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A closer look at the OEB Innovation Sandbox Challenge projects

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is supporting six projects with one-time funding and regulatory guidance through its Innovation Sandbox Challenge. Here is a closer look at those projects:

Proponent	Project Summary	OEB Funding/Total Project Cost
Alectra Utilities Corp. (Alectra)	Alectra will build upon its existing e-Mobility customer engagement platform, through which it will test the ability of residential customers with Level 2 electric vehicle chargers to participate in demand response events. That would allow them to reduce their energy use during times when electricity demand is high. The project will also offer an online greenhouse gas reduction calculator and use artificial intelligence to raise awareness of incentives and other information targeted for individual customer needs.	\$325,000/\$2,587,576
Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)	Hydro One will engage with low-income customers so they may participate in Hydro One's new residential demand response program, <i>myEnergy</i> , and will gain insight into effective low-income customer outreach and programming. Up to 400 customers will be equipped with smart thermostats to control electric baseboard heating, to allow them to participate in this program.	\$174,000/\$445,000
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. (Oakville Hydro)	Oakville Hydro will leverage its customer engagement strategy, including Green Button data implementation, and expand on its digital interaction with customers to help them understand and assess their energy transition options (e.g., solar, storage, heat pumps) based on their electricity usage. Customized analysis will be provided to customers to help improve their understanding of their role in the energy transition.	\$120,000/\$170,000
Pollution Probe	Pollution Probe will develop a framework to help rural, remote and Indigenous communities better understand, participate in and benefit from energy innovation to help	\$100,000/\$145,000

Proponent	Project Summary	OEB Funding/Total Project Cost
	meet net-zero targets. This project aims to recognize and incorporate the unique and diverse motivations, needs and means of these communities in achieving net zero. This framework would be available for use by local governments, utilities and community leaders.	
Powerconsumer Inc. (Powerconsumer)	Powerconsumer aims to build an understanding of which areas of the energy system will best benefit from distribution system operators (DSOs) enabling flexibility markets. Flexibility markets are a way for distributors to allow for demand-side participation from customers, encouraging those customers to modify their level and pattern of electricity usage. The project will leverage existing pilots to enable scalable flexibility markets in Ontario.	\$400,000/\$1,972,240
Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN)	TTN will investigate the challenges and opportunities arising from the energy transition for First Nations communities. The project will examine how Indigenous community renewable energy projects can be scaled to enable First Nations involvement in the energy transition, while also examining net metering and alternate business models and ownership structures. It will also compare socio-economic and financial impacts of existing projects with what would have been achieved if other business models or organizational structures had been in place.	\$351,000/\$468,000

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For more information, please visit the OEB website at oeb.ca or contact us directly.

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