Home Energy Retrofits
Q&As
October 31, 2016

KEY MESSAGES:

- **We're helping families fight climate change and reduce their energy bills at the same time**
- **Rebate programs that help people do energy-saving home renos and retrofits work — people want to upgrade their homes, lower their bills and protect the environment**
- **As of today, 37,000 more homeowners can get an energy audit that tells them the best ways to save energy and they can get more rebates of up to $5,000 to help pay for those retrofits**
- **Small changes can have a big impact — on your monthly bills and for our planet**
- **So we're fighting climate change by helping people make little changes that, over time, will add up to big GHG reductions**
- **People should call Enbridge or Union Gas right now to request and energy audit and learn how they can benefit**

FRENCH KEY MESSAGES:

Q. How does this home energy retrofit rebate program work?

A. As part of our Green Investment Fund, we're helping Union Gas and Enbridge Gas expand the capacity of their existing home energy audit and retrofit programs so that more households can lower their emissions and their bills.

Homeowners across Ontario can now contact Union Gas or Enbridge Gas Distribution or other qualified energy companies to apply.

These programs will help about 37,000 more homeowners conduct audits to identify energy-saving opportunities and then complete retrofits, such as replacing furnaces, water heaters and upgrading insulation.

The programs will be available to single-family homes across Ontario that are heated with natural gas, oil, propane and wood, including those homes served by a natural gas utility other than Union Gas or Enbridge Gas Distribution.

These retrofits are part of a $100 million commitment from Ontario's Green Investment Fund.

Q. How much money do you expect this will save the average homeowner on their heating bill?

A. The rebates will help homeowners pay for the costs of the retrofits up front — so there is an immediate savings on the cost of construction or new equipment. [Can we get an average breakdown from the existing programs – average cost of upgrades and average percentage of that covered by the rebate?] After that, households will save on their energy bills year after year because they won't need to burn as much gas or fuel. Energy-efficiency home renos have been shown to save $1.50 to $4 for natural gas consumers for every dollar invested.

For example, if you invest $5,000 to retrofit your home with new insulation you could save as much as $XX over XX. [period of time]

Q. Energy retrofits can be costly up front. How much of a rebate would people receive when replacing a furnace, for example?

A. Each program has its own parameters, but no matter which you choose, you would see a difference.

To qualify for retrofit rebates through Enbridge, a homeowner must achieve a minimum 15 per cent gas or alternative fuel savings annually. The maximum incentives level, including audit rebates, is $2,100. [Answer the question: what does a furnace cost?]

With Union Gas, homeowners are paid for each measure installed up to a maximum of $5,000. This includes a bonus for more than two measures.

Q. Why are you taking this approach and not focusing on direct reductions to people's electricity bills?

A. Messaging from ENERGY to come

Q. How many homeowners do you anticipate taking part in the rebate program?

A. These newly active programs will help about 37,000 more homeowners conduct audits to identify energy-saving opportunities and then complete retrofits, such as replacing furnaces, water heaters and upgrading insulation.

The programs will be available to single-family homes across Ontario that are heated with natural gas, oil, propane and wood, including those homes served by a natural gas utility other than Union Gas or Enbridge Gas Distribution.

Q. How is this different from previous energy retrofit programs offered by the Government of Ontario?

A. This investment is being used to increase the availability of existing home energy audits and retrofit programs offered by Enbridge Gas Distribution, Union Gas and other certified home energy companies.

It will help about 37,000 more homeowners have certified home energy audits conducted to identify energy-saving opportunities for their homes and then it will help those people complete retrofits by providing rebates.

Q. What is the cost of the program to the government?

A. The province is investing $100 million from the Ontario Green Investment Fund (GIF) to help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes, reduce their energy bills and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Ontario's Green Investment Fund is a $325-million down payment on the province's cap and trade program to strengthen the economy, create jobs and reduce these environmentally harmful emissions.

Cap and trade proceeds are being reinvested in programs exactly like this, to help people lower their emissions and literally insult themselves from what we know will be the rising price of polluting energy sources.

The world is increasing its efforts in the fight against climate change. Ontario needs to be prepared in every way, and that includes making our homes more efficient.

Q. How does this fit into the government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

A. Energy retrofit programs reward real, measureable actions people can take to reduce their carbon footprint.

Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan calls for cutting greenhouse gas pollution to 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, 37 per cent by 2030 and 80 per cent by 2050. The government will report on the plan's implementation annually and renew the plan every five years.

This investment in particular is expected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 1.6 Megatonnes.

Q. Why are Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas administering these programs?

A. Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas have a successful track record of offering home energy audits and retrofit programs. In 2014, Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas residential energy efficiency programs resulted in a 500,000 tonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

These new programs will leverage and build upon those existing programs, and make them available to more homes across Ontario, including those that are heated with natural gas, oil, propane and wood.

The programs will also be available to single-family homes across Ontario that are heated with oil, propane and wood, as well as homes served by a natural gas utility other than Union Gas or Enbridge Gas Distribution.

Q. Are other types of buildings, such as apartment buildings and office towers eligible under these retrofit programs?

A. No. There are other programs and plans in place for office and apartment buildings.

To date, Ontario has reduced energy use in larger buildings through conservation programs, stricter requirements in the Building Code, product efficiency regulations, greening electricity, and improved access to energy information for consumers.

Ontario is building on progress made. The province will continue to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in existing housing and other buildings, and ensure new buildings do not contribute to increased net greenhouse gas pollution.

To achieve the 2016 budget commitment, Ontario intends to invest in initiatives that both reduce greenhouse gas pollution and ensure that the net impact of cap and trade would not result in an overall increase in electricity costs for commercial and industrial consumers.

Actions in this part of the plan are designed to help the buildings sector continue to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. They include actions to improve efficiency in multi-residential buildings and public institutions; to establish long-term greenhouse gas reduction targets in the Building Code and introduce low-carbon content requirements for natural gas; and to support workforce training.

Additional Questions:

37,000 is a fraction of the homes in Ontario. What happens if 500,000 people apply?

How many people are utilizing these programs prior to today's announcement?

If these programs already exist and 37,000 households did not participate last year, how can you expect to increase uptake? How will these programs be advertised so people know about them?