



Empowering the Community:

Durham's Nuclear Sector Strategy
2022-2032



2026 Update

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Acknowledgement

We extend our sincere appreciation to all Regional employees, Indigenous community representatives and partners who contributed to the development of this strategy in 2022; and to the members of the Nuclear Sector Working Group who continue the important work of implementation. Your dedication and expertise are vital to advancing Durham Region's leadership in the nuclear sector.



Joint Message from the Regional Chair and Chief Administrative Officer

For half a century, Durham Region has been a proud host community at the forefront of nuclear innovation. Today, Durham sits at the centre of Canada's clean-energy transformation—advancing first-of-a-kind projects, building a world-class workforce and strengthening the partnerships that keep our community safe, healthy and prosperous.

This momentum is real and accelerating. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has authorized construction of Canada's first grid-scale small modular reactor (SMR) at the Darlington site in Clarington—a historic step that will deliver reliable, non-emitting power and anchor a new generation of clean-energy jobs. The federal government has also identified the Darlington New Nuclear Project as a project of national significance, underscoring its role in Canada's long-term energy security and economic growth. The CNSC has approved continued operation of Pickering Units 5 to 8 through 2026, and the province has directed Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to refurbish Pickering B. If approved, this pathway would extend the station's life for decades, while sustaining thousands of highly skilled jobs. And now, with the establishment of the Centre for Fusion Energy, the region is at the forefront of next-generation clean energy innovation—unlocking research, partnerships and future economic opportunities in fusion technology.

Durham's contributions now extend well beyond generation. With the launch of the Central and Eastern Ontario Isotope Alliance, our region is helping secure life-saving medical

isotope supplies for patients here and around the world. New private sector investment, including GE Vernova Hitachi's SMR Engineering and Service Centre in Durham, will support the long-term operation of SMRs by deepening local expertise, strengthening supply chains and training the next generation of nuclear professionals.

We also recognize our responsibilities as a long-time host community. As these national projects move forward, Durham will continue to champion community safety, environmental protection, emergency preparedness, and community fiscal and socio-economic well-being across the full lifecycle of nuclear projects, alongside the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC).

Grounded in respect for the treaty and traditional territories of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, we will continue to work closely with Indigenous rights holders, local municipalities, industry, academia, and community partners. Together, we will grow understanding; maximize prosperity; sustain and protect our environment and quality of life; and lead and develop partnerships that benefit current residents and future generations.

Yours truly,

John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

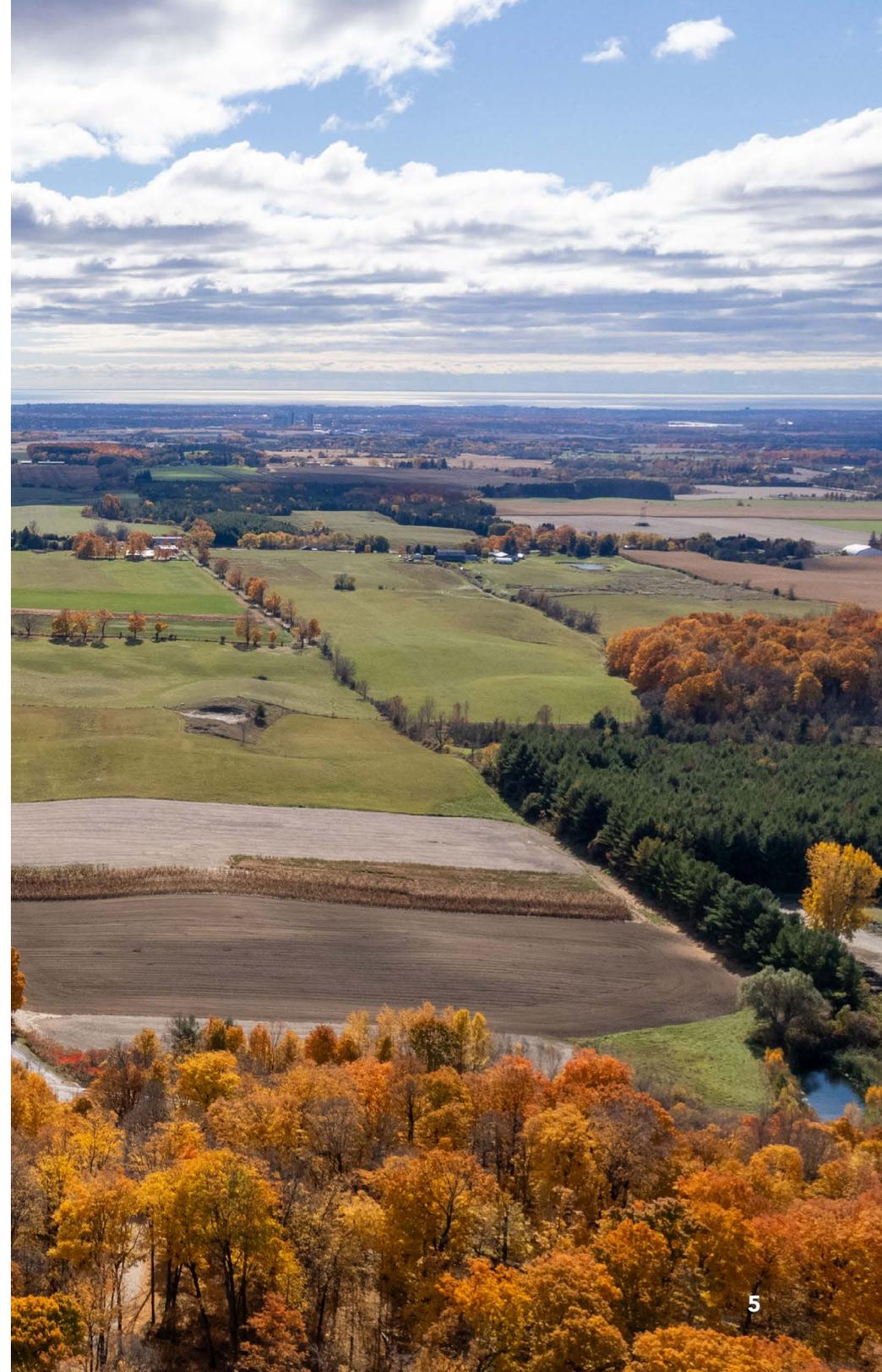
Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer



Introduction

When Durham Regional Council approved the Nuclear Sector Strategy in 2022, the Region was already recognized as Canada’s premier nuclear jurisdiction—home to world-class generating stations, a robust supply chain, and leading academic and research institutions. The strategy was guided by principles that remain as relevant today as when the strategy was adopted. It is **aligned** with our strategic plan and legislated responsibilities, **future-focused** to deliver benefits for generations, and **community-centered** to prioritize safety and well-being. It **respects Indigenous rights and treaties**, fostering trust and reciprocity, and it recognizes Durham Region’s role as a **connected** partner in Canada’s clean energy future.

Now, nearing the mid-point of the strategy, the nuclear sector landscape has changed dramatically—both locally and nationally. This update provides a comprehensive overview of the key developments and local action that have shaped Durham’s nuclear future since 2022.



Major developments since 2022

1. Continued senior government support

- The federal government [designated](#) the Darlington New Nuclear Project as one of five “projects of national significance,” underscoring its critical role in Canada’s clean energy transition and long-term energy security.
- Ontario re-affirmed its commitment to major nuclear projects at the [Provincial-Territorial Summit](#), including SMRs and large-scale refurbishments, and called for federal regulatory reforms to accelerate clean energy deployment and strengthen energy security.

2. Darlington New Nuclear Project milestones

- In April 2025, the CNSC [issued](#) a Licence to Construct for a grid-scale SMR (GE Vernova Hitachi’s BWRX-300) at Darlington—the first in the G7. OPG is now planning four SMRs at the site. The first unit is targeted for commercial operation in 2029, with the remaining three units by 2035.

3. Pickering Nuclear Generating Station refurbishment

- The CNSC [authorized](#) continued operation of Pickering Units 5 to 8 through to December 2026.
- In 2025, Ontario [announced](#) that it approved OPG’s plan to refurbish Pickering Units 5 to 8. The refurbishment will extend the facility’s operations for up to 38 years. Pending final licensing approvals from the CNSC,

refurbishment will begin in early 2027, with completion expected by the mid-2030s. Once completed, the Pickering Units will generate an increased capacity of up to 2,200 megawatts (MW) of electricity, equivalent to powering 2.2 million homes.

- In 2026, the CNSC will [host hearings](#) on OPG’s Pickering Nuclear Generating Station Power Reactor Operating Licence (PROL). The application includes the request to undertake the planned refurbishment of Units 5 to 8; to progress the decommissioning of Units 1 to 4; and to consolidate the licensed activities currently authorized under the Pickering Waste Facility Operating Licence (WFOL), with those under the PROL. This will streamline regulatory processes.

4. New nuclear at Wesleyville

- Ontario has directed [OPG to explore new large nuclear generation](#) at its Wesleyville site on the border of Durham Region in neighbouring Northumberland County, initiating engagement with local and Indigenous partners.

5. Medical isotopes

- The [Central and Eastern Ontario Isotope Alliance](#) (CEOIA) was launched in 2024 to grow the regional isotope ecosystem and drive innovation.

- In 2025, Ontario launched an advisory panel to help double medical nuclear isotope production by 2030.
- Darlington Nuclear Generating Station has ramped up the harvesting of [Helium-3](#) (He-3) from tritium—supplying material for border security, medical imaging, and quantum computing applications.
- Commercial production of [Molybdenum-99](#) (Mo-99) is underway at Darlington, providing a vital medical isotope for diagnostic imaging.
- [Cobalt-60](#) (Co-60) is produced at both Darlington and Pickering, supporting medical and industrial uses around the world.
- The CNSC has [approved a licence amendment](#) at Darlington to enable production of Yttrium-90 (Y-90) and Lutetium-177 (Lu-177), part of a new generation of targeted radionuclide therapies that deliver radiation directly to cancer cells while protecting healthy tissue. Y-90 production is set for 2026, with Lu-177 to follow in 2027.
- Ontario has [announced](#) that OPG will work to provide a secure and reliable supply of tritium, supporting the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Group’s advanced fusion research and facilities.

1. Supply chain growth and private sector investment

- OPG opened its new headquarters campus in Oshawa welcoming 2,000 highly skilled staff from across the Greater Toronto Area, and beyond.

- Durham Region continues to experience significant growth in the nuclear supply chain, with major companies expanding their local presence. Recent investments include AtkinsRéalis launching a nuclear engineering office in Pickering with 150 engineers and project managers, Black & McDonald establishing a new facility in Pickering employing more than 85 staff, and Laurentis Energy Partners opened its new head office in Oshawa, providing dedicated space to support a growing workforce, foster innovation in nuclear solutions, and advance leadership in the global isotope supply chain. These expansions strengthen the region’s role as a hub for nuclear expertise.
- In 2025, GE Vernova Hitachi [announced](#) a \$70 million SMR Engineering and Service Centre in Durham Region, creating hundreds of jobs and expanding local expertise.

2. Decommissioning and waste management

- The [Port Granby Project](#) was completed in 2022; the site is now naturalized and under long-term monitoring.
- The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) selected Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Township of Ignace as host communities for [Canada’s used-fuel Deep Geologic Repository](#) (DGR), with operations expected to begin in the 2040s.
- In 2025, NWMO [launched a new process](#) for a second repository for intermediate-level waste, with formal site selection expected to begin in 2028.

1. Academic leadership and workforce development

- Ontario Tech University is evaluating the potential to enrich the student experience by adding a subcritical assembly, also referred to as a “teaching reactor.” This facility would be the only one of its kind in Canada, serving as a central hub for research in nuclear energy. The assembly could facilitate advanced knowledge creation and foster the development of new technologies, promoting innovation and supporting economic growth.
- Ontario Tech University has expanded its SMR and used-fuel research, secured [new federal funding](#) for advanced diagnostic tools and TRISO fuel safety, and continues to lead as Canada’s only undergraduate nuclear engineering program and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Collaborating Centre. Researchers are also exploring [nano-reactor concepts](#) to broaden access to clean energy.

Looking ahead

The pace of change, and scale of opportunity, have never been greater. Regular monitoring, reporting, and strategy review will ensure Durham remains agile, informed, and ready to lead in Canada’s clean energy future. This update reflects the dynamic evolution of the nuclear sector and reaffirms Durham’s commitment to shaping a safe, prosperous, and sustainable future for all.





Powering the future: key milestones for Durham Region

OPG selects GE Vernova Hitachi's BWRX-300 as the SMR technology for Darlington's new nuclear project

Durham Region launches Nuclear Sector Strategy

OPG begins site preparation for the Darlington SMR and submits Licence to Construct application

Darlington becomes capable of producing Mo-99

CNSC amends Pickering licence—Units 5 to 8 authorized to operate through December 31, 2026

NWMO selects Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and Township of Ignace as host communities for Canada's used-fuel DGR

2021

2022

2023

2024

CNSC renews Darlington's site-preparation licence for 10 years

Port Granby Project completed; naturalized site continues to be monitored

Ontario announces planning and licensing for three additional SMRs at Darlington

Ontario announces plans for refurbishment of Pickering Units 5 to 8

Darlington Unit 1 refurbishment completed ahead of schedule; unit returns to service

Photo by: Ontario Power Generation Inc.
 This Tunnel Boring Machine – nicknamed Harriett Brooks after Canada's first female nuclear physicist – will help carve the path for OPG's SMR project.



CNSC authorizes OPG to construct one BWRX-300 SMR at Darlington (Licence to Construct)

GE Vernova Hitachi announces BWRX-300 Engineering and Service Centre investment in Durham Region

OPG submits early application to renew and consolidate Pickering PROL/WFOL licences to 2036

Darlington Nuclear Generating Station granted a 20-year operating licence extension

Ontario announces establishment of new Centre for Fusion Energy in collaboration with AECL, Stellarex Group Limited, and OPG.

Darlington Refurbishment Project final unit scheduled for return to service

2025

2026

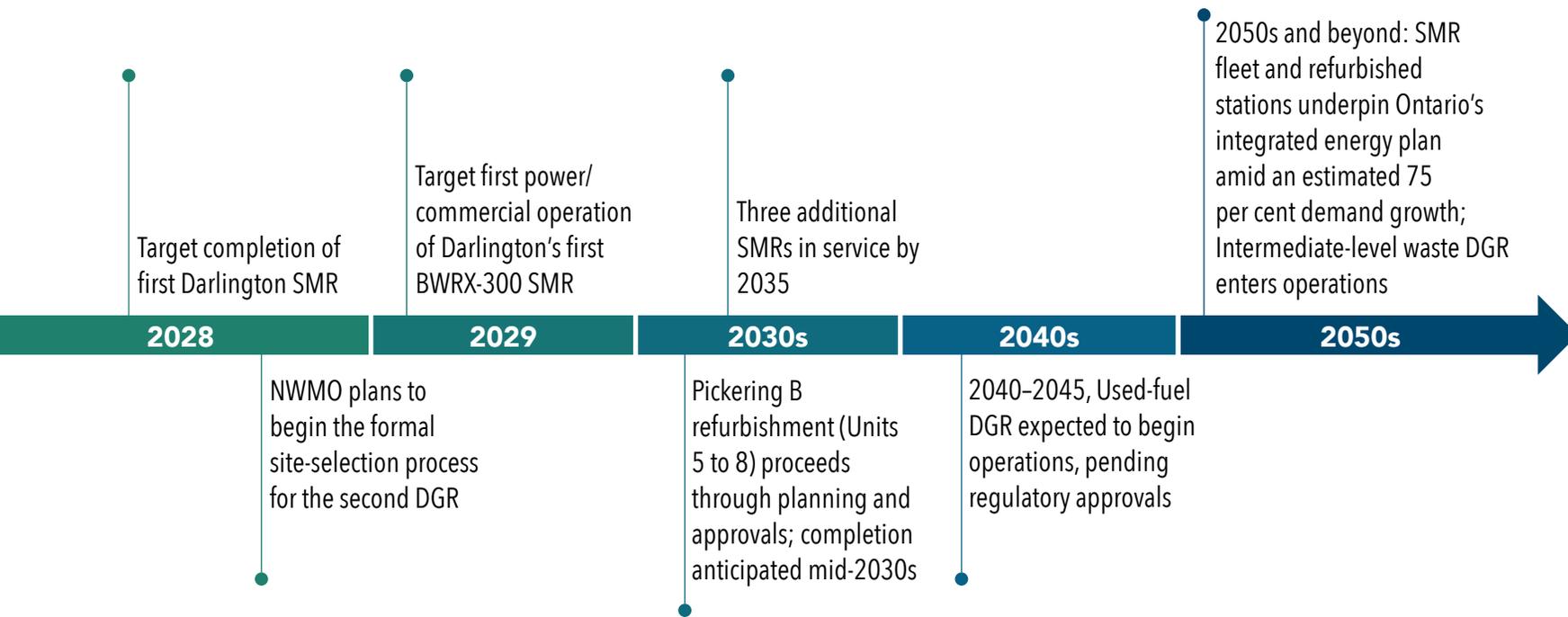
Darlington Unit 1 begins producing Cobalt-60 medical isotope following refurbishment modifications

Central and Eastern Ontario Isotope Alliance (CEOIA) launches to grow the region's isotope ecosystem

NWMO launches engagement for a second DGR for intermediate-level and non-fuel high-level radioactive wastes

Ontario approves OPG's plans to refurbish Pickering Units 5-8 pending regulatory approval

Durham Region Nuclear Sector Strategy Review

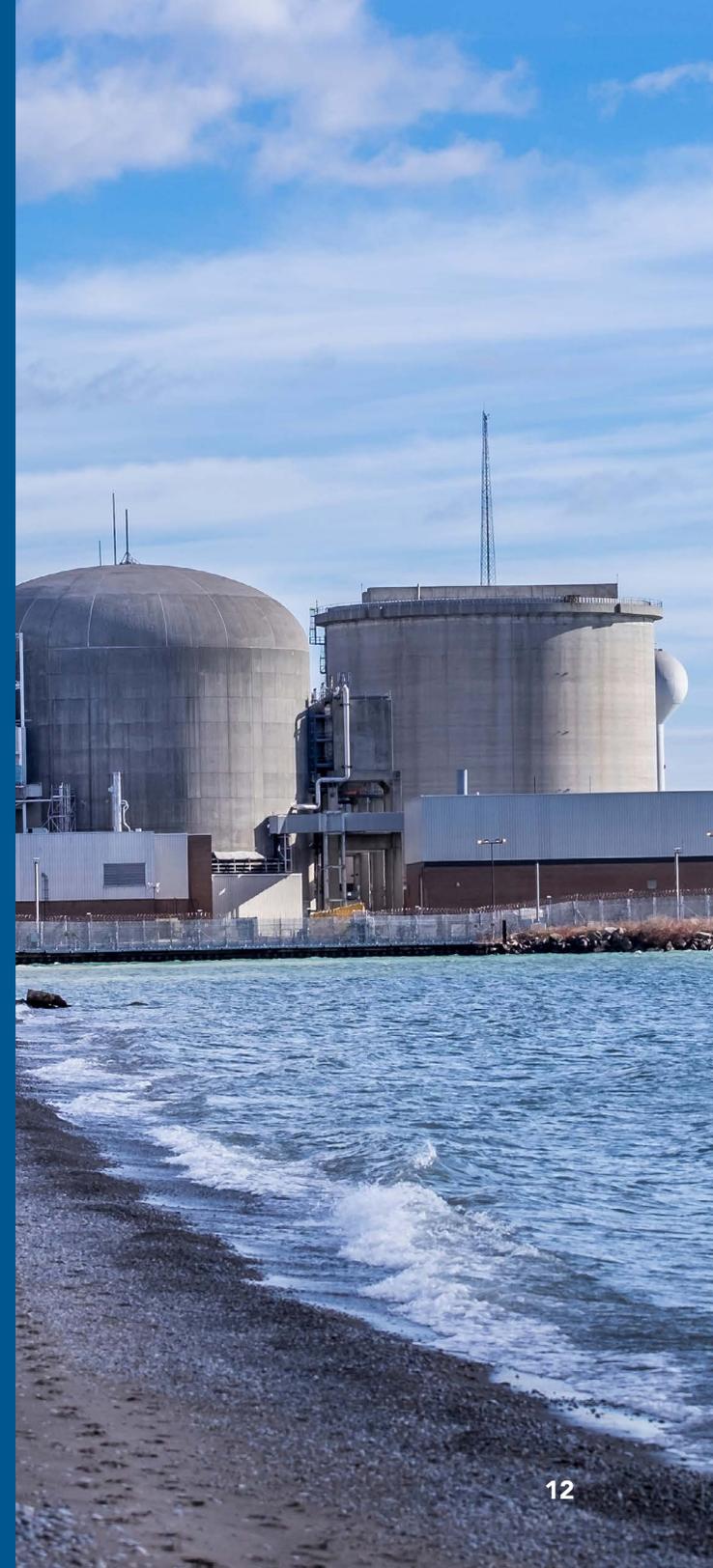


Goal 1: Grow understanding of the nuclear sector among Regional Council, staff and the community

Desired outcomes:

- Increased understanding by Durham Regional Council, staff and the community of the challenges and opportunities associated with being one of Canada's premier nuclear jurisdictions, including the role of nuclear in electrifying transportation and heating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improved intergenerational knowledge transfer among Regional Council, staff and community members throughout the nuclear lifecycle (see Appendix D: nuclear generating station lifecycle).
- Improved alignment and consistency among Regional staff communications.
- Increased community engagement and participation in nuclear sector engagement opportunities and planning.

To achieve these outcomes, Durham Region identified the following actions:



Action	Status
<p>Continue and expand the nuclear sector working group to grow understanding of the nuclear sector by educating Regional and municipal staff on nuclear topics and projects, sharing knowledge, and ensuring institutional knowledge transfer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear Sector Working Group meets quarterly to share updates and discuss programs. Educational sessions are regularly a component of these meetings.
<p>Engage effectively with Regional Council and other elected officials on topics related to the nuclear sector through presentations, reports for information or endorsement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional staff regularly develop updates to Council on nuclear regulatory proceedings and the broader energy sector. • OPG is invited annually to present an update to Council.
<p>Survey elected officials, staff and the community regularly to monitor awareness, identify and address knowledge gaps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-year community awareness survey, in partnership with Ontario Tech University, was completed in 2024.
<p>Develop and maintain a nuclear education package for Council orientation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A council orientation package is under development for the 2027 to 2030 term.

Action	Status
<p>Develop and implement an integrated community awareness program to make accessible and current information available, increase knowledge, and promote participation in planning and regulatory processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2022 to 2024 Durham Region promoted the Nuclear Sector Strategy through social media. • The Region leads comprehensive annual campaigns related to emergency preparedness, potassium iodide and economic development. In 2024, Durham Emergency Management created a nuclear emergency preparedness guide by zone. • Through the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC), Durham Region is working with the CNSC to increase public awareness of regulatory processes.
<p>Conduct research on topics related to being a nuclear host community and share findings with the community, rights holders and partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing. For example, Durham Region participated in the City of Pickering’s study of the financial, social and economic impacts of decommissioning the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. • Durham Region is currently participating in a study co-ordinated through a working group of CANHC.
<p>Use research findings to identify opportunities and best practices to continually improve community outreach and engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing. For example, targeting Emergency Preparedness Week communications campaigns based on community awareness survey results.

Goal 2: Build prosperity by maximizing the benefits of being a nuclear host community and Canada's premier centre of the nuclear industry and innovation

Desired outcomes:

- Increased investment, research, and job creation in Durham's nuclear energy sector.
- Develop a strong, diverse talent pipeline to support a nuclear energy innovation ecosystem, in partnership with industry and post-secondary institutions.
- Develop a reputation as a respected, innovative source of medical isotopes.
- Increased local manufacturing to support Canada's SMR technology development.
- Develop a reputation internationally as the global centre of nuclear expertise.



Action	Status
<p>Continue to participate in the pan-Canadian SMR Action Plan and work with other levels of government, Indigenous communities, the nuclear industry, post-secondary partners, and local area municipalities to help energize Canada’s low carbon economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Region is partnering with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation on a Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) partnership. CEDI, implemented by the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), aims to improve economic prosperity for First Nations and adjacent municipalities through joint planning and initiatives. Its approach—convene, listen, and unite—creates opportunities for mutual learning, collaboration on shared priorities, and building respectful, sustainable government-to-government relationships. • Beyond these priorities, there is significant potential to collaborate on the energy file. By working jointly on energy initiatives, we can leverage Indigenous knowledge alongside regional expertise to advance sustainable energy solutions, support economic development, and ensure our energy policies reflect the values and needs of both communities. • Durham Region is advancing the future of hydrogen by partnering with Ontario Tech University’s Brilliant Energy Institute to establish a Hydrogen Commercialization Hub. This initiative draws on Durham’s strengths in clean energy and its dynamic network of technology innovators, industry associations, and industrial producers. The Hub is actively seeking partners and investors to join their ecosystem, collaborate on a comprehensive value chain assessment, and help shape the future of hydrogen innovation in Durham Region. • Durham Region continues to partner with the Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) and Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) to advance shared priorities.

Action	Status
<p>Work with OPG and others to advance and accelerate repurposing plans for Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, such as attracting medical isotope production and processing operation, a research facility, and other innovative low-carbon energy facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action is no longer required, as Pickering Nuclear Generating Station is now proceeding with refurbishment rather than decommissioning and repurposing. A new action item has been added to the strategy to reflect our continued desire for local growth in the medical isotope industry and other innovative low-carbon energy facilities.
<p>Work to attract nuclear sector supply chain companies to relocate to Durham Region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Region has taken proactive steps to position itself as a hub for nuclear supply chain investment and innovation, including the development of strategic resources such as the Future Energy webpage, the Accelerating Energy Innovation white paper, and the Energy Innovation: Talent Pipeline one-pager, all of which highlight the Region’s leadership, vision, and workforce readiness. • The Region is actively engaging industry through participation in major trade shows and conferences—such as Hannover Messe and the World Nuclear Expo—to showcase Durham’s energy innovation ecosystem and attract global investment, while also promoting investment-ready employment lands, including a regionally owned 20-acre parcel in the Clarington Energy Park.

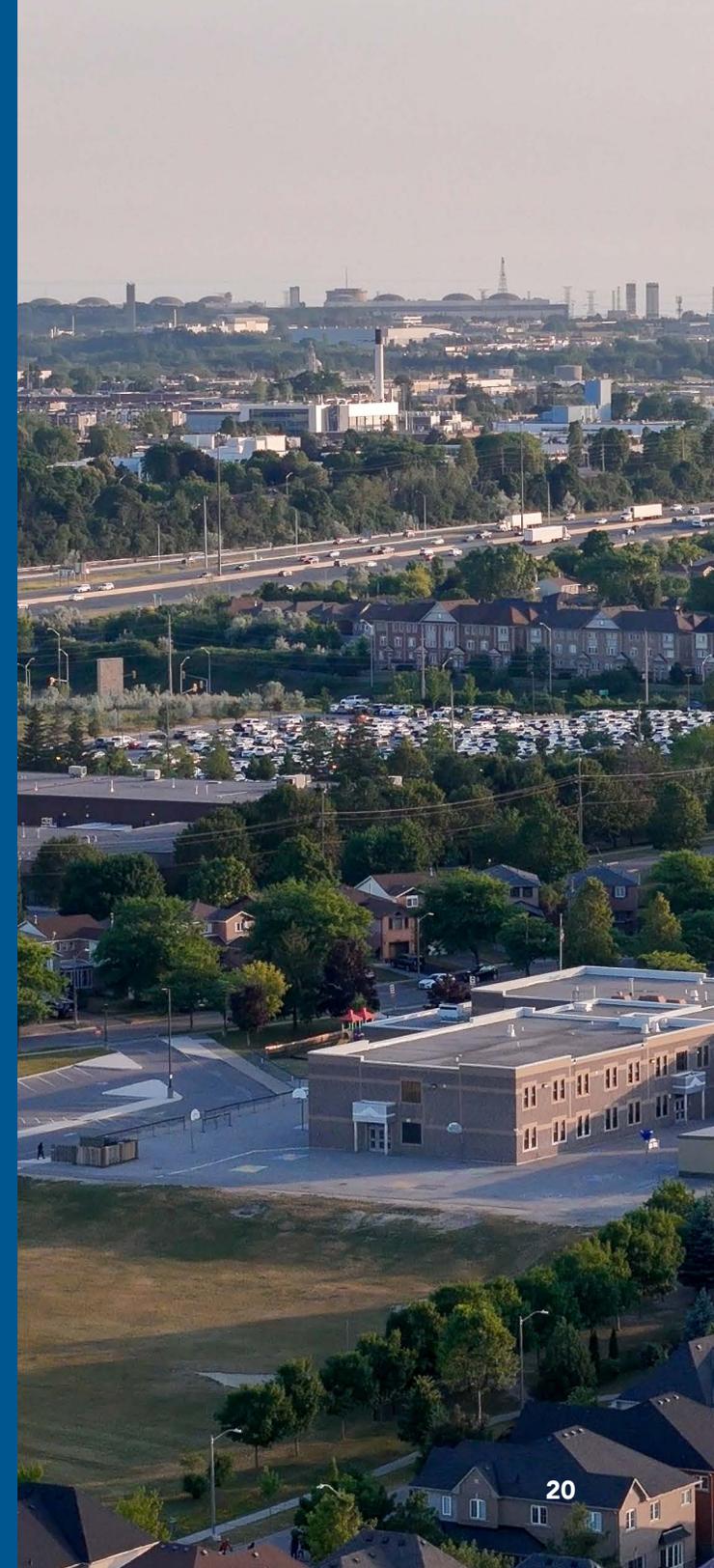
Action	Status
<p>Continue to foster our partnership with the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Sustainability to realize local investments and nuclear decommissioning research, supply chain and employment opportunities to Durham Region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No longer applicable. OPG is no longer proceeding with decommissioning, and the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Sustainability has therefore ceased operations.
<p>Revised action item:</p> <p>Work with industry and post-secondary institutions to support nuclear sector talent pipeline including through experiential learning through CityStudio Durham.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear Sector Working Group partnered with students at Durham College in 2022 to undertake research on international host community arrangements in nuclear communities. • A Workforce Development Strategy and Action Plan, 2027 – 2031, is under development. The Plan seeks to align workforce strategies with the needs of priority sectors, while proactively addressing global trends. The plan emphasizes the importance of promoting inclusive, high-quality employment in the Region that offers meaningful growth opportunities and helps to attract and retain top talent across the Region.
<p>Support the development of OPG’s new headquarters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with OPG, Durham Region Transit has introduced a dedicated employee shuttle service connecting OPG and the Durham College Oshawa Go Station. This first of a kind employer agreement will provide sustainable community for OPG employees and serve as a blueprint for future employer pass projects across the region.

Action	Status
<p>New action item:</p> <p>Work with OPG and other partners to advance isotope production, refinement and processing in Durham Region including the establishment of a new research reactor facility to support isotope production, materials research and education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham is a member of the Canadian Nuclear Isotope Council (CNIC) and has joined the Central Eastern Ontario Isotopes Alliance (CEIO) to strengthen collaboration with industry partners and position the region as a key contributor to Ontario’s isotope production goals.
<p>New action item:</p> <p>Work with OPG, Stellarex, AECL, and other partners to establish Durham Region as a hub for fusion energy innovation by supporting the development of the Centre for Fusion Energy and related research infrastructure.</p>	

Goal 3: Protect and sustain the community by addressing the impacts and opportunities of being a nuclear host community

Desired outcomes:

- Development of financial arrangements that recognize the responsibilities associated with being a nuclear host community.
- Offset municipal and broader community socio-economic impacts associated with the retirement of Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.
- Increased capacity for the Region to anticipate and prepare for changes related to nuclear projects in Durham.
- Preserve/restore affected lands and waters.



Action	Status
<p>Research, plan for and mitigate socio-economic and fiscal impacts (e.g., direct and indirect job loss, loss of property tax, user rate and other municipal revenue) of each phase of the decommissioning process at Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action is no longer required, as the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station is now proceeding with refurbishment rather than decommissioning and repurposing.
<p>Participate in nuclear regulatory processes and policy development across all levels of government to protect Regional and local interests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Region regularly participates in regulatory proceedings (e.g., OPG’s application for a Licence to Construct a reactor facility for its Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP), Part 2 Hearing; OPG’s application for a Power Reactor Operating Licence Amendment for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station; OPG’s application to amend its power operator licence for the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station to allow for the commercial production of cobalt-60); and submits comments on CNSC Regulatory Document reviews (e.g., REGDOC 2.10.1, Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response). Additionally, emergency management, emergency social services and the Durham Region Health Department participated in Ontario’s engagement of proposed modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (ongoing) and updates to the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (2021-2025).

Action	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham will participate in the federal Impact Assessment for the proposed Wesleyville project. Ongoing collaboration with OPG and other proponents will ensure that Durham’s interests are represented early in planning and decision-making for Wesleyville and related projects.
<p>Incorporate Indigenous knowledge into our policies and practices by making decisions with future generations in mind and focusing on principles of environmental stewardship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the adoption of the strategy, Durham has established an Indigenous relations role within the Community Growth and Economic Development Department. This marks an important step toward embedding Indigenous knowledge into our policies and practices, ensuring decisions are made with future generations in mind and guided by principles of environmental stewardship.
<p>Work with federal and provincial ministries and agencies to ensure that community well-being is a key consideration in nuclear policy decisions (e.g., around waste management, transportation, and decommissioning).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is ongoing through CANHC. • Durham will participate in future NWMO initiatives, recognizing that a significant volume of nuclear waste is currently stored within the region. These efforts ensure that community interests remain central to nuclear policy decisions at both federal and provincial levels.
<p>Negotiate formal financial arrangements that sustain the fiscal and socio-economic well-being of the Regional community and maintain the social licence for nuclear facilities throughout their life cycle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham continues to advocate for the fiscal and socio-economic well-being of the community in alignment with local municipalities through regional positions in regulatory submissions. Additionally, staff continue to engage to negotiate formal financial arrangements that support the sustainability and social licence of nuclear facilities throughout their life cycle.

Action	Status
<p>Seek federal support in advance of generating station closure, during safe storage and during decommissioning phases to mitigate economic impacts and assist the Region and City of Pickering with economic diversification and renewal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action is no longer required, as Pickering Nuclear Generating Station is now proceeding with refurbishment rather than decommissioning and repurposing.
<p>Apply policy techniques to identify strengths and weaknesses, review trends and future alternatives for the sector to consider how the Region might respond to potential changes and opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nuclear Sector Working Group plans to conduct a strategic foresight exercise to explore potential futures for the nuclear sector in Durham Region. This exercise aims to identify future trends and signals, and develop strategies for various plausible outcomes. By systematically exploring these potential futures, the exercise will help identify challenges and opportunities, enabling the development of adaptive and future-ready strategies and policy decisions. Ultimately, this will foster corporate preparedness, risk mitigation, and innovation.
<p>Assess the opportunities to engage existing Regional Council advisory committees (e.g., Durham Nuclear Health Committee, Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change) and Regional engagement in other advisory committees on strategy implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Durham Nuclear Health Committee’s role is restricted by its mandate, and the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change is now managed by the Brilliant Energy Institute at Ontario Tech.

Goal 4: Lead and develop partnerships within the nuclear sector to build leadership capacity and influence decision-making

Desired outcomes:

- Increased knowledge sharing—about the experience of being a nuclear host community—among the Region and other municipalities, Indigenous communities, and provincial and federal ministries and agencies.
- Improved capacity for Durham Region to engage in and influence nuclear policy and provincial and federal decision-making.
- Increased collaboration on environmental stewardship and economic opportunities with Indigenous communities, OPG and other partners.
- Improved communication, co-operation and alignment with local area municipalities, other nuclear communities, Indigenous rights holders, and local elected officials on matters related to the nuclear sector.
- Increased interaction and co-operation with the nuclear industry, academia, and provincial and federal ministries and agencies on nuclear sector matters.



Action	Status
<p>Foster relationships with, and among, Indigenous rights holders and industry to increase communication and identify partnership opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are actively fostering relationships with Indigenous rights holders to enhance communication and identify partnership opportunities. To support this effort, a Manager of Indigenous Relations role has been created within the Community Growth and Economic Development Department. This role is crucial in facilitating ongoing dialogue, building trust, and ensuring that our initiatives align with the needs and priorities of Indigenous communities. • We regularly partner with OPG on strategic initiatives and continue to explore new opportunities for collaboration. For example, OPG was a key partner in Durham Region’s Intelligent Community Award submission and is featured in the ‘Proud to call Durham home’ campaign.
<p>Establish formal partnerships with OPG, academia, Indigenous communities, and other nuclear sector organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant milestone in this effort is the Bi-lateral Agreement with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation—marking our first formal arrangement. This agreement sets the foundation for collaborative initiatives and strengthens our commitment to fostering respectful and sustainable relationships. • In our partnerships with academia, we are actively involved in the CityStudio Durham project and have a partnership with the Brilliant Energy Institute on the Roundtable for Climate Change. Additionally, Ontario Tech faculty are members of the Region’s Durham Nuclear Health Committee, contributing their expertise and insights. • In partnership with OPG, we currently have formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in place for emergency management, potassium iodide distribution, and collaboration with the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS).

Action	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region continues to partner with OPG on various initiatives, including participating in OPG’s Community Power Expo.
<p>Create regular opportunities to discuss and advocate on nuclear matters with MPs and MPPs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues to secure senior government clean energy investments that reinforce Durham’s position as the Clean Energy Capital of Canada. Government relations staff regularly meet with Ministers and Deputy Ministers. At AMO 2025, Durham Regional Chair Henry advocated directly with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, highlighting Durham’s leadership in district energy and the importance of community benefits for existing nuclear communities. A major milestone was achieved through the Provincial Fall Economic Statement (FES) 2025, which announced a joint \$3 billion federal–provincial investment to fund four Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at Darlington.
<p>Actively participate in, and work with other nuclear host communities to build capacity and strengthen the role of CANHC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Region collaborates with other nuclear host communities to build capacity and strengthen the role of CANHC. As a member of CANHC, Durham Region supports a sub-committee consisting of Ontario reactor communities. This allows us to share best practices, address common challenges, and advocate for the interests of nuclear host communities at a broader level.

Action	Status
<p>Establish a regular information forum to learn from leading nuclear sector experts, local area municipalities, Indigenous rights holders, and partners to engage in discussions, network, and share lessons learned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a first step to establishing a regular information forum, we co-sponsor the Host Communities Reception at the Canadian Nuclear Association conference. This strategically positioned event brings together all CANHC members, along with senior leaders from across the nuclear sector. The reception provides a valuable opportunity for networking, engaging in discussions, and sharing lessons learned among leading nuclear sector experts, local area municipalities and others.
<p>Attend and participate in nuclear sector conferences and events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff attend the Canadian Nuclear Association conference as well as related tradeshow, industry days, and community events.

Conclusion

The nuclear sector continues to shape Durham Region in significant ways—bringing both opportunities and responsibilities. While this report outlines a timeline of anticipated developments, we recognize that this sector is highly dynamic. It is shaped by global geopolitics, economic conditions, technological advances, and regulatory decisions.

Looking ahead, our priority is to remain informed, engaged and ready to adapt. Staff will continue to make the nuclear sector a focus by participating in regulatory processes for new developments, advocating for innovation, and supporting progress toward a permanent solution for nuclear waste.

By staying forward-looking and responsive, we can help ensure Durham is prepared for change, able to mitigate risks, and positioned to capture opportunities that align with our community’s values and long-term vision.



If you require this information in an accessible format,
please contact Communications and Engagement at
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or 311, extension 3743.