

Reporter/Outlet: Chris Glover, CBC News
Topic: Smart meters/OESP
Deadline: ASAP

Questions/Responses:

How many people have joined the program?

As of August 31, 2017, there are over 190,000 households enrolled in the OESP.

How much does it cost the government to run?

As part of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, we will be shifting the OESP program to be funded by the tax base, which will reduce regulatory charges on electricity bills for all Ontario ratepayers.

How much is it saving the average person in terms of money?

Effective May 1, 2017, the eligibility for OESP expanded so that more Ontarians can receive the credit. OESP credits also increased by 50 per cent. Here is what that means for OESP recipients:

- Single, low-income consumers who receive the lowest credit amount received \$30 per month (\$360 per year). They will now receive \$45 per month (\$540 per year).
- There is also an enhanced credit for customers with unique electricity requirements, including electric heating, certain medical devices that use a lot of electricity, or Indigenous customers.
- For a single, low-income customer eligible for the enhanced credit, the amount is growing from \$45 per month (\$540 per year) to \$68 per month (\$816 per year).

How much is it saving in terms of environment?

N/A. The OESP provides a monthly credit to eligible customers based on household income and household size. The OESP credits are applied directly to eligible customers' bills.