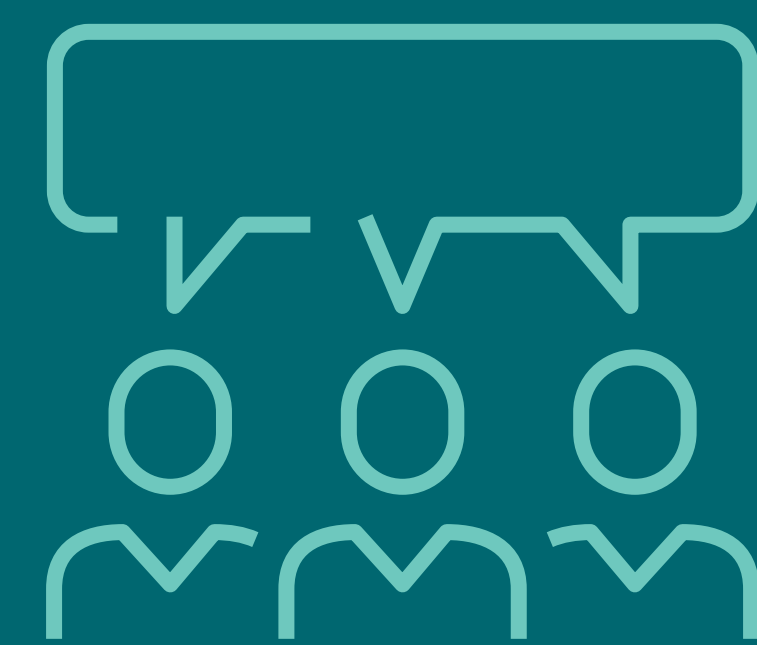
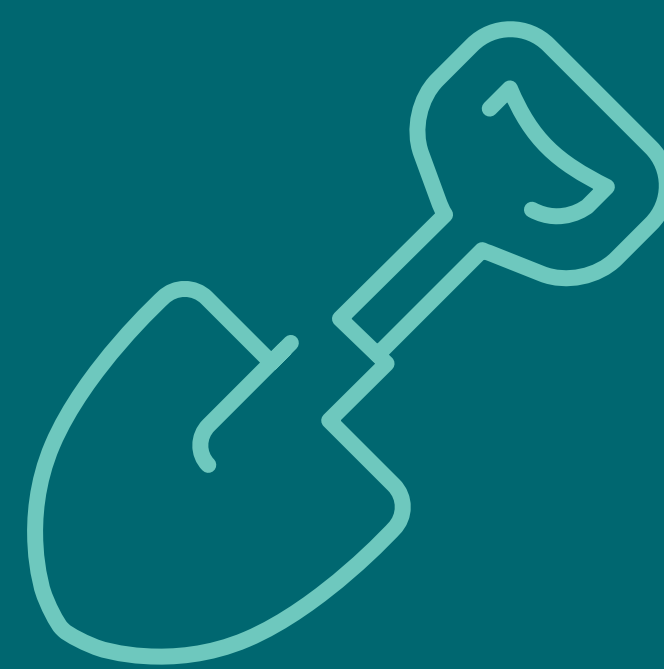
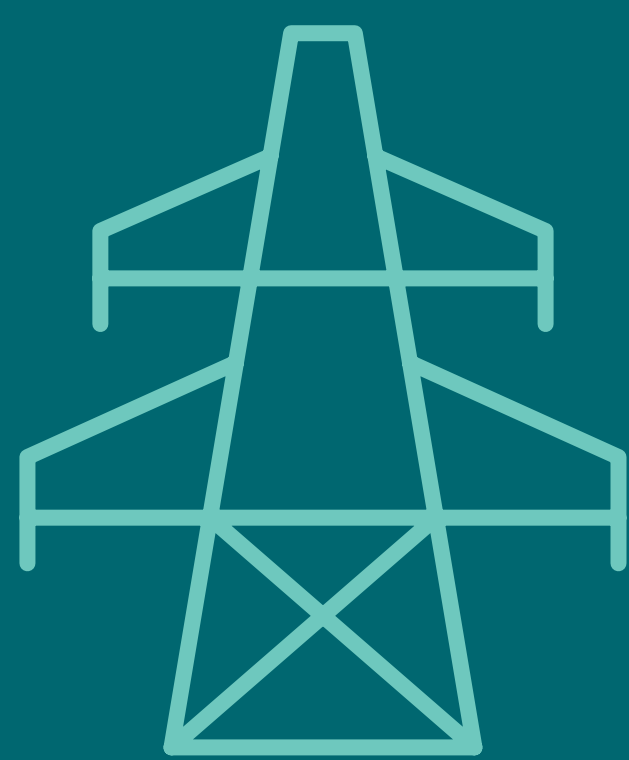


Welcome

Energize Essex County project

Community open house #1



Connecting power
and possibility™

Purpose of today's community open house

- Provide an overview of Ontario's electricity system and growing electricity needs in the southwest
- Introduce the Energize Essex County project
- Discuss the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process and what we'll be studying for this phase of the project
- Present the station study areas and transmission line route alternatives being studied, and outline the selection process
- Share the anticipated project timeline
- Answer questions and gather your feedback



Key organizations

Building infrastructure to meet the energy needs of today and tomorrow involves a number of partners, including:



Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Legislative authority for environmental assessments in Ontario

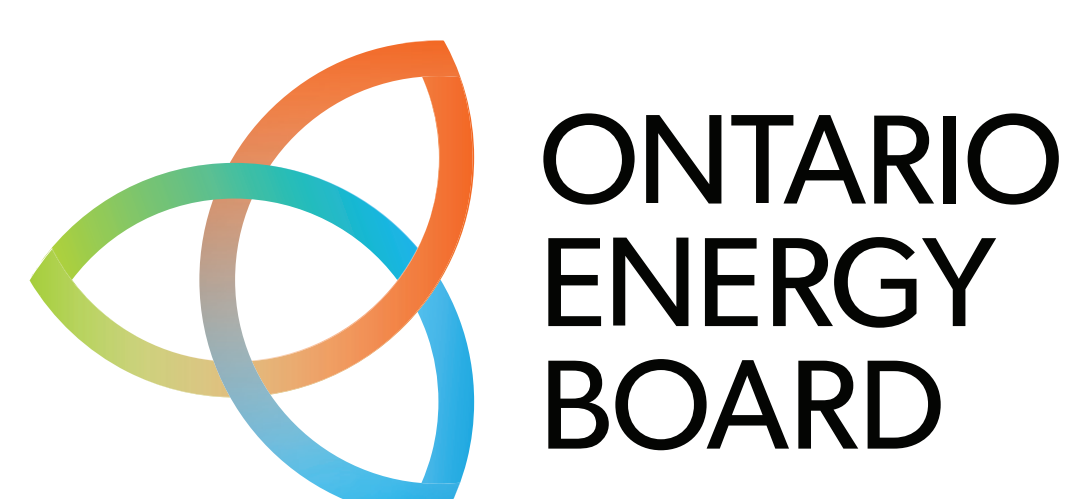


Independent Electricity
System Operator

Oversees planning to ensure electricity needs are met both now and in the future



Builds, owns, operates and maintains electricity transmission and distribution facilities across Ontario



Regulates the electricity market in Ontario, including electricity rates



Ministry of Energy

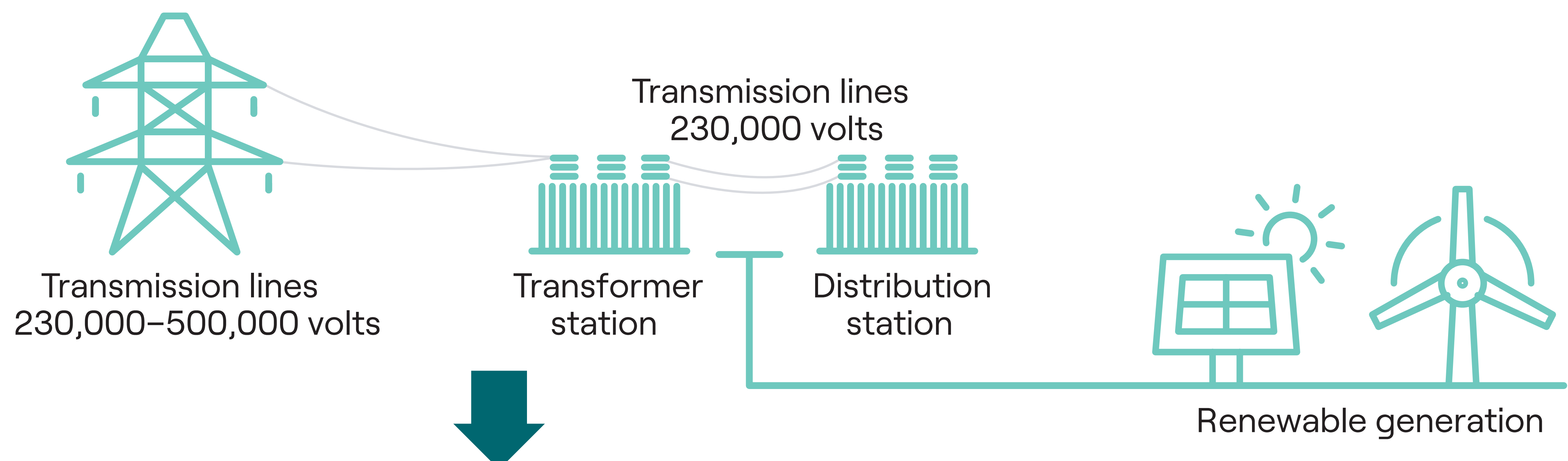
Oversees the regulatory framework for the electricity system, including the Ontario Energy Board and the IESO

How the system works

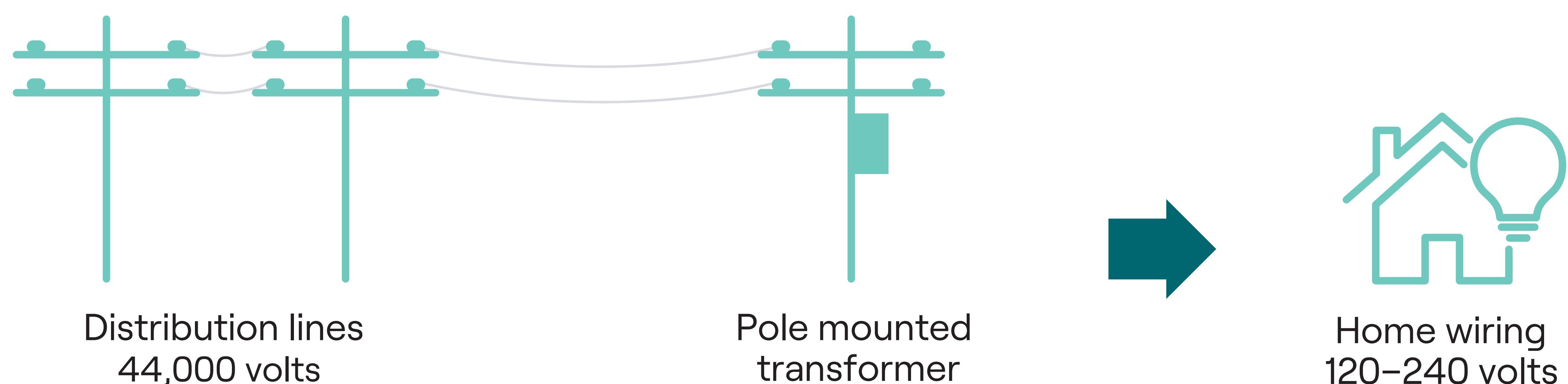
Ontario Power Generation and private generation companies



Hydro One or licensed transmitter



Hydro One or local distribution company



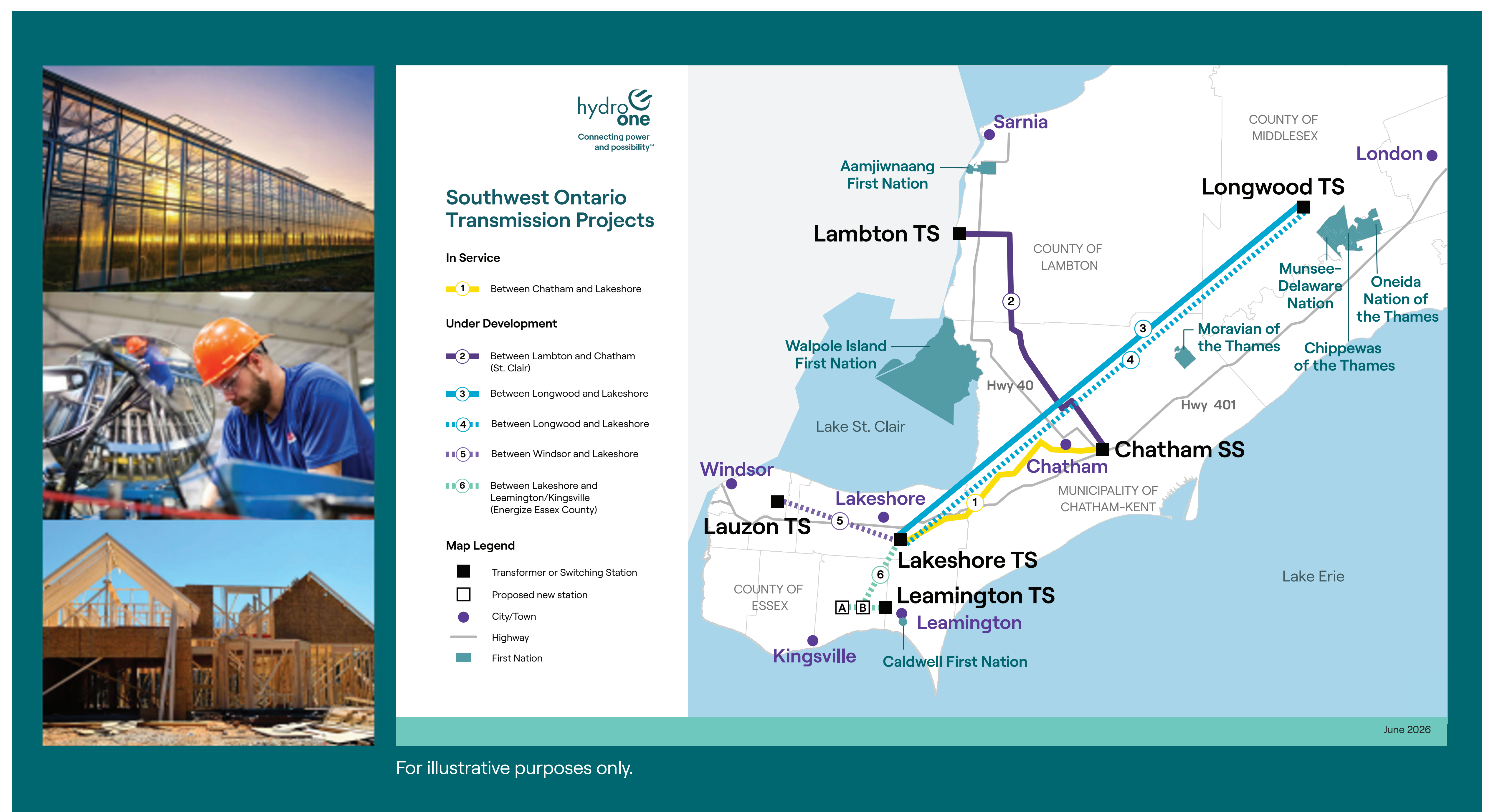
Electricity needs in southwest Ontario



Electricity demand in Ontario is increasing. In the southwest, demand is being driven by growing communities, advanced manufacturing and greenhouses.

To meet this growth demand, a network of electricity infrastructure projects are being developed and built.

Hydro One's proposed investments will strengthen the local system, build a more self-reliant grid and support jobs and industries that put food on Ontario tables.



For more information on the other projects in the region, please visit HydroOne.com/projects

Overview of the Energize Essex County project

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has identified the need to increase supply capacity in the Kingsville and Leamington areas. To meet this need, the IESO has recommended two new transformer stations to be supplied by a new 230-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line from Lakeshore Transformer Station (TS).

The proposed line will also connect the new stations to Leamington TS, with a new 230-kV station equipment area proposed adjacent to the existing station. This connection is expected to increase reliability and enable faster power restoration in the area. The project is expected to be in service by 2032, or sooner, to meet electricity demand.

We are beginning a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project, under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*.

Following the completion of the Class EA, the project will also require Ontario Energy Board approval under Section 92 (Leave to Construct) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*.



What is a Class Environmental Assessment?

The Class Environmental Assessment (EA) is the first step towards completing the planning for this project. This project is subject to Hydro One's Class EA for Transmission Facilities (2024).

This Class EA process applies to transmission infrastructure projects that are carried out routinely and have predictable environmental effects that can be readily managed and considered before construction.

As required by the Class EA process, all project planning will be shaped by:



- Engagement with government agencies, municipalities and elected officials, residents and other interest groups



- Working with Indigenous communities to identify areas of interest pertaining to culture, values and land use



- Characterization of the environment within the study area



- Identification of potential effects and proposed mitigation measures



- Evaluation of alternative station sites and line routes to select the preferred alternative



- Release of the Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for 30-day review

More information is available at: HydroOne.com/ClassEA

Regional benefits

Once built, the Energize Essex County project will power the future for the region by bolstering capacity and improving the reliability and security of the electricity grid.



Food security

The project will support expanding industries, including the agri-business sector that helps put food on tables across Canada.



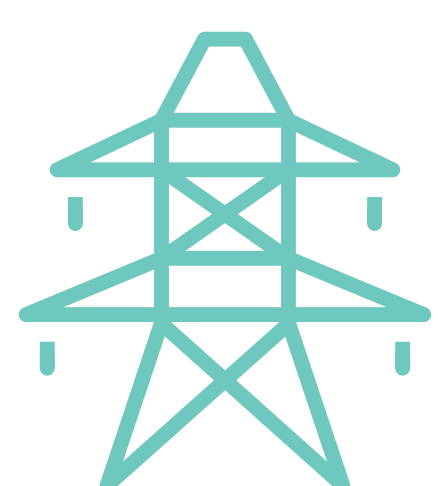
Growing communities

As the region grows, Hydro One is building a stronger grid to provide safe, reliable power for homes and businesses.



Job creation

The increased capacity will support new businesses, driving long-term economic growth and employment. It will also create jobs through construction of the line and stations and support ongoing work for crews who maintain reliable power across the region.

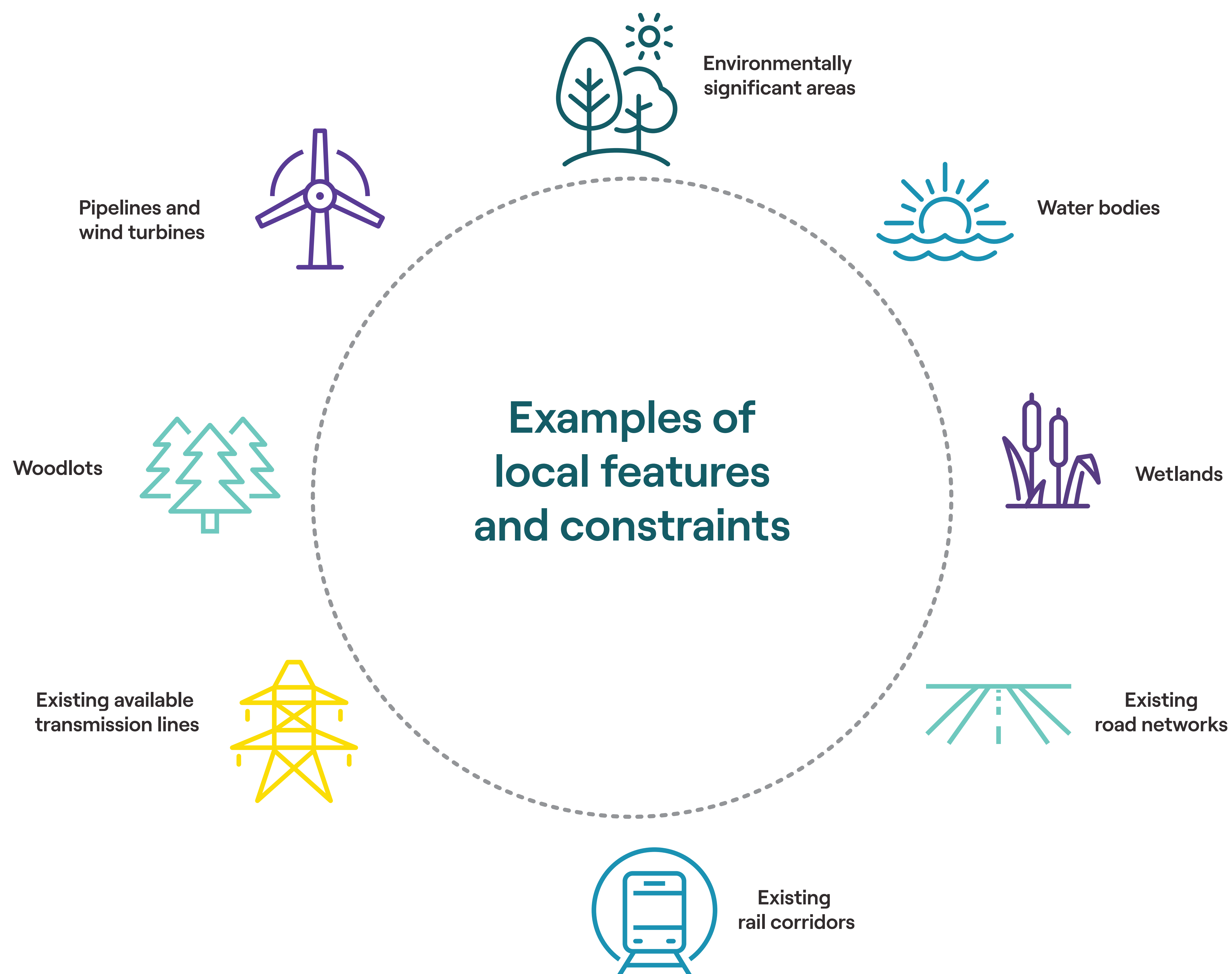


Reliable power

As southwest Ontario's electricity needs continue to grow, the new line will strengthen the local network to ensure power is there when it's needed.

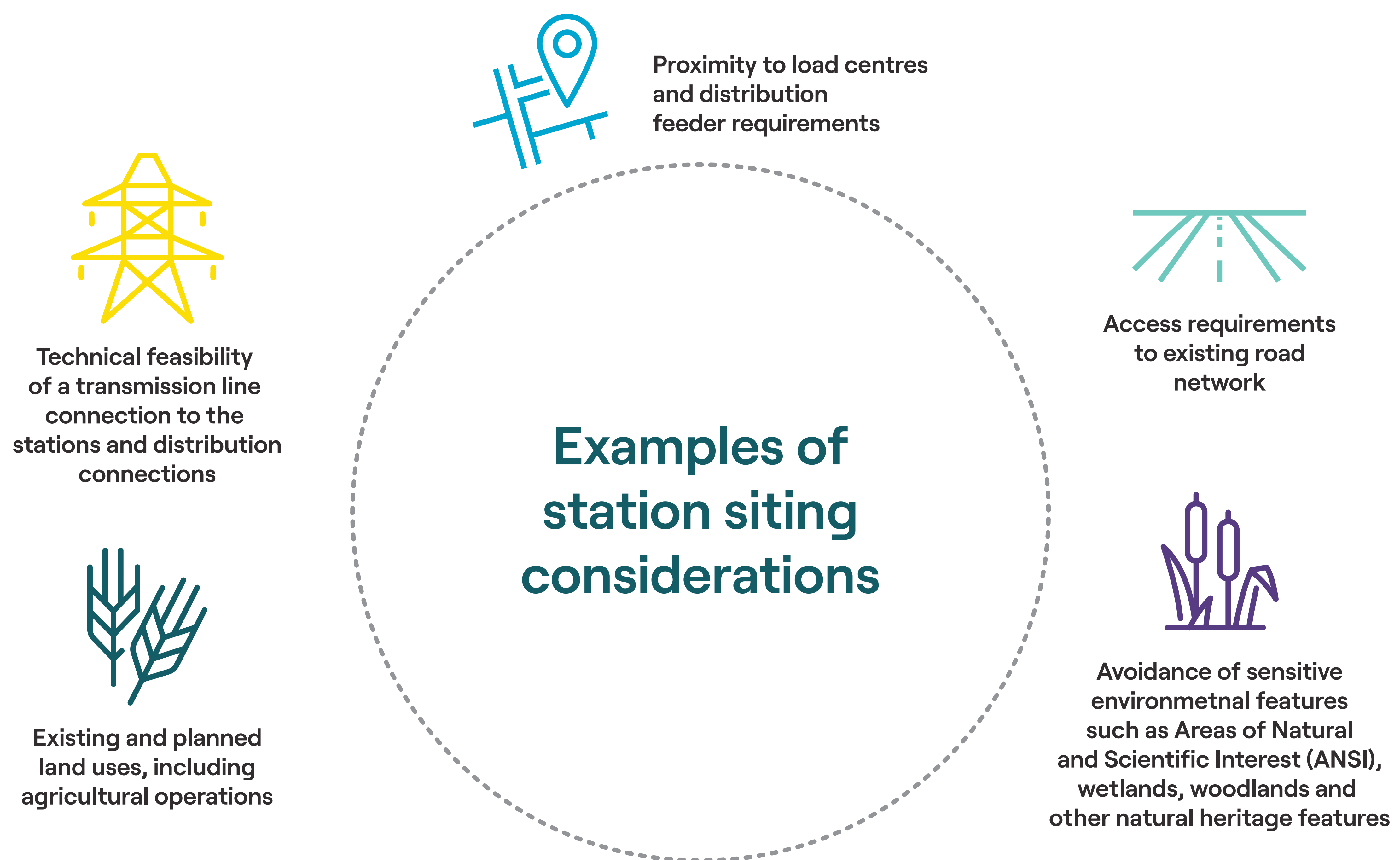
Identifying route alternatives

To identify viable route alternatives for the new line, Hydro One mapped out technical, socio-economic, and natural environment constraints and identified potential opportunities to utilize existing available transmission corridor lands. Each route alternative will be studied and evaluated to ultimately select a preferred route for the new line.



Identifying station site alternatives

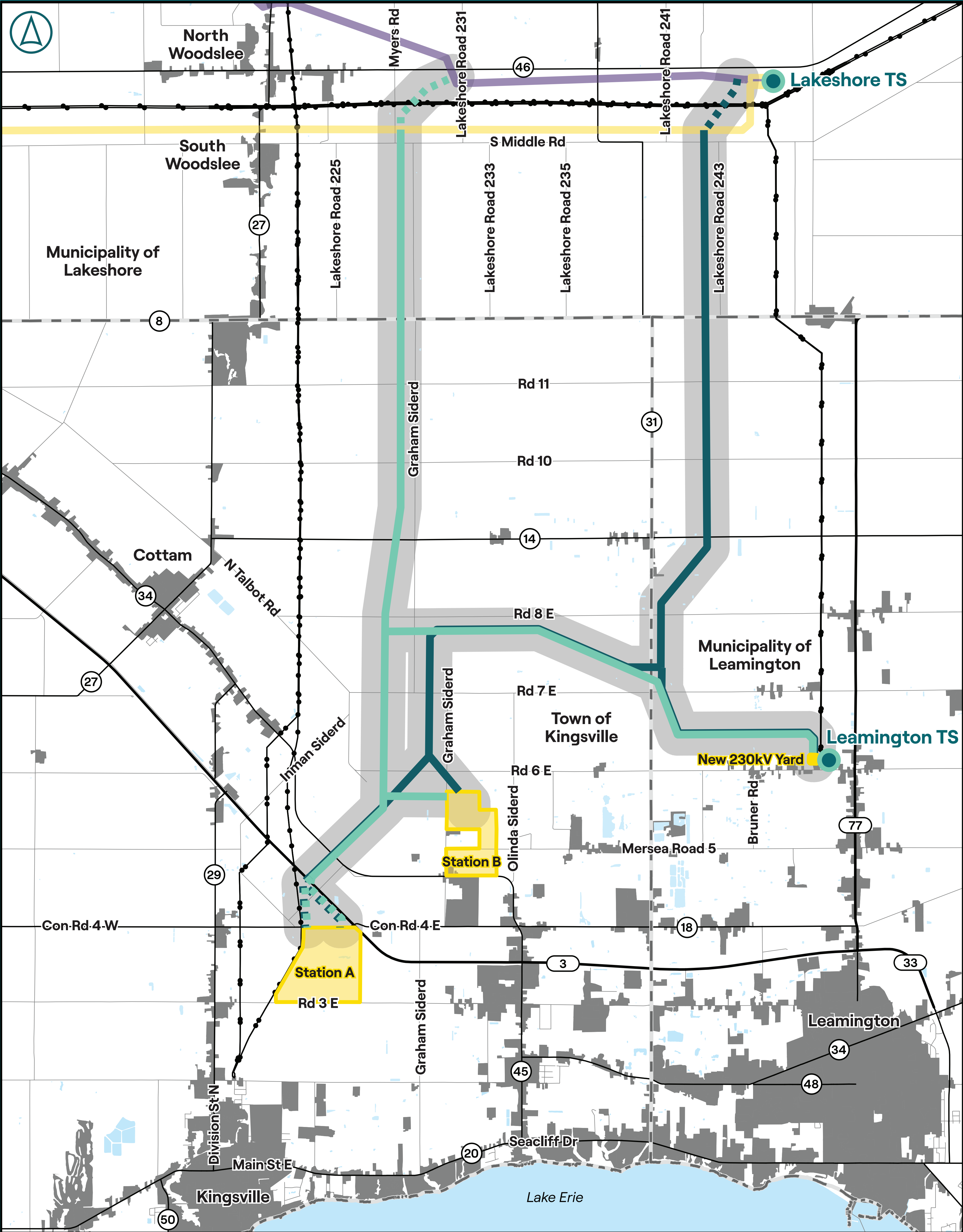
Hydro One has identified two large study areas near where the future demand is expected. Technical, socio-economic and natural environment constraints were considered in the identification of the station study areas. Each station study area will be evaluated to identify viable station sites, in consultation with landowners.



The final station footprint is expected to be approximately 170 by 170 metres.

Each alternative station site will be evaluated to select a preferred site for Station A and B.

Project map



Map legend

- Local study area (500 m)
 - Study areas for proposed Station A, Station B and New 230 kV yard
 - Existing Transformer Station (TS)
 - Route alternative 1
 - Route alternative 1 connection point to be determined
 - Route alternative 2
 - Route Alternative 2 connection point to be determined
- General features**

 - Waterbody
 - Municipal boundary
 - Existing transmission lines
 - Primary, Kings or 400 series highway
 - District, County, Regional or Municipal road
 - Local road
- Windsor Lakeshore Power Line proposed route alternative 1
 - Windsor Lakeshore Power Line proposed route alternative 2

Energize Essex County project



Selecting the preferred alternative

Over the course of the Class EA, we will focus on studying and learning more about each alternative (line routes and station sites) by collecting data from a variety of sources, conducting environmental surveys and technical assessments. We will also hold a wide range of engagement opportunities to gather input and feedback.

Through this process, we will evaluate and compare the advantages and disadvantages of the line routes and station site alternatives based on criteria in the four categories below:



Natural environment

- Vegetation
- Waterbodies and aquatic habitat
- Terrestrial wildlife habitat
- Species at risk
- Wetlands, natural hazards and floodplain areas



Socio-economic environment

- Agricultural resources and operations
- Residential properties
- Commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational and other business facilities



Indigenous culture, values and land use

- Indigenous interests (cultural sites, traditional areas, historic lands and resources)



Technical and cost

- Land rights and considerations
- Construction complexity
- Line length and angles
- Co-location of existing infrastructure
- Road access suitability
- Conflicts with underground utilities

*not an exhaustive list of examples in each category

Project development timeline*



* Subject to change. In order to meet the electricity needs of the region as quickly as possible, we are looking for opportunities to advance some milestones.

Community engagement

As an Ontario-based company of 9,600 skilled and dedicated employees, Hydro One is dedicated to investing in the communities where we live and work.

Early, meaningful and open engagement helps shape our project planning. Feedback is critical as we plan and develop the project.

We will offer a range of engagement opportunities to gather input and will continue to listen to communities, residents and the public as we build the electricity system in southwest Ontario.

We encourage you to sign up for our project contact list at **HydroOne.com/EnergizeEssexCounty**



Working with Indigenous communities

At Hydro One, we work to build and maintain respectful, positive relationships with Indigenous communities across Ontario.

We foster lasting partnerships rooted in respect, transparency and collaboration. Our approach extends beyond consultation by working together to ensure Indigenous perspectives, knowledge and values help inform project planning and delivery, while creating meaningful opportunities for Indigenous businesses, employment and community benefits.

Each new line Hydro One builds is also an opportunity for partnership with First Nations and to buy goods and services from Indigenous suppliers.

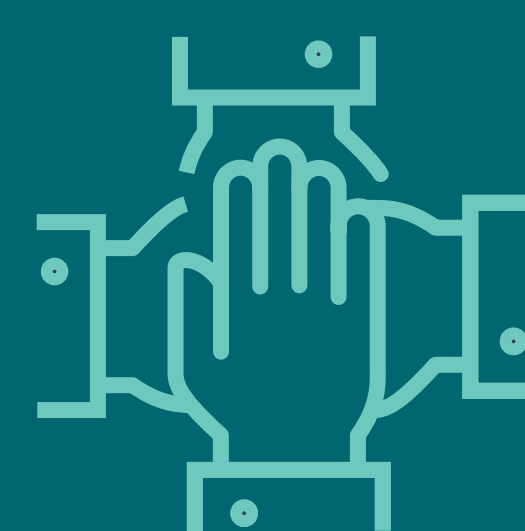
Learn more at HydroOne.com/IndigenousRelations



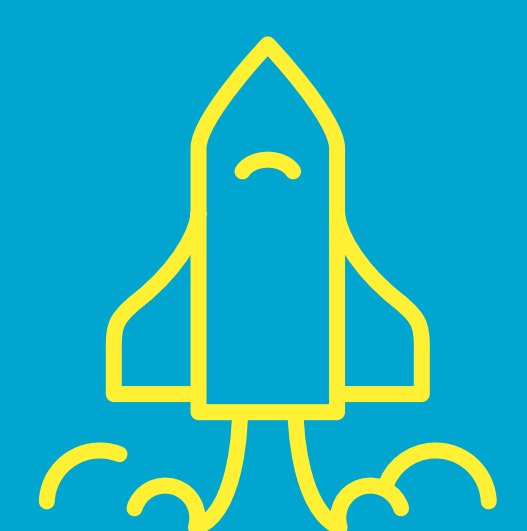
**Excelling at
engagement**



**Working with
integrity**



**Holding
ourselves
accountable**



**Breaking
barriers**



Thank you

Your input is important to us. Please share your feedback with our team and complete a comment form before you go.

To provide comments or to be added to the project contact list, please call or email:



1-877-345-6799



Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

For the most up-to-date project information and updates, visit our project website:



HydroOne.com/EnergizeEssexCounty

