

Ontario Reducing Electricity Costs for Families and Businesses

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News Release

Ontario Reducing Electricity Costs for Families and Businesses

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

As part of its balanced plan to build Ontario up and help people in their everyday lives, Ontario is taking action to reduce electricity costs and intends to introduce legislation that, if passed, would rebate the provincial portion of the HST from the electricity bills of residential, small business and farms as of January 1, 2017. Rural electricity ratepayers would receive additional relief and commercial, institutional and industrial ratepayers would also benefit from lower electricity costs.

Over the last number of years, Ontario's economy has recovered from the impact of the global recession. While the province and independent economic analysts project 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 Ontario residential electricity bills by 8 per cent on the amount before tax, an average savings of about \$130 annually or \$11 each month
- Providing eligible rural ratepayers with additional relief, decreasing total electricity bills by an average of \$540 a year or \$45 each month
- Empowering businesses to reduce their bill by up to 34 per cent through the expansion of the Industrial Conservation Initiative

About five million residential consumers, farms and small businesses, along with more than one thousand industrial customers will be positively impacted by these changes.

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.

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.
- To help reduce electricity costs, Ontario has already removed the Debt Retirement Charge from residential electricity bills and 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 use a portion of the cap and trade auction proceeds to reduce greenhouse gases by helping industrial and commercial electricity consumers use less electricity, which will also help 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- [Existing Programs To Reduce Electricity Costs for Consumers and Businesses](#)
- [Electricity Rate Relief For Ontario Consumers](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Read [Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan](#)
 - Read [Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan](#)
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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*

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