

OECA - Ontario Energy

Collaborative Symposium 2.0

PRESS KIT



Purpose: Accelerate collaboration among Ontario's energy leaders by building shared understanding, trusted relationships, and better coordination across planning, investment, regulation, infrastructure, and implementation.

OECA Symposium 2.0

Accelerating Collaboration

**700 Hespler Rd, Cambridge Conf Center, ON
November 3, 2026**

Moving from shared understanding to coordinated action.

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Executive Summary

Ontario's energy system is entering a period where electricity planning, infrastructure investment, regulation, municipal growth, industrial strategy, customer demand, private capital, public debt, and public confidence can no longer be treated as separate conversations.

The first OECA Ontario Energy Symposium in January 2026 demonstrated real appetite for fully collaborative dialogue. With Premier and ministerial support, and with participation from all three levels of government alongside regulators, utilities, municipalities, industry, advisors, innovators, energy users, and energy professionals, the Symposium created a rare neutral space for candid discussion about Ontario's energy future.

A clear finding emerged: **Ontario is not short on effort, ambition, or technical solutions. The harder challenge is alignment and understanding.**

It is unlikely that any single actor can fully understand the entire system. The practical goal is better shared understanding across mandates. Federal policy, provincial planning, municipal decisions, utility investment, private capital, Indigenous participation, industrial demand, transportation electrification, and customer-side implementation now directly affect one another. Decisions made in one lane increasingly determine what is possible in another.

Broader economic uncertainty, including Canada-US trade risk, adds pressure to planning and investment decisions. That uncertainty matters, but it is not the central theme of the event. We remain focused on the energy coordination issues Ontario can act on.

Symposium 2.0, *Accelerating Collaboration*, will build on that finding. Taking place on November 3, immediately after Ontario's October municipal elections, the event is timed to help new and returning municipal leaders, utilities, regulators, provincial and federal partners, energy users, and private sector participants move quickly from shared concern to practical coordination.

This is not a vendor showcase, policy campaign, or advocacy event. It is a working forum for experienced leaders to compare assumptions, surface constraints, identify implementation risks, and build the shared understanding needed to accelerate Ontario's energy, infrastructure, and economic growth objectives.

Event Overview

Event	OECA Ontario Energy Symposium 2.0 by the Ontario Energy Collaborative Association (OECA)
Date	November 3, 2026
Location	Cambridge Conference Centre, 700 Hespler Rd, Cambridge, Ontario
Audience	Senior public, private, municipal, utility, regulatory, finance, Indigenous, industrial, technical, advisory, and energy user leaders
Format	Full-day working forum - mixed roundtables, prepared remarks, collaborator engagement, synthesis, and closing keynote
Focus	Coordination, infrastructure readiness, capital alignment, implementation constraints, public trust, and energy system resilience

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Key Messages and Highlights

- **Ontario is moving in the right direction.** The next challenge is moving together.
- **Grid planning has always affected more than utilities.** Its impacts are now more visibly tied to municipal growth, industrial development, transportation, housing, and customer-side investment. Innovation will require utilities and partners to consider upstream and downstream system impacts, particularly for non-wires solutions, DERs, and demand flexibility.
- **Implementation risk is becoming system-level risk.** Connection delays, transformer capacity limits, permitting friction, demand-side barriers, financing gaps, equipment lead times, unclear cost recovery, and incomplete system visibility are becoming delivery constraints across the broader economy.
- **The Symposium is designed to create decision-informing dialogue.** Stakeholders need comparable, practical information on capacity, cost, timing, risk, and responsibility.
- **OECA does not advocate for a single technology, policy position, or commercial outcome.** Its role is to convene, connect, and help participants understand how separate decisions interact.

“Ontario's energy future will not be delivered by one mandate, one technology, or one level of government. It will depend on connecting the people responsible for planning, financing, regulating, building, operating, and using the system.”

Rick Baker, OECA

Ontario's Energy Collaboration Cycle

Ontario's energy system must now support economic growth, reliability, affordability, electrification, industrial competitiveness, housing, transportation, decarbonization, resilience, and public confidence at the same time. These objectives are connected, but the organizations responsible for them often work through different mandates, timelines, funding tools, approvals, and risk frameworks.

Utilities must plan for demand while managing cost pressures. Municipalities must support growth while understanding infrastructure limits. Regulators must protect customers while enabling timely investment. Industry, private capital, and energy users need clearer visibility on capacity, cost, timing, risk, and recovery before committing capital.

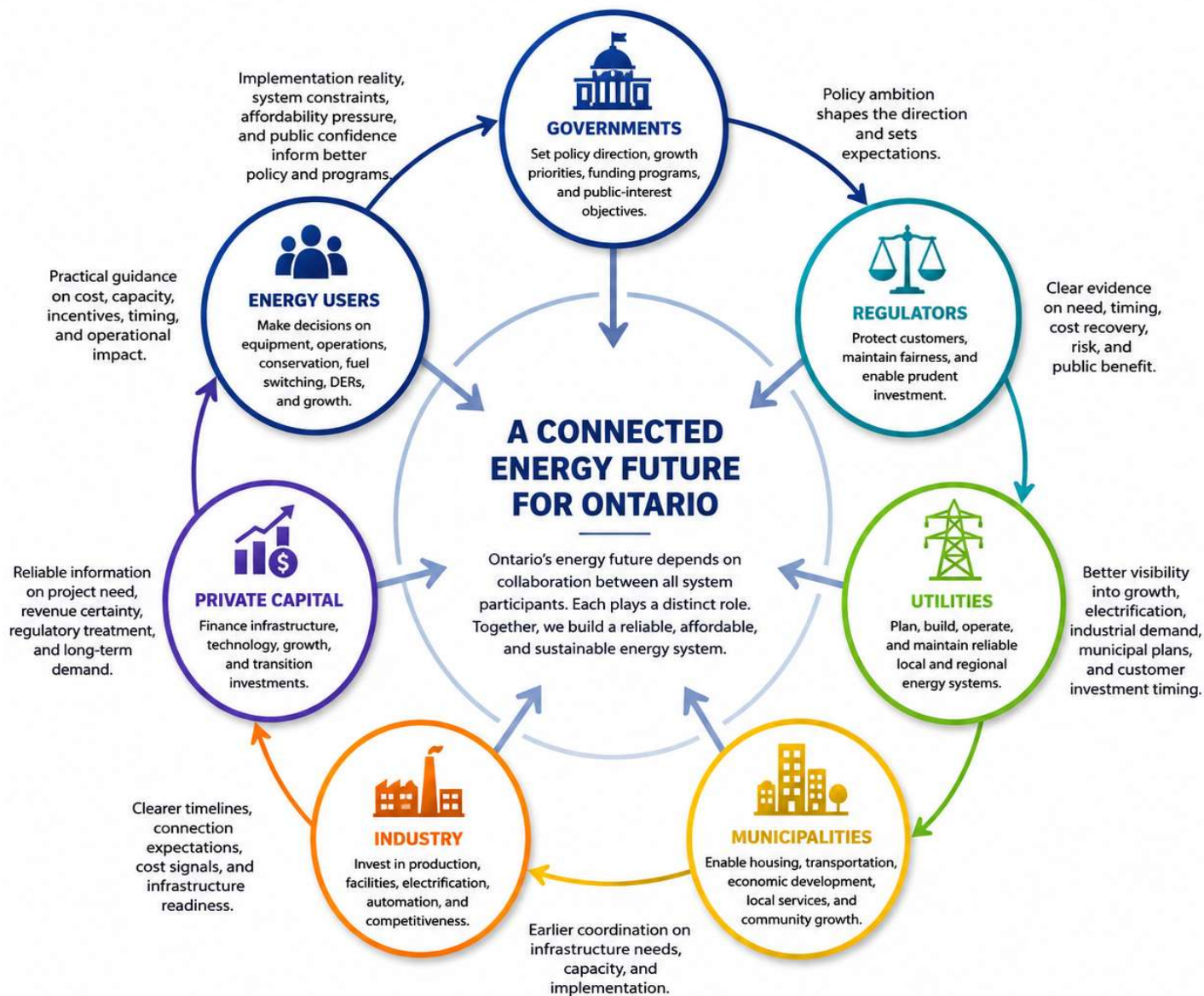
Symposium 2.0 will make this shared reality more useful by improving coordination before delays, cost pressures, missed opportunities, and public frustration become harder to manage.

Addressing Ontario's Most Pressing Energy Challenges

Financing and capital alignment: Public funding, utility investment, private capital, pension funds, infrastructure finance, and risk-sharing mechanisms. - **Municipal and utility coordination:** Local growth, housing, economic development, LDC planning, and distribution capacity. - **Grid modernization and local capacity:** Distribution, transmission, and customer readiness while maintaining affordability and reliability. **Transportation and industrial electrification:** Vehicle production, charging infrastructure, auto-sector planning, large loads, and local grid readiness. - **Indigenous participation and stewardship:** Energy planning, ownership, consultation, and infrastructure development. - **Transparency and decision-informing data:** Data, system visibility, planning assumptions, and communication that support better decisions. - **Adaptive governance and regulatory alignment to create investment certainty:** Decision-making under uncertainty while enabling timely investment.

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Ontario's energy system now operates as a connected cycle, where policy, regulation, utility planning, municipal growth, private capital, industry, and energy-user decisions all affect one another. Symposium 2.0 is designed to improve the visibility, trust, and coordination needed to make that cycle work better.



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

These objectives are connected, but the energy institutions responsible for them often operate through different mandates, planning horizons, funding tools, approval processes, and risk frameworks. Collaboration turns complexity into coordinated action.

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Purpose, Format, and Impact

Purpose of the Symposium

This forum is different because it promotes shared understanding, enhanced relationships, and expanded trust across Ontario's energy system. The purpose of Symposium 2.0 is to help Ontario's energy stakeholders move beyond barriers and parallel efforts to coordinate execution.

- Build on the findings of the first OECA Ontario Energy Symposium.
- Bring together a broader group of public, private, municipal, utility, regulatory, Indigenous, financial, industrial, and technical collaborators.
- Surface practical implementation constraints before they become larger system risks.
- Improve shared understanding of how energy planning decisions interact across mandates.
- Support more informed dialogue on infrastructure, investment, affordability, reliability, and growth.

Format

The event is being designed as a full-day forum on November 3, 2026. The working format includes:

- Opening remarks and framing session.
- Mixed roundtables with cross-sector representation.
- Structured questions focused on coordination, risk, timing, and implementation.
- Networking and collaborator engagement space.
- Prepared remarks from senior leaders and subject-matter experts.
- Afternoon synthesis of roundtable findings.
- OECA update on knowledge tools, codex work, and practical collaboration methods.
- Closing keynote or senior leadership discussion.

Intended Impact

Alignment means clearer sequencing, better information flow, stronger relationships, and more confidence to act across institutions. Symposium 2.0 will help identify where Ontario's energy system would benefit from clearer sequencing, better information, more coordinated funding, stronger municipal-utility engagement, improved regulatory integration, and earlier practical input from those responsible for delivery.

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This Forum is Different

Neutral and non-commercial

The Symposium is structured to support practical dialogue. OECA does not endorse vendors, products, technologies, or commercial interests.

Cross-mandate participation

The event brings together organizations that often work on related problems from different positions: government, regulators, utilities, municipalities, industry, Indigenous participants, investors, advisors, innovators, and energy users.

Implementation focus

The Symposium is focused on what must happen on the ground: connections, capital, approvals, equipment, cost recovery, local capacity, customer decisions, and operational readiness.

Candid discussion

The event is designed to allow participants to discuss uncertainty, risk, and constraints openly. The first Symposium showed that shared uncertainty can be productive when it is acknowledged rather than hidden.

From dialogue to usable outputs

OECA intends to improve how roundtable insights are captured, summarized, and shared after the event. Symposium 2.0 will place greater emphasis on turning discussion into practical synthesis for members, collaborators, and decision-makers.

Preliminary Program Agenda and Focus

8:30	Opening keynote	Collaboration and innovation: setting the tone for coordinated action across a complex, interdependent energy system.
9:00	Roundtables	Cross-sector implementation dialogue: facilitated roundtables with MUSH, utilities, government, regulators, finance, industry, Indigenous users, and technical experts.
10:30	Social break	Coffee, collaborator engagement, and OECA staff intake of roundtable notes.
11:00	Focus Topic 1: Capital	Capital and confidence: aligning public funding, private capital, utility investment, and customer decisions so Ontario can build ahead of constraint, not behind it.
11:45	Focus Topic 2: Demand	Growth and readiness: connecting transportation electrification, industrial growth, large loads, data centres, food production, and charging infrastructure to local grid readiness.
12:30	Lunch	Short lunch, networking, and OECA staff synthesis of roundtable findings.
1:15	Focus Topic 3: Financing	Infrastructure and investment: helping municipalities and LDCs find practical pathways to finance the infrastructure required for growth, reliability, and electrification.
2:00	Focus Topic 4: Flexibility	Innovation at the grid edge: integrating DERs, non-wires solutions, storage, and flexible demand into simultaneous policy updates, planning, regulation, and cost recovery.
2:45	Social break	Coffee, collaborator engagement, and final OECA synthesis preparation.
3:15	OECA Tools	Brief update on knowledge-sharing tools, codex resources to support sector learning.
3:30	Recap & Actions	Consolidate thoughts, findings and actions from the roundtables and focus on actions.
4:00	Closing keynote	From shared understanding to coordinated action: a senior-level discussion on what must happen next to maintain momentum.
5:30	Reception	Drinks, appetizers, and collaborator space.

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Collaborator and Stakeholder Focus

OECA is seeking participation from organizations and leaders connected to:

- Ministry of Energy and Mines and Intense Industry
- Ontario Energy Board, IESO, NRCan, and related regulatory or planning agencies
- Local distribution companies and associations
- Municipalities and municipal associations
- Indigenous energy and infrastructure leaders
- Federal energy and infrastructure partners
- Transportation and mobility organizations
- Automotive and industrial stakeholders
- Infrastructure finance, banks, pension funds, and investment organizations
- Engineering, advisory, and implementation professionals
- Energy innovators, DER providers, and non-wires solution experts
- Energy users and their representatives
- Academic, non-profit, and policy organizations
- OECA members and founding collaborators.

The goal is to ensure the right perspectives are in the room early enough to improve shared understanding, strengthen practical coordination, and reduce the likelihood of future disconnects.

OECA's Role

The Ontario Energy Collaborative Association is a not-for-profit, member-based organization focused on practical collaboration across Ontario's energy system.

OECA's role is to convene diverse stakeholders, surface implementation realities, reduce uncertainty through shared learning, and support better informed action.

OECA does not seek to replace existing policy, regulatory, utility, municipal, or market processes. It creates a neutral space where those processes can be better understood in relation to one another.

Ontario's energy transition will depend on generation, transmission, distribution, storage, demand flexibility, electrification, customer-side investment, financing, regulation, governance, and public trust.

The value of the Symposium is bringing those pieces into the same conversation.

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Draft Press Release

OECA Confirms Second Ontario Energy Symposium for November 3 in Cambridge

The Ontario Energy Collaborative Association will host its second Ontario Energy Symposium on **November 3, 2026**, at **700 Hespeler Road in Cambridge, Ontario**.

Symposium 2.0, **Accelerating Collaboration**, will build on the first OECA Ontario Energy Symposium held in January 2026, which brought together government, regulators, utilities, municipalities, industry, advisors, innovators, energy users, and energy professionals to discuss Ontario's changing energy system.

A central finding from the first Symposium was that Ontario is not short on effort, ambition, or technical solutions. The challenge is alignment.

“Ontario’s energy goals depend on shared understanding, trusted relationships, and practical collaboration. Symposium 2.0 is about bringing the right people together earlier to make that possible.”

— Marc-Antoine Joly, Vice-Chair / Vice-President, OECA

Ontario’s energy system is becoming more interdependent. Federal policy, provincial planning, municipal growth, utility investment, private capital, Indigenous participation, industrial demand, transportation electrification, customer implementation, and public debt now directly affect one another.

OECA exists to help Ontario’s energy leaders build the shared understanding, trusted relationships, and practical collaboration needed to achieve Ontario’s energy goals.

The November 3 event is being designed as a practical, cross-sector working forum focused on coordination, infrastructure readiness, investment timing, local capacity, regulatory alignment, implementation constraints, and public trust.

The timing is deliberate. Taking place immediately after Ontario’s October municipal elections, Symposium 2.0 will give new and returning municipal leaders, utilities, regulators, provincial and federal partners, and private-sector participants an early opportunity to demonstrate leadership and improve coordination.

Additional details will be released as planning progresses.

Media and Event Contact

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