

Centralized Capacity Information Map

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the CCIM?

The centralized capacity information map (CCIM) is an online tool created by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to give users a high-level view of where there's available capacity on Ontario's electricity distribution systems. In simple terms, it helps users see two main things:

- Available load capacity: The ability to serve new or expanded electricity demand.
- Available hosting capacity for DERs: The ability to connect new projects like solar panels, wind turbines, or battery storage

2. What is the intended use of the CCIM?

The CCIM is a planning aid, designed for early-stage screening. Users can use the tool to quickly check which areas might be suitable for their project before contacting a distributor. The map shows capacity in broad ranges and reflects system conditions at the time distributors submitted their data. It's not a substitute for detailed assessments, as conditions can change and every project has unique requirements.

3. What is the difference between the available load capacity and the available DER hosting capacity map environments?

The CCIM provides two distinct map environments because they serve different purposes:

- The **Available Load Capacity** map environment shows areas of the electricity distribution system that can accommodate new customer loads—such as housing developments, commercial buildings, or industrial facilities—without requiring major system upgrades. This helps businesses and developers identify locations where connecting new demand is likely to be simpler and faster.
- The **Available DER Hosting Capacity** map environment focuses on the ability of the grid to integrate DERs like solar panels, battery storage or other generation facilities. It highlights where the system is expected to be able to host additional generation without causing reliability or safety issues. Data is provided for a range of typical project types, such as inverter- or non-inverter based installations, as well as for projects designed only to displace a customer's load rather than inject power.

Both map environments are intended for preliminary screening only and do not replace any formal connection application or Connection Impact Assessment (CIA) process. They provide early insights to help users plan projects and reduce uncertainty before engaging in detailed engineering studies.

4. Which stakeholders would benefit from using the CCIM?

The CCIM is designed for anyone planning electricity-related projects in Ontario. Key stakeholders include:

- **Project developers** and businesses looking to identify areas where new or expanded electricity demand can be connected easily.
- **Renewable energy and DER** developers assessing where solar, wind, or battery projects can be hosted without major grid upgrades.
- **Municipal planners and consultants** seeking high-level capacity insights for community growth or electrification strategies.
- **Large energy consumers** evaluating suitable locations for new facilities.

The CCIM provides early-stage screening to reduce uncertainty before engaging distributors for detailed assessments.

5. What level of information does the CCIM provide?

The CCIM gives users a quick snapshot of system conditions based on the latest data from distributors. It shows capacity in broad ranges so they can get a sense of how complex a connection might be before reaching out to a distributor. The CCIM is meant to give users a starting point for planning. It is not a substitute for working with distributors. The map shows system conditions at a specific moment, and those conditions can change. That's why we stress the importance of connecting with distributors early.

6. What level of information does the CCIM provide?

The CCIM brings together capacity data submitted by Ontario's licensed electricity distributors, in accordance with standardized reporting requirements established by the OEB. While the reporting is standardized, each distributor calculates available capacity using methodologies appropriate to their specific system characteristics, operating practices, and planning criteria.

7. What level of information does the CCIM provide?

In some instances, data may be unavailable if:

- The electrical information within the area is below 4.16kV,
- There are no electrical assets nearby,
- Users have not zoomed in at a level needed to display detailed information,
- Information on certain electricity system assets is not disclosed for privacy or security reasons or
- Data for the area has not been integrated into the CCIM yet.

Users should be advised to contact the distributor servicing that area for additional information for any area where information appears not to have been reported.

8. How often is the CCIM data updated?

The CCIM is refreshed on a quarterly basis. Each update reflects distributor data submissions based on system conditions at the time of preparation. The map displays a timestamp showing when data was last updated, so users can see how current the information is. For the most up-to-date capacity details, it's best to check with the servicing distributor.

9. Where can users find detailed instructions on how to use the CCIM?

For step-by-step instructions on how to use the CCIM, as well as explanations of the most used tools used in the map, refer users to the CCIM User Guide.

To access the *User Guide* from the CCIM, click **Menu** in the top right corner of the page and select the **Download User Guide** option from the drop-down list. The *CCIM User Guide* opens in a new tab.

10. What level of information does the CCIM provide?

This is the first version of the CCIM. The OEB will monitor how the map is being used and identify opportunities to enhance its features and functionality.

11. When should users contact the OEB about the CCIM?

The OEB encourages users to contact distributors to discuss their project in detail, and get information on things like connection impact assessments, recent system changes, site-specific factors, and technical requirements.

However, users should contact the OEB regarding the following topics:

- Accessibility (see contact information below)
- CCIM functionality and features at industryrelations@oeb.ca.

12. Is the CCIM WCAG (AODA) compliant?

Yes. For any inquiries regarding the accessibility of the CCIM, requests to receive the information in an alternate format or to provide any feedback regarding how the CCIM provides its information to people with disabilities, please advise users to contact the OEB via any of the following channels:

- **Email:** AODA@oeb.ca
- **Mail:** Accessibility Coordinator, Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319, 2300 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1E4
- **Telephone:** 1-877-632-2727 (toll-free within Ontario)
416-314-2455 (within Greater Toronto Area or from outside Canada)
- **Fax:** 416-440-7656