

Draft 04
Vineland tour and roundtable discussion
Premier's roundtable back pocket remarks
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- Hello, bonjour
- Thank you XX for that introduction

It's great to have the chance to tour Vineland and see the research being done to promote a sustainable horticulture industry

- Your new Collaborative Greenhouse Technology Centre demonstrates the innovative work you are doing
- Greenhouse production is an integral part of our changing agricultural industry — with controlled environments and large, consistent yields
- Our government wants to support this kind of innovative thinking that grows our province's economy and creates good jobs in agriculture
- And that means listening to your concerns

We've heard about the cost of electricity for households and businesses

- And we've already taken a number of steps to push these electricity rates down...
- We removed the Debt Retirement Charge from residential bills...
- Made electricity more affordable for low-income families through the Ontario Electricity Support Program ...
- Renegotiated the Green Energy Invest Agreement with Samsung...
- And phased out dirty, polluting coal-fired electricity in our province

But the cost of building a clean and reliable energy grid after decades of neglect pushed hydro rates up

- And even with these programs, the price of power continues to rise here, just as it has across Canada and around the world
- So we're taking more steps to help by removing the provincial portion of HST on electricity bills
- That's an 8 per cent savings for millions of families, farms and small businesses every month

Last week, Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault announced that we've decided to suspend the IESO's large renewable procurement

- Halting the procurement of over 1,000 megawatts of renewable and waste energy projects
- Our clean and reliable grid means we have enough energy supply
- Instead, we will review the role of continued procurements as part of the next long-term energy plan set to begin later this fall
- This will save up to \$3.8 billion in electricity system costs

We know that the price of electricity is an important consideration for businesses looking to expand or invest

- So we are also massively expanding the Industrial Conservation Initiative — making 1000 new business eligible
- The program helps businesses manage their electricity costs by rewarding conservation efforts with lower rates
- Reducing electricity costs by up to a third

This expansion supports the kind of sustainable technology being developed at places like Vineland

- A place that is changing the way we grow our vegetables, fruits, flowers and plants
- It's all part of our commitment to building a competitive, low-carbon business environment for today and tomorrow

Now I'd like to hear from you — your thoughts and concerns as we take these important steps to grow the industry

[Premier participates in roundtable discussion]