

Ontario to Introduce Legislation to Reduce Electricity Costs

Families, Farms and Small Businesses Will See Bill Reductions

NEWS

September 15, 2016

Ontario will introduce legislation today that would, if passed, reduce electricity costs for families and businesses.

Premier Kathleen Wynne was joined by Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault to announce details of the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016. The bill includes rebating the provincial portion of the HST from the electricity bills of residential, small businesses, and farms starting January 1, 2017. Additionally, the bill proposes measures to further reduce costs for rural families, and expanded relief programs for commercial and industrial electricity consumers.

This bill would provide a benefit to all electricity consumers in Ontario, including:

- Reducing the average Ontario residential electricity bill by 8 per cent on the amount before tax or \$11 each month
- Decreasing rural delivery charges for eligible rural customers by \$45 each month
- Reducing bills by up to one-third for businesses through an expanded Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI)

About five million residential consumers and more than 1,000 industrial customers would see a reduction in their electricity bills. Eligible rural electricity consumers would be provided an additional \$110 million in support by modernizing the Rural or Remote Rate Protection program (RRRP).

Helping Ontarians with the cost of everyday living and helping businesses compete are 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 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

[TBC Premier's Quote]

"This proposed legislation would benefit ratepayers in a meaningful way by reducing bills by 8 per cent for families, farms and many small businesses. Other initiatives would see rural and northern customers receive significant rate relief. Expanding incentives across Ontario would create more opportunity for businesses to be competitive and manage their electricity costs.

- Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

QUICK FACTS

- The Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) provides a strong incentive for large electricity consumers to shift their electricity consumption to off-peak hours to reduce their bills by up to one-third.
- The existing Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (RRRP) program is designed to reduce electricity delivery costs for customers located in rural or remote areas. The costs of providing electricity service to these areas are higher than to customers in higher density areas.
- Earlier this year, the province introduced the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) to provide a monthly credit to low-income households who have applied and meet the eligibility requirements.
- As outlined in the 2016 Budget and the Climate Change Action Plan, the government intends to recycle a portion of the cap and trade auction proceeds to offset the impact of cap and trade on industrial and commercial electricity consumers to keep rates affordable.

LEARN MORE

- [<link to BG #1 – use title>](#)
- [<link to BG #2 – use title>](#)
- [Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan](#)
- [Climate Change Action Plan](#)

Katrina Xavier, Minister's Office, 416-325-2690
Aslan Hart, Communications, 416-326-4542

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