

Ontario Working to Reduce Electricity Costs for Consumers

New Measures Would Help Families and Businesses Save Money

NEWS

September 16, 2016

Ontario introduced new legislation yesterday that would, if passed, reduce electricity costs for about five million residential consumers, small businesses and farms. The province is also pursuing amendments to provide additional savings opportunities to more than 1,000 large energy consumers across the province.

Premier Kathleen Wynne was in Ottawa today to highlight savings for families and businesses in the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016. The proposed bill would save families, farmers and small businesses eight per cent directly on their electricity bills by providing a permanent on-bill rebate equal to the provincial portion of the HST. Rural consumers would receive an additional benefit from decreased rural delivery charges for eligible customers. Combined with the eight per cent rebate, this would mean average savings of \$540 a year or \$45 each month for eligible rural customers.

Building on [existing programs](#), including the Ontario Electricity Support Program, Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit and the Ontario Sales Tax Credit, these measures would deliver the electricity cost relief Ontarians need, while the government continues to make the critical investments necessary to maintain a modern, clean and reliable energy system.

The government is also proposing amendments to expand the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), empowering more than 1,000 more businesses to shift their consumption away from peak periods. The expanded ICI would include all sectors and have a lower threshold for participation, delivering savings directly to the consumer and the system as a whole.

Helping Ontarians with the cost of living is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The four-part plan includes helping more people get and create the jobs of the future by expanding access to high-quality college and university education. The plan is making the largest infrastructure investment in hospitals, schools, roads, bridges and transit in Ontario's history and is investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. The plan is also helping working Ontarians achieve a more secure retirement.

QUOTES

"To build this province up for everyone, people need clean and reliable electricity. But it also needs to be affordable. I have listened to people's concerns about how the price of electricity is adding to their daily pressures. And our proposed legislation is a solution that will save people money so that family budgets can go further."

— Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

“These actions will benefit all ratepayers in a meaningful way. Many rural and northern customers would receive significant rate relief. Expanding incentives across Ontario would create more opportunity for businesses to be competitive and manage their electricity costs. Permanently rebating provincial taxes from electricity bills will provide extra relief for families, farms and small businesses.”

— Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

[PLACEHOLDER FOR HYDRO OTTAWA QUOTE]

QUICK FACTS

- Since 2003, Ontario has invested more than \$35 billion in over 16,000 megawatts (MW) of new and refurbished clean generation, including nuclear, natural gas and renewables, representing about 40 per cent of Ontario’s current supply.
- The [Ontario Electricity Support Program](#) provides a monthly on-bill rate reduction to make electricity more affordable for low-income families.
- Ontario’s removal of the Debt Retirement Charge from electricity bills this past January is saving a typical residential electricity user about \$70 each year.
- Between 2015 and 2020, Ontario will invest over \$2.6 billion through its [Conservation First Framework](#) to help homeowners and businesses become more energy efficient and save money.

LEARN MORE

[Electricity Rate Relief for Consumers](#)

[Keeping Clean, Reliable Electricity Affordable and Lowering People’s Bills](#)

[Helping People in Their Everyday Lives](#)

[Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan](#)