



# Indigenous & Community Engagement Plan

Project: Parry Sound BESS

*Project Address: Crown Land within the Township of McDougall - Coordinates  
45.433302°, -80.076776°*

**Revision History**

Date	Notes
October 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Original draft

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## 1. Introduction

Compass Greenfield Development Inc. has developed this Indigenous and Community Engagement Plan (the “Plan”) for the Parry Sound BESS (the “Project”), a proposed battery energy storage system (“BESS”).

The Project will have a maximum capacity of 18 megawatt AC (“MWac”) and will be located in Municipality of McDougall.

Compass Greenfield Development Inc. will submit the Project into the IESO’s Request for Proposals under the Long-Term 2 procurement<sup>1</sup> (“LT2 RFP”) on or before the Submission Deadline.

This Indigenous and Community Engagement Plan’s objectives are to:

- Provide details about the Project
- Describe the IESO’s LT2 RFP process
- Describe our commitment and process towards Indigenous and community engagement
- Provide engagement and feedback opportunities for Indigenous and community stakeholders
- Address and respond to Indigenous and community feedback
- Describe our plans for future Indigenous and community engagement

It is very important that Indigenous, local community, and other stakeholders are contacted and communicated with regarding details of the proposed Project.

If the Project is successful in the LT2 RFP and awarded a contract, it will be in operation for 20+ years. To ensure that the development, implementation, operation, and decommissioning of the Project is successful, we strive to effectively incorporate the interests and concerns of Indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders during the planning, building, operating, and decommissioning phases.

All capitalized terms used in this document are defined in the LT2(c-1) RFP or Contract.

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the IESO’s Long Term 2 RFP is available here: <https://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-2-RFP>

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## 2. Purpose of the Indigenous and Community Engagement Plan

This Plan identifies our commitment and strategy for establishing and sustaining a transparent and productive engagement with Indigenous and local communities. This Plan is a “living” document and may be updated during the project life cycle to better suit the goals and objectives of the engagement process.

The Plan will:

- Publish reader-friendly and publicly accessible project information to help Indigenous and local community understand the proposed Project, understand where to get more details on the project and describe opportunities for providing feedback;
- Promote active public engagement through effective and targeted outreach;
- Design a communication plan to inform Indigenous and local community stakeholders of on-going community engagement and project development activities;
- Create engagement opportunities for Indigenous and local community stakeholders to be involved throughout the development process, including the planning and development of project design;
- Create opportunities to collect and engage with public feedback on the project website and during public community meetings; and
- Determine and address any issues or concerns that the public or other stakeholders have with regards to the Project.

### 3. Key Project Information

Compass Greenfield Development Inc. (the “Developer”) will be creating a special purpose entity to own and operate Parry Sound BESS. Further detail on the Developer is presented in *Section 4. Developer Background*.

The Developer is proposing to develop, construct, and operate the Project, which will have a maximum capacity of 18 megawatt AC (“MWac”) of battery energy storage that will be located on private land in Municipality of McDougall at Crown Land within the Township of McDougall - Coordinates 45.433302°, -80.076776°.

A preliminary layout of the Project is available on the project website<sup>2</sup>. This infrastructure project will bring local benefits including employment, community benefits payments, lease payments, property tax revenue, and capital spending in the local economy.

Since the Project is in the early development stages, the location of major equipment, such as battery containers, inverters and/or transformers, and access roads have not yet been finalized. However, the preliminary layout provides a proposed Project boundary, outside of which development is not likely to occur.

The final layout will take into account outputs from environmental and other field studies and feedback from Indigenous and local community stakeholders, as applicable. Environmental and technical studies aid in the understanding of any impacts on the local community, natural and cultural heritage, archaeology, and other important local factors.

All development and construction activity is conducted in full compliance with applicable environmental regulations and permitting, including those administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for potential air, noise, or water emissions. Additionally, species-at-risk, and archaeological screenings are conducted as required.

#### Energy Storage Explained

When Ontario’s electricity grid needs more power, like on the hottest days of the year, the IESO turns to on-demand resources, like energy storage, to support Provincial electricity needs. Decentralized energy storage infrastructure can prevent emergency grid events such as rolling blackouts and help defer more capital-intensive system upgrades that directly impact rate-payers. Ideally, BESS sites are located near electricity substations, 3-phase distribution power lines or transmission lines to improve overall efficiencies.

Although energy storage comes in different shapes and sizes, the lithium-ion BESS is the fastest emerging technology in North America and is planned to be deployed in Municipality of McDougall with the Parry Sound BESS Project.

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<sup>2</sup> Preliminary project layout available on the project website here: <https://parrysoundenergystorage.ca/>

## 4. Developer Background

### Compass Greenfield Development Inc.

Compass Greenfield Development Inc.<sup>3</sup> (“CGD”) is an independent development company established through Compass Renewable Energy Consulting Inc.<sup>4</sup>, building on our deep-rooted consulting expertise. CGD applies a structured, proven approach to identify, develop, and advance greenfield opportunities in solar and battery energy storage systems (“BESS”).

Our team has been engaged in Ontario’s renewable energy sector since 2007, bringing a long-term strategic perspective combined with hands-on, practical experience in project execution. This enables us to successfully guide projects from concept to commercial operation, delivering value to all stakeholders — including landowners, municipalities, Indigenous communities, investors, and the public at large.

In 2023 and 2024, CGD secured BESS contracts under both the Expedited Long-Term 1 and Long-Term 1 procurement programs. Since these contract awards, CGD has successfully brought the first battery energy storage systems into commercial operation under the IESO’s Expedited Long Term procurement – Walker 4, Walker 5 and Walker 6 facilities located in Windsor, ON. In summary, awarded projects include:

*Table 1. Compass Greenfield Development Battery Energy Storage Projects in Ontario*

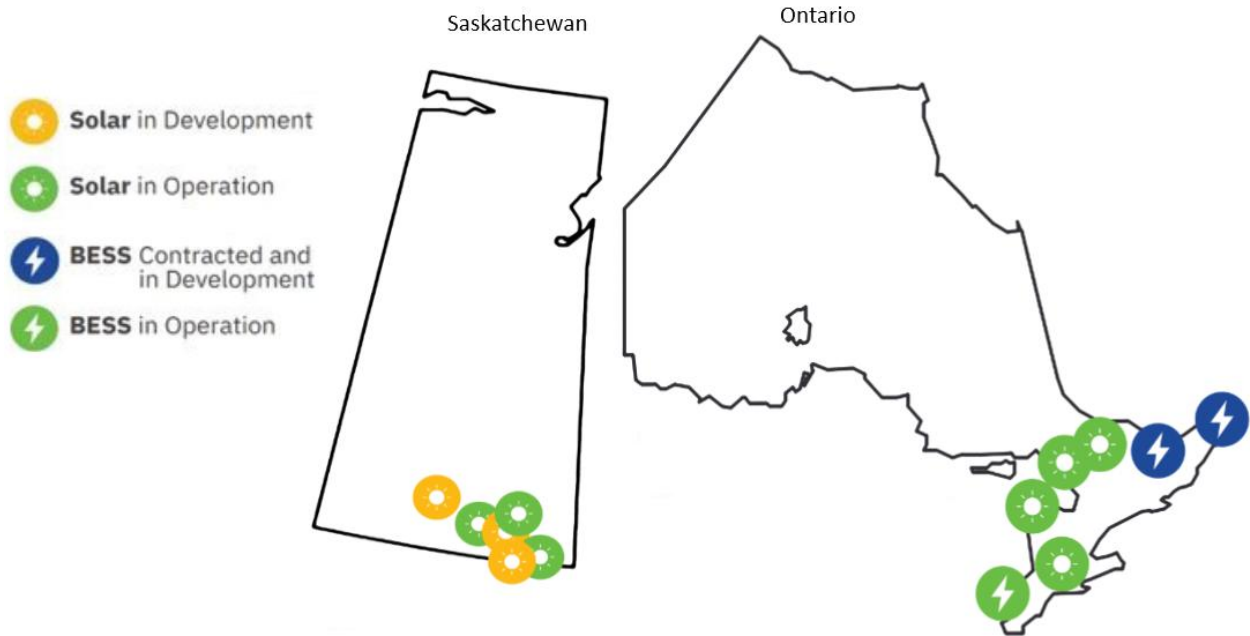
Project Name	Location	Capacity (MWac)	Development Status
Walker BESS 4, 5, 6	Windsor, Ontario	14.997 MW	Operational
Almonte BESS	Mississippi Mills, Ontario	4.999 MW	Under Construction
Almonte BESS 2	Mississippi Mills, Ontario	14.989 MW	Under Construction
North Glengarry BESS	North Glengarry, Ontario	16.30 MW	Under Construction

Beyond its active BESS developments, CGD also manages the operations of eight solar facilities, with four located in Ontario and four in Saskatchewan.

Our growing development pipeline now exceeds 500 MW, positioning CGD as a leading force in the advancement of clean energy infrastructure across Canada.

<sup>3</sup> Compass Greenfield Development Inc. website: <https://compassenergyconsulting.ca/>

<sup>4</sup> Compass Renewable Energy Consulting Inc. website: <https://compassenergyconsulting.ca/>



*Figure 1 – Compass Greenfield Development Projects Under Management*

## 5. Capacity Procurement Information

After more than a decade of strong supply, Ontario is entering a period of emerging electricity system needs, driven by increasing demand, the refurbishment of nuclear generating units, as well as expiring contracts for existing facilities.

Recognizing the necessity to address these needs in a timely, cost-effective and flexible manner, the IESO has engaged with stakeholders in the development of a resource adequacy framework. As Ontario's electricity system evolves to become more diverse and dynamic, procurement processes must evolve along with it. The resource adequacy framework published on the IESO's website targets robust competitive processes that focus on cost-effective reliability, while more effectively balancing ratepayer and supplier risk in this changing environment.

As described in the Annual Planning Outlook published on the IESO's website in March 2024<sup>5</sup> one of the mechanisms intended to support the IESO's resource adequacy initiatives is the Long-Term 2 Capacity Services Request for Proposals (the "LT2(c) RFP"), which is intended to acquire capacity services to meet system reliability needs from New Build resources representing up to a total of 1.6 GW of targeted contracted capacity.

As set out in the directive of the Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines issued to the IESO pursuant to subsection 25.32 of the Electricity Act dated November 28, 2024, as amended (the "Ministerial Directive")<sup>6</sup>, the LT2(c) RFP is to be comprised of multiple procurement windows, each set out in distinct requests for proposals. This Long-Term 2 Capacity Services (Window 1) Request for Proposals (the "LT2(c-1) RFP") is the first such procurement of the LT2(c) RFP.

The LT2(c-1) RFP is intended to competitively procure up to 600 MW of year-round capacity services (the "Target Capacity"), on a Maximum Contract Capacity basis. The LT2(c-1) RFP is expected to competitively procure year-round Contract Capacity from dispatchable New Build resources larger than one (1) MW, registered or able to become registered in the IESO-administered markets, other than as variable generation, or as a self-scheduling generation facility, and which can deliver a continuous amount of Electricity to a Connection Point on a Distribution System or Transmission System during the Qualifying Hours for at least eight (8) consecutive hours.

The Selected Proponents of the LT2(c-1) RFP are required to enter into a Long-Term 2 Capacity Services (Window 1) Contract in the form set out in the procurement documents (the "LT2(c-1) Contract") with the IESO for a commitment period commencing on the Commercial Operation Date of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project as set out in the LT2(c-1) Contract and expiring on April 30, 2050 (the "Commitment Period").

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<sup>5</sup> Find the IESO's Annual Planning Outlook document here: <https://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Planning-and-Forecasting/Annual-Planning-Outlook>

<sup>6</sup> [Ministerial Directives](#)

## 6. Stakeholders List

Identifying the list of stakeholders that may be interested in the development of the Project is key to a successful engagement plan. We intend to keep this stakeholder list updated across all stages of Project development, construction, operation, and decommissioning. As a result, the Project will interface and consult with the various types of stakeholders mentioned below.

### Landowner Stakeholders

- Residents of Properties located adjacent and in proximity to the boundary of the Project Site

### Indigenous Stakeholders

- Indigenous Communities who may have an interest in the Project and / or those that are included as part of a delegation of the Crowns Duty to Consult obligations

### Municipal Stakeholders

- Chief Administrative Officer or equivalent for the Local Municipality in which the proposed Project is located
- Mayor and council members

### Government and Regional Authorities

- Ontario Ministry of Energy and Electrification
- Independent Electricity System Operator
- Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- Local Conservation Authorities
- Electrical Safety Authority
- Local Distribution Company
- Local Fire and Rescue Department

## 7. Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

The Project is not located on Indigenous Lands, as defined by the LT2 RFP, however we acknowledge that the Crown has a duty to consult with Indigenous Communities that would be delegated to us.

Prior to contract award, we encourage and welcome any Indigenous Community, who has questions or concerns about the Project to please contact us directly through the project email: [info@parrysoundenergystorage.ca](mailto:info@parrysoundenergystorage.ca).

Post contract award, but prior to the commencement of any construction or site preparation work, we commit to diligently follow the Duty to Consult (“DTC”) process as detailed by the Ministry of Energy and Electrification or equivalent (“Ministry”)<sup>7</sup> including the following:

- Request for DTC Assessment from the Ministry as soon as practical following the notification of selected proponents under the IESO’s LT2 RFP;
- Receive DTC Assessment Letter indicating if the Duty to Consult has been triggered;
  - If yes, a Delegation Letter, which delegates the procedural aspects of the Crown’s duty to consult to the Proponent, will be included in the response
- Conduct consultation activities with the potentially affected Indigenous Communities
- Preparation of and Indigenous Consultation Record and submission to the Ministry for review
- If the Ministry is satisfied with the Indigenous Consultation Record, a DTC Sufficiency Letter is issued to the Proponent.
  - Otherwise, further direction is provided to the Proponent to address any outstanding rights-based matters or remedy any consultation-related deficiencies

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<sup>7</sup> We recognize the process and the provincial ministry responsible for the delegating the Duty to Consult obligations of the Crown may change and are committed to following the most recent process post contract award.

## 8. Local Community Engagement

We will engage the local community stakeholders in two distinct ways, described in greater detail below.

### Information Sharing

The Plan seeks to inform stakeholders about the Project and its progress through the following informational tools:

- **Project website:** hosting details about the Project and status of development activities;
- **Notice of public community meeting:** posted to the Project Website, and delivered by hand delivery, electronic mail, regular mail, or courier to the Chief Administrative Officer or equivalent for the Local Municipality in which the proposed Project is located and residents of adjacent and nearby properties;
- **Public community meetings:** an introduction meeting planned before the Submission Deadline, and a planned meeting subsequent to successful contract award through the IESO's procurement process;
- **Environmental studies:** completed in support of the Project will be posted to the project website; and
- **Project updates:** to be posted to the project website as applicable.

### Consultation

In addition to informing the Local Municipality and community, our engagement process seeks to create opportunities to consult with identified local community stakeholders to gather feedback on the Project through the following feedback tools:

- Electronic correspondence through the project email address;
- Public community meetings;
- Public meetings with the Local Municipality's municipal council; and
- Feedback and FAQ via the project website.

## 9. Staged Approach to Community Engagement

Project timelines can be divided into five (5) distinct stages that have differing goals and objectives. The Project's community engagement activities will be tailored for each of the following project stages. As of the date of the Plan, the Project is in Stage 1.

- ❖ **Stage 1:** Pre-Contract through Contract Award
- ❖ **Stage 2:** Development
- ❖ **Stage 3:** Construction
- ❖ **Stage 4:** Operation
- ❖ **Stage 5:** Decommissioning

### Stage 1: Pre-Contract through Contract Award

During Stage 1, the community engagement process will:

- Inform local community stakeholders and municipal government about the Project;
- Collect and engage with public feedback through the project website and during the public community meeting; and
- Promote active project engagement by effective and inclusive outreach.

The Pre-Contract Stage is currently ongoing and concludes when the Project is awarded a contract by the IESO. The following engagement tasks, at a minimum, will be completed before the Submission Deadline.

- Inform the Local Municipality of the proposed Project by engaging with staff and participating in a delegation at one or more municipal council meetings;
- Create and manage a project website, keeping content current with all relevant Project information such as site layouts, schedule, and upcoming municipal and community meetings;
- Create and manage a unique project email address to collect feedback;
- Create and manage a Project-specific distribution list;
- Share a copy of this Plan on the project website;
- Share a copy of the Notice of public community meeting on the project website;
- Deliver, via electronic mail, regular mail, or courier, a copy of the Notice of public community meeting to the residents of Properties located adjacent to the boundaries of the Project Site, representatives of the Local Municipality;
- Host one (1) public community meeting. The meeting will include:
  - Legal name and contact information for the Developer;
  - Project Name, Nameplate Capacity, and technology of the proposed Project;
  - A project layout showing the boundaries of the of the Project Site, location of the Connection Point and the Connection Line within the relevant municipality; and
  - Updates on the status and progress of development activities.
- Upon request, host meetings with Indigenous Communities; and
- Where appropriate, respond to questions and concerns raised during our engagement process.

The time, date, and details on how to participate of the public community meeting will be posted on the project website and provided in the meeting notice.

If members of the local community are not able to attend the meeting, we encourage all interested persons to visit our project website where the documents and information presented at the public community meeting will be posted, or to contact us directly through the project email address provided on the website.

### Stage 2: Development (up to 2 years) & Stage 3: Construction (1 year)

If the Project is awarded a contract by the IESO, we are committed to continuing its engagement with all interested stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the Project.

During the development and construction phases, engagement will focus on continuing to inform local community stakeholders, notifying and engaging with Indigenous Communities to fulfill any Duty to Consult obligations. We will provide updates on the Project progress through project update newsletters, as well as ensuring the Project meets all permitting obligations as set out by the various Authorities Having Jurisdiction (“AHJs”).

Stage 2 will begin upon execution of a capacity contract and will last until the start of construction. Once construction is underway, Stage 3 of the engagement plan will take effect.

During Stages 2 and 3, we will perform the following engagement tasks:

- An in-person public community meeting will be held prior to the start of construction to communicate how the development team has incorporated stakeholder feedback in the project design;
- Inform interested stakeholders on the results of technical studies;
- Meet with municipal officials, as requested, to keep them updated on the project progress;
- Obtain a list of Indigenous Communities with whom we will consult about the project from Ministry of Energy and Electrification or equivalent;
- Provide notice(s) to the Indigenous Communities regarding the Project;
- Meet with Indigenous Communities, as requested, to keep them updated of Project progress;
- Develop an Emergency Response and Public Safety Plan with local public safety authorities;
- Develop and engage stakeholders on the Decommissioning Plan;
- Update the project website regularly with relevant project information and updates;
- Record and engage with stakeholder feedback through the project website; and
- Issue a project update newsletter, as applicable, with project information and updates for interested stakeholders.

### Stage 4: Operation (20 to 30 years)

The project operation stage is anticipated to last 20 plus years from the time the project achieves commercial operation (i.e. is fully operational), until the decommissioning. The goals and objectives for this stage will be focused on ensuring the Project operates efficiently and safely.

During Stage 4, we will perform the following engagement tasks:

- Manage the safe operation of the Project;
- Effectively communicate and implement the Emergency Response and Public Safety Plan; and
- Issue a project update newsletter, as applicable, with project information and updates for interested stakeholders.

### Stage 5: Decommissioning (up to 1 year)

At this stage of the project's lifecycle, we will implement the Decommissioning Plan compliant with all prescribed municipal and provincial regulations and requirements. Property landowners, neighbors, the Local Municipality, and Indigenous Communities will be consulted for a second time to ensure the local community is aware of the proposed Decommissioning Plan.