

## Ontario Reducing Electricity Costs for Families and Businesses

*Five Million Families, Farms and Small Businesses Will See Bill Reductions*

NEWS

September 13, 2016

Ontario is taking action to reduce electricity costs and will introduce legislation to rebate the provincial portion of the HST from the electricity bills of residential, small business and farms starting January 1, 2017. Additionally, the government will introduce new measures to further reduce bills for rural families, and introduce expanded relief programs for commercial and industrial electricity consumers.

Over the last number of years, Ontario's economy has fully recovered from the impact of the global recession. While the province and independent economic analysis projects consistent economic growth for Ontario, many families are not yet feeling the impact of the recovery in their everyday lives. Therefore, Ontario intends to take action to help with the costs related to electricity.

Together, these actions 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 an average of \$45 each month
- Reducing bills by up to one-third for businesses through an expanded Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI)

About five million residential consumers, farms and small businesses, along with more than one thousand 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

"The actions we're announcing today would benefit all ratepayers in a meaningful way. Many rural and northern customers would receive significant rate relief through these initiatives. Expanding incentives across Ontario would create more opportunity for businesses to be competitive and manage their electricity costs. Rebating provincial taxes from electricity bills would provide extra relief for families, farms and small businesses."

- Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

Commented [SY2]: I think we need to make this conditional.  
Ontario is taking action "to rebate"

## 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 – this represents about 40 per cent of our current supply.
- Ontario eliminated coal-fired electricity generation, replacing it with cleaner sources of energy, which has decreased electricity sector emissions by approximately 80 per cent since 2003.
- 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.
- 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. Expanding ICI would reduce cost pressures on the electricity system by enabling more consumers to lower their electricity demand during peak periods.

## LEARN MORE

- [Ontario's Industrial Conservation Initiative \(ICI\) <link to BG>](#)
- [aRate Reductions for Electricity Customers <link to BG>](#)
- [Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan](#)
- [Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan](#)

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