

Ontario Helping to Make Electricity More Affordable

Province Delivering Energy Efficiency Upgrades to Families

NEWS

October 23, 2017

Ontario is launching a new program to help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes, while reducing their electricity bills and carbon footprints.

Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy, joined by Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster—Dundas—Flamborough—Westdale, were in Hamilton today to launch the Fair Hydro Plan's [Affordability Fund](#). The \$100 million fund is supporting the free installation of household improvements such as energy-saving LED light bulbs, power bars, improved insulation, and energy-efficient air conditioners and refrigerators. The program is designed to help people who do not qualify for low-income conservation programs and who are unable to undertake energy efficiency improvements without support.

Electricity bill savings for households participating in the program will depend on the types of measures installed. For example, a home energy kit with two LED light bulbs and a power bar can help a household save about \$10 on their annual electricity costs, while an energy efficient refrigerator can help save about \$90 in annual electricity costs.

Visit the [Affordability Fund website](#) to find out if you're eligible and how to apply.

Lowering electricity bills and making life more affordable is part of Ontario's plan to create fairness and opportunity during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, easier access to affordable child care, and free prescription drugs for everyone under 25 through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation.

QUOTES

"In addition to our Fair Hydro Plan's 25 per cent on average reduction to all residential households, we are delivering even more savings to Ontario families through the Affordability Fund. By providing electricity customers with tools to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, we're helping reduce pressure on their pocketbooks and protecting the environment."
— Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

"This program is welcome news for electricity consumers in Hamilton who need extra help with their electricity bills. I'm pleased that our government is taking action to support those that don't have the means to pay for these household upgrades."
— Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster—Dundas—Flamborough—Westdale

QUICK FACTS

- The Affordability Fund is designed to help electricity customers who do not qualify for low-income conservation programs, and who otherwise couldn't make energy efficiency improvements without the support.

- Whether a customer rents or owns, or lives in a house or apartment, they may qualify. The different levels of support through the fund are based on people's total household income and average electricity bill.
- The Affordability Fund is administered by an independent trust, which includes representation from electricity distributors and community organizations.
- As of July 1, 2017, Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan reduced electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms across the province. As part of the plan, any increases to bills will be held to the rate of inflation for four years.
- Through the province's Fair Hydro Plan, the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) was expanded, providing 50 per cent more support in the form of monthly credits for people with low incomes and increasing eligibility.

LEARN MORE

Read more about how [Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan](#) has decreased energy bills.

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