



# Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan

Fitzroy BESS – Posted: October 16, 2023



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## Background

Brookfield Renewable Power Inc. ("BRPI") or an affiliate, will be advancing the Fitzroy BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) ("Project") through Evolgen, Brookfield's Canadian operating business. The Project directly responds to the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) call for additional capacity to meet Ontario's growing electricity consumption. The Project represents a cost-effective solution to add capacity, enhance flexible grid operations, and save greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ontario by reducing the need for carbon-intensive power plants during times of peak demand. Below is the official request from the IESO:

- After more than a decade of strong supply, Ontario is entering a period of emerging electricity system needs, driven by increasing demand, the retirement of the Pickering nuclear plant, the refurbishment of other nuclear generating units, as well as expiring contracts for existing facilities.
- To address these needs, the IESO is expecting to procure 2,200 MW from the Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT1 RFP). The LT1 RFP in addition to the expedited procurement process "the Expedited Process" (E-LT1 RFP) and the Same Technology Upgrade Solicitation for which the deadline for proposals has passed, will combine to procure a target of 4,000 MW.
- The LT1 RFP, together with the Expedited Process, is expected to competitively procure year-round effective capacity from dispatchable new build resources, including new build hybrid electricity generation and storage facilities, registered or able to become registered in the IESO-administered markets, larger than 1 MW and which can deliver a continuous amount of electricity to a connection point on a distribution system or transmission system for at least four consecutive hours.

For more information on the IESO's request, please visit <https://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-RFP-and-Expedited-Process>.

## Company Overview

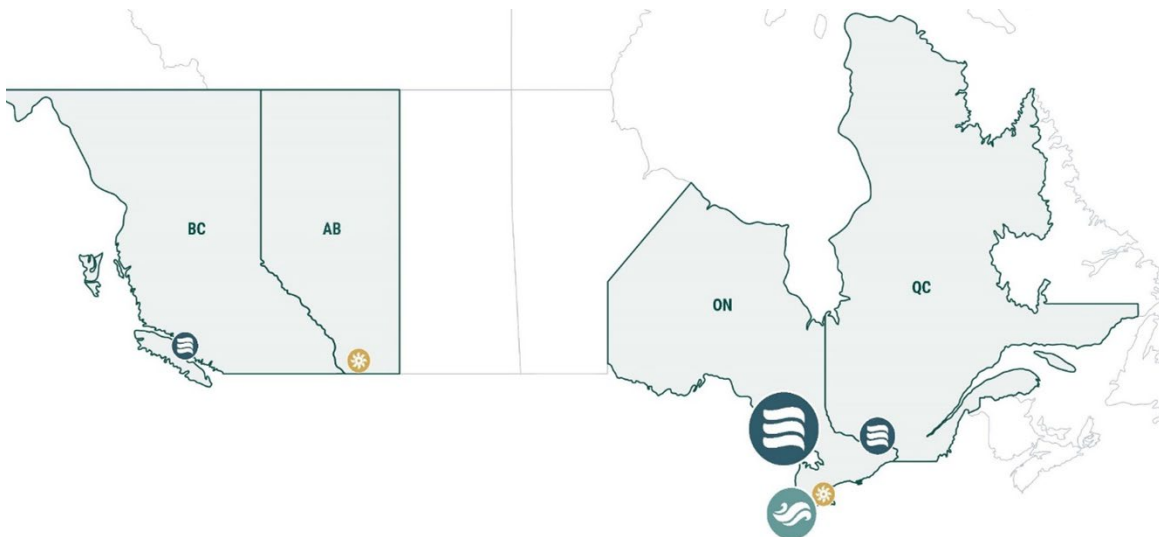
Brookfield Renewable Power Inc. ("BRPI") is advancing the Fitzroy BESS (the "Project") through its Canadian operating business, Evolgen, and Fitzroy BESS LP (the "Proponent"), a person controlled by BRPI. Brookfield Renewable is one of the world's largest investors in renewable



power and climate transition assets with over 31,000 MW of generating capacity located across five continents.

Brookfield Renewable has approximately 4,000 operating and development employees and approximately 120 power marketing experts located across the globe, optimizing the performance, and maximizing the returns of our assets. Our expertise in operating and managing power generation facilities spans over 120 years and includes full operating, development, construction, and power marketing capabilities.

In Canada, Evolugen owns and operates 61 renewable energy facilities, including 33 hydroelectric facilities, 4 wind farms, and 24 solar sites, with a total installed capacity of 1,912 MW, located across British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. Recently, Evolugen announced a new to-be-built ~40MW solar facility in Alberta. As a renewable energy industry leader, Evolugen provides sustainable solutions designed to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future in Canada.



*Evolugen's Canadian Presence*

Evolugen's Canadian heritage dates from the 1970s when its parent company owned and operated 12 hydropower facilities in Ontario. Headquartered in Gatineau, Quebec, Evolugen grew significantly in 1999 by establishing a publicly traded entity in the renewable energy industry with three hydropower facilities along the Lièvre River in Quebec. Following two



decades of growth and the launch of our new brand identity in 2019, we have strengthened and honed Evolugen’s focus on developing and operating our renewable energy portfolio in Canada.

**Ontario Presence**

In Ontario, Evolugen owns and operates 49 renewable facilities, including 21 hydroelectric facilities, 4 wind farms, and 24 solar sites (4 utility and 20 distributed generation installations), totaling an installed capacity of 1,448 MW. Evolugen continues to advance development projects across Ontario, including but not limited to the Fitzroy BESS. In addition to various renewable facilities, Evolugen has six Plant Offices (small offices) located across the province.

Our portfolio of facilities and our development expertise in hydro, wind, solar and storage enables us to accelerate Canada towards a low-carbon future by powering both its vibrant metropolitan areas and remote, close-knit communities.



*Evolugen's Ontario Presence*

**Our Sustainability Culture**

Evolugen recognizes the significant societal interest in sustainability issues. Our ability to convey business-relevant information in a timely manner and track our progress on key environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues is an important focus that informs our strategic decisions.



Evolugen works to build trust as good stewards by engaging proactively with communities to ensure that their interests are appropriately considered in our decision-making. In addition to working cooperatively on environment, health, safety and emergency response, we assist with local projects, provide recreational opportunities, and work closely with regional partners to make a positive impact that is aligned with both the needs of the local stakeholders and our business values.

Evolugen strives to be the partner of choice for Indigenous communities by structuring our projects and managing our operations in a manner that respects their distinctive cultures, traditions, values and aspirations, as outlined in our guiding [Indigenous Principles](#).

## Project Overview

The Fitzroy BESS directly responds to the IESO's call for additional capacity to meet Ontario's growing electricity consumption.

The Project will be located on private land in Fitzroy Harbour and represents a cost-effective solution to add capacity, enhance flexible grid operations, and save greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ontario by reducing the need for carbon-intensive power plants during times of peak demand. The Project:

- Adds up to 250 MW of capacity and ~1,000 MWh of energy storage;
- Represents an initial capital investment of ~\$650 million;
- Interconnects to IESO using the 230 kV circuit located near the property;
- Creates job opportunities; and
- Reduces chance of outages in the network.

The Project would consist of installing battery modules (containers), some additional power equipment, light civil, safety and security infrastructure.



Map of Fitzroy BESS

### Project Timeline

The Project is in the feasibility stage and is subject to the IESO determining the Project to be best for Ontario ratepayers. The IESO Project submission deadline is in December 2023, with a targeted contract offer in Q1/Q2 2024, for at least a 20-year commitment. If the Fitzroy BESS is awarded a contract from the IESO, construction will start between Q2-2025 and Q3-2025 and is expected to last ~12 months and to be operational in 2027 or 2028.



## **Project Community and Indigenous Engagement Approach**

Our approach to community and Indigenous engagement is to ensure we engage early and meaningfully with all interested local and Indigenous communities and local stakeholders who may be affected by or have an interest in the Project – this is an integral component of the Project development process for Evolugen. Through this early engagement we gain a better understanding of the potential concerns and interests a community may have and will have the opportunity to collaborate to find ways to minimize those concerns. Similarly, early engagement allows us to identify interests early, including potential economic opportunities that will arise with the project.

We begin our engagement by ensuring we are engaging with the appropriate Indigenous communities and local stakeholders based on their proximity to the project location.

When we constructed our Comber and Gosfield Wind Farms in Lakeshore and Kingsville, we had a goal to maximize local economic opportunities, including through procuring supplies and contractors as well as hiring labour from communities. As a result, the projects created 300 temporary local jobs for construction of the project, and 15 permanent local jobs for ongoing operations and maintenance.

To create an active local presence, during the planning and development stages of the project we opened an office in Cottam, Ontario to share information about the project and to have a place local residents or businesses could go to ask questions and to stay up to date on the project's progress. We complemented this local presence with period mail-outs to residents with information about the project's progress.

And to leave a lasting positive contribution to the local communities, we continue to support a variety of organizations, initiatives, and projects.

We plan to follow a similar approach with the Fitzroy BESS project.



## Engagement Plan Objectives

This Engagement Plan has been developed for Evolgen's proposed Project, a 250 MW BESS facility to be located in Fitzroy Harbour, Ontario.

This Plan is updated on an as-needed basis and aims to:

- Inform local and Indigenous communities and stakeholders of the IESO's LT1 RFP process, goals and requirements;
- Provide project information, details, and updates;
- Highlight, document, and track actions taken to date and outline the planned next steps;
- Facilitate opportunities for community members and Indigenous communities to submit feedback; and
- Appropriately consider and respond to community and Indigenous communities' feedback.

## Community Engagement

Evolugen's overall objective for engagement is to establish and maintain positive relationships through a strong, transparent, and responsive engagement process with local communities and interest groups throughout the Project. This includes:

- Facilitate timely access to Project information;
- Work with appropriate public representatives to identify and address interests and concerns;
- Identify opportunities for the community and work collaboratively for mutual benefit in relation to the Project;
- Incorporate interests and concerns earlier in the application process and prior to the development Project ; and
- Understand and incorporate local knowledge, where applicable, into the Project.

Evolugen has identified the following relevant list of stakeholders and may add others of interest as they are identified:

- Local government, including municipal council, agencies and staff;
- Landowners, residents, and businesses in the vicinity of the Project;
- Interested members of the public; and
- Environmental groups.

#### Completed Community Engagement

- We provided information about the IESO RFP and the Project to stakeholders and individuals from the City of Ottawa;
- We shared information about the Project through the dedicated website; and
- We mailed notices of public meetings to stakeholders and sent meeting invitations to the City of Ottawa via email.

#### Ongoing Community Engagement

Below are the activities we plan to undertake:

- We are publicizing information related to the public meetings through the website, local community newspaper and Facebook ads;
- We are hosting public meetings to introduce the Project by utilizing poster boards and maps to solicit community input. Our team of experts will be present at the meetings to answer questions from the public on:
  - **Wednesday, November 1, 2023, from 4:00 to 7:00pm at the Fitzroy Harbour Community Centre.**
  - **Thursday, November 2, 2023 from 6:30 to 8:00pm on Zoom Webinar (register through the project website or by [clicking here](#));**
- We will collect feedback from stakeholders during public meetings and share it on our website; and
- We will continue to engage with the City of Ottawa.

## **Indigenous Engagement**

Similar to Community Engagement noted above, Evolugen's overall objective is to establish and maintain positive relationships through a strong, transparent, and responsive engagement process with Indigenous communities. As the original inhabitants of the land that became Canada and respecting their Treaty and Aboriginal rights, Evolugen absolutely values building strong and trusting relationships with the local Indigenous communities.

We understand the project location is within the traditional territories of the following Indigenous communities:

- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation; and
- Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation.

We have begun engagement with these Indigenous communities and, as the project progresses so will our engagement and communication.

## **Proposal/Procurement Phase**

During the initial proposal and procurement phase, our engagement activities have included and will include:

- Confirming with Government of Ontario the list of local Indigenous communities;
- Initial outreach to local Indigenous communities to introduce the project and procurement process and to understand their level of interest in participating in the project and how they would like to be engaged;
- Share information, including PowerPoint material, website, brochures, etc. that can be easily shared with community members and/or Chief and Council;
- Meet regularly to share Project information as details become more defined in order to identify and address interests and concerns;
- If requested, host community meetings to share information more broadly with community members;
- Incorporate interests and concerns in the application process and prior to the development Project; and
- Document feedback, concerns, and interests in an engagement tracking document to ensure feedback is considered throughout the Development Phase.

## **Development Phase**

Deeper engagement and communication with Indigenous communities to ensure the project is designed in a way that minimizes impacts and addresses as many concerns as possible. Our engagement activities will include:

- Regular meetings with Chief and Council to provide updates and to seek input;
- Community information sessions and/or open houses with each Indigenous community to create opportunities for members to understand the project and to ask questions to the project development team;
- Active engagement with staff, Elders, knowledge keepers, etc. to ensure we are incorporating traditional knowledge and values into our project design;
- Development of communication materials that can be shared within the community, on their social media channels and/or community newsletters, if appropriate;
- Identify opportunities for participation in the project, including contracting opportunities with qualified Indigenous-owned companies or partnerships; and
- Identify potential jobs or training related to project construction and/or operations.

## **Construction Phase**

Ongoing engagement and communication with Indigenous communities will continue throughout construction. Our engagement activities will include:

- Regular meetings with Chief and Council to provide updates on the status of the project, including status of Indigenous participation in the project;
- Community information sessions, as needed; and
- Participation opportunities for Indigenous members and businesses implemented.

## **Operations Phase**

Continued communication with Indigenous communities throughout the operation of the facility to ensure open dialogue.

### *Completed Indigenous Engagement*

- Met with both Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nations to introduce the Project and to discuss opportunities for their participation. These discussions are ongoing.



## Conclusion

This Engagement Plan has been developed for Evolgen's proposed Fitzroy BESS and is updated on an as needed basis.

For any questions regarding the Project or this Plan, please contact [info@evolugen.com](mailto:info@evolugen.com).