

RURAL POWER UPGRADE WHAT WE HEARD REPORT 2026

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

This report captures input shared through stakeholder engagement activities completed for the Rural Power Upgrade Program. Feedback from rural residents, municipalities, agricultural organizations, customers and advisory committee participants will help inform program planning, customer experience improvements, communication approaches and infrastructure priorities.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Rural Power Upgrade is a long-term investment to modernize Saskatchewan's rural power infrastructure. The program is intended to improve reliability, increase system capacity, expand access to three-phase power, and support future economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

WHAT WE DID

Engagement activities included focus groups, interviews and meetings with stakeholder organizations, online engagement, SARM Convention engagement, and a Rural Municipality Administrators Association survey and presentation. A Rural Advisory Committee was also created to better understand the needs of rural service, build trust, and identify opportunities for future engagement and education.

WHAT WE HEARD

The following themes summarize the feedback received so far. This is not a final list, and additional input is welcome.

RELIABILITY AND CAPACITY

- Strong support for upgrading rural electrical infrastructure.
- Reliability and reduced outages are top priorities.
- Expanded three-phase power access is increasingly important for farms and businesses.

AFFORDABILITY AND FAIRNESS

- Concerns about upgrade costs and affordability were raised consistently.
- Customers want transparent pricing and fair cost-sharing approaches.

AGRICULTURAL NEEDS

- Infrastructure should accommodate larger equipment and growing electrical demand.
- Future planning should consider irrigation, grain drying, shops, EVs and emerging technologies.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Stakeholders want early, proactive and transparent communication.
- Local contacts and clear project information are important.
- Plain-language communication is strongly preferred.

COORDINATION AND PLANNING

- Improved coordination with municipalities and agencies is needed to provide earlier notice, clear points of contact and more consistent updates.
- Data sharing and alignment with future development plans can improve outcomes.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND TRUST

- Trust is built through consistent communication and collaboration.
- Customers want to be treated as partners throughout project delivery.

WHAT IS NEXT

Feedback will be used to refine program design, improve customer experience, support communication planning and guide infrastructure priorities. Additional engagement, public reporting, municipal outreach, post-construction feedback collection and ongoing advisory committee involvement are expected as the program progresses.

STAY INVOLVED

Stakeholders will continue to have opportunities to participate through online engagement, municipal outreach, and future consultations as Rural Power Upgrade projects advance across Saskatchewan. It's not too late to share additional comments or questions.

Please contact us:

CALL: 1-855-554-4040

EMAIL: PublicEngagement@saskpower.com

THINGS WE CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A PROJECT



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE:

We engage Indigenous communities to seek invaluable knowledge. Local and Indigenous knowledge refers to the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings like hunting, fishing, trapping, ceremonial and spiritual uses.



ENVIRONMENT:

We consider our potential impacts on many environmental aspects like designated lands, land cover, and heritage resources, as well as on sensitive plants, animals, and their habitats. When it's not possible to avoid these environmental features, we'll work with Rightsholders, stakeholders, and regulators to find the most responsible way to mitigate impacts. We follow SaskPower's Environmental Beneficial Management Practices.



LAND USE:

We recognize that land and resource use is important to agricultural operations, property owners, communities and resource users like hunters and trappers, commercial operators, nature, environmental organizations and the public. We consider how resources or access to resources may be affected as well as community land use plans and proximity to communities, residences, habitable buildings, outbuildings.



SOCIAL:

We consider the social value communities place on landscapes, points of interest, economic benefits to local communities, job opportunities and recreation activities.



TECHNICAL:

We consider engineering and construction standards as well as access, terrain, design, system reliability, proximity to required and other existing infrastructure. SaskPower is committed to ensuring public safety and safe access for construction and maintenance activities.



COST:

We consider capital costs (project budget), operating budget (long term maintenance), land acquisition costs and impact on power rates.



WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

Tell us in the feedback form provided.