committed to strengthening coordination, fostering transparency, and promoting long-term resilience within Ontario's energy system. OECA does not advocate for technologies, policies, or commercial interests. Its mission is to cultivate the collaborative environment essential for adaptability, resilience, and shared success in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

Core Themes

- The New Supply-Demand Reality: Examining the structural factors driving Ontario's transition to a more constrained energy market and the implications for reliability, cost, and resilience.
- Risk in a Repriced Market: Assessing how shifting market structures are impacting exposure, hedging strategies, and the management of institutional risk.

OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026: Purpose, Format, and Impact

- **Infrastructure Timing & Coordination:** Addressing the challenges posed by nuclear project timelines, renewable energy deployment constraints, transmission capacity, and interprovincial dependencies.
- **Governance in a Complex System:** Aligning regulatory oversight, municipal planning, utility operations, and market design to meet the demands of a changing environment and the financial constraints on all sides.
- **Public Confidence & Social License:** Exploring how transparency, affordability, and system reliability contribute to public trust in energy institutions.

What Makes This Forum Different

Neutral & Non-Commercial Approach

OECA operates as a volunteer-based, cross-sector organization. The symposium maintains neutrality by not endorsing vendors, products, or policy positions.

Candid, Senior-Level Dialogue

The event is tailored for seasoned leaders who are directly involved in planning, regulation, operations, infrastructure development, analytics, and governance across the energy system.

System-Level Perspective

Discussions are structured to address system-wide concerns, examining how pricing mechanisms, infrastructure decisions, regulatory frameworks, and public expectations intersect throughout the sector.

Future-Facing Without Prescriptions

Rather than suggesting specific solutions, the symposium aims to enhance collective understanding of the system's direction and the requirements for long-term adaptability.

OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026: Purpose, Format, and Impact

Who Will Be in the Room

Attendees will include senior leaders and decision-makers representing a broad spectrum of the energy ecosystem, such as:

- Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments and infrastructure planners
- Utilities and local distribution companies (LDCs)
- Provincial regulators and oversight bodies
- Generators and market participants
- Engineering, infrastructure, and system planning firms
- Analytics, forecasting, and innovation organizations
- Sustainability, climate, and resilience leaders
- Large energy users and Industry

Event Overview

Event	OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2026
Organizer	Ontario Energy Collaborative Alliance (OECA)
Location	Wilfrid Laurier University
Date	2- 6pm, January 14, 2026
Audience	Senior executives, regulators, municipal leaders, infrastructure and market experts

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