

Radio Transcript: CBC 530 News Story on Lowering Hydro Bills

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*As requested by Jennifer Beaudry

CBC 530 NEWS: HYDRO BILLS

Date: February 13, 2017
Station: CBC Radio (Toronto)
Length: 1:32 minutes
Speaker(s): Paul Sommerville, Executive Director, Mowat Energy

CBC: CBC Toronto has learned that the Wynne government is considering two moves that could reduce your electricity bill by about 8-per-cent. Sources say the Liberals are looking at slimming down the global adjustment fee and they are also considering changing programs to help low income hydro customers. The exclusive story now from our Queen's Park reporter, Mike Crawley.

REPORTER: The global adjustment is applied to your hydro bill to cover the billions in costs to refurbish Ontario's power plants and build new ones. It has ballooned over the past decade and now accounts for 85-per-cent of the price you pay per kilowatt hour.

PAUL SOMMERVILLE: The global adjustment is a significant contributor to the electricity rate.

REPORTER: Paul Sommerville is the head of energy policy research at the Mowat Centre think tank. His contacts in the industry are telling him the same thing that CBC News has heard from multiple government sources; that the Liberals are considering reducing the global adjustment.

SOMMERVILLE: I can see that being a positive and reasonable step for government to take.

REPORTER: Sources also say the government is looking at changing programs that help low income households with hydro bills. That could include shifting the cost of those programs off ratepayers and funding them instead through government revenues. Officials say no decisions have been made. In a statement, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said all options, within reason, are on the table. Mike Crawley, CBC News, Toronto.

CBC: And Mike has an in-depth look of the details of both of these programs. You can find them at CBC.ca/Toronto.