

MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP

Tom Allwood, Councillor, Grey Highlands, Chair
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April 16, 2025

Mr. Paul Vickers
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Suite 105B
345 8th Street E
Owen Sound, ON N4K 1L3

Dear Mr. Vickers,

On behalf of the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group (MMEWG), I would like to congratulate you on your recent election as the Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP.

The MMEWG is a dedicated group of elected officials and citizen representatives appointed by participating municipal Council's. The group originally formed in 2010 as the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group following rising concerns surrounding safety, adverse health affects and best practises associated with industrial wind turbine projects. Through time, the group has continued to study, research and advocate for stronger measures to be put in place to combat the concerns.

As the province continues to look at ways to increase capacity and ensure sufficient supply to support the anticipated future electricity needs, new energy generation and storage facilities are being proposed throughout the province. With these proposals, comes another wave of growing concern, similar to what was seen with the introduction of industrial wind turbines. In response to the changes in the industry, the MMEWG has adjusted its mandate to include all forms of energy generation and storage infrastructure, allowing the work of the group to address a broader area of concern.

In response to the IESO's procurement process for 2,518 MW of capacity, a large number of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposals were brought to the table and municipal Council's were asked to provide their approval of the facilities in the absence of fire suppression direction, minimum setback requirements and zoning regulations. The IESO has now issued a second RFP to procure another 5,000 MW and this is expected to include a large number of wind turbine proposals.

It is now, more than ever, that more research, understanding and advocacy is needed and as Municipal Leader's, we need to fully understand the implications of these proposals to ensure that we meet our mandate under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, to provide measures necessary for the health, safety and well-being of citizens within our jurisdiction.

The Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group would like to extend an invitation for you to attend one of our meetings to introduce ourselves, provide details of the key focus areas and to explore potential opportunities for collaboration to address concerns.

Our meetings are held bi-monthly by Microsoft Teams with the next meeting being held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 7 pm and we would welcome your attendance. Please advise if you could join us, or, alternative dates can be provided by our Recording Secretary.

Yours truly,



p.p

Tom Allwood,
Chair, Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group
Councillor, Municipality of Grey Highlands

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