

Colleagues,

As the Economic Development Strategy (2026–2030) moves toward final endorsement, I am writing to propose the addition of a focused initiative on **Energy and Water Infrastructure Readiness**. I ask that staff review this concept and consider whether it warrants incorporation into the final strategy before it returns for endorsement.

### **The Opportunity**

London draws its water supply from both Lake Huron and Lake Erie. That dual-source redundancy is relatively uncommon among mid-sized cities competing for industrial investment.

London Hydro has the potential to not only drive new revenue opportunities, but also innovation and job creation. With the Province of Ontario signaling a significant shakeup in the energy industry and the need to greatly expand capacity by 2050, the City of London and London Hydro can be at the forefront of those discussions rather than on the periphery.

The draft Economic Development Strategy recognizes that successful investment attraction for advanced manufacturing and technology-intensive industries carry significant and growing energy and water demands. For many investors, supply reliability is a critical site selection criterion, and London has infrastructure advantages in this area, particularly for priority sectors including advanced manufacturing and agrifood processing.

Access to fresh water is an advantage, but it also carries responsibility. Supporting economic growth and being a good steward of clean, safe, and sustainable water are not competing priorities. London's membership in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative reflects both sides of that commitment; it is a multinational coalition advancing a blueprint for a continental freshwater economy while contributing to its long-term protection.

A structured assessment of where capacity stands today and where it needs to be can provide prospective investors with the right information to support site selection decisions. London Hydro is planning for growth; the City can partner with Hydro to plan for industrial growth scenarios and coordinate responses where gaps emerge and municipal action adds value.

### **The Ask**

I am asking that staff, in partnership with infrastructure providers, consider adding a focused **Energy and Water Infrastructure Readiness** initiative to London's economic development strategy, including:

- Identifying capacity thresholds and gaps under different sector growth scenarios
- Coordinating with London Hydro to address gaps where City action adds value
- Drawing on our participation in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to inform assessment and planning, and strengthening the region's position as a location for investment

### **The Expected Outcome**

My intention through this initiative is that London can tell prospective investors exactly what energy and water capacity is available, what is planned, and when. It is to remove potential infrastructure uncertainty as a barrier to investment decisions.

## Strategy Alignment

Pillar	Strategic Relevance
Pillar 2: Investment Attraction and Retention	Directly addresses investment readiness by creating infrastructure certainty in London's priority sectors.
Pillar 3: Regional Collaboration	Regional advocacy for trade-enabling energy and water infrastructure. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative membership provides a working platform for this.

Sincerely,



Mayor Josh Morgan  
City of London