

## **MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP**

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Dear Mayor and Member's of Council,

The Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group (MMEWG) is comprised 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 to all municipalities within Grey and Bruce Counties to join its membership, allowing you the opportunity to receive valuable information, expert advice, and collaborated advocacy.

The MMEWG generally meets bi-monthly at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month virtually via Microsoft Teams. The annual membership fee for 2024 is \$500.00 for a Full Membership. This would allow for the appointment of two municipal Council members to sit on the Working Group, one alternate appointed member and an appointed citizen member for the purpose of bringing additional expertise to the discussion. We have also introduced a \$400.00 Associate Membership, which provides members the opportunity to receive circulated information and attend and participate in meetings as a non-voting member, without the need for any official appointments. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Recording Secretary, Julie Hamilton at the details noted below.

We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate together with our municipal partners.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie Hamilton".

p.p

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

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