

The Ontario government is taking action in order to help Ontarians with the cost of everyday living.

Ontario has done the heavy lifting in rebuilding aging transmission infrastructure and transitioning off cheap-but-dirty coal-fired generation. We have not lost sight of the pressure that these transformations have put on Ontarians facing increasing electricity prices.

In keeping with our commitment to affordable electricity, Ontario recently introduced new legislation that will benefit ratepayers in a lasting, meaningful way. This coming January, more than five million families, farms and small businesses would see bill reductions as Ontario offsets provincial taxes from residential and small business electricity bills.

The proposed *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016*, which is part of a package of reforms, would provide an eight per (8 %) cent rebate for all consumers eligible for the Regulated Price Plan.

For rural customers, who have been especially affected by increasing costs, we are providing an additional \$110 million in support of the Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) program.

This proposed funding increase to RRRP and the eight percent rebate which would be applied before tax would result in electricity bill relief of approximately \$45 per month for eligible RRRP customers – a significant savings for Ontario's approximately 330,000 rural electricity consumers.

Commented [CS(1)]: These are just H1 R2 customers.

For businesses, we will be lowering the threshold for participating in the Industrial Conservation Initiative from 3 megawatts (MW) to 1 MW. This will give more businesses the opportunity to significantly reduce their costs by reducing consumption during peak periods.

Additionally, as outlined in our 2016 Budget and the Climate Change Action Plan, Ontario is proposing to recycle proceeds to offset the impact of cap and trade on industrial and commercial electricity consumers to keep rates affordable. Most of these large consumers should see a modest reduction in costs through this initiative.

Commented [JPR2]: Double-checking: does the 1 MW threshold capture commercial customers? Thought it was primarily industrials.

The rebate and RRRP update would take effect on January 1, 2017. These changes are among the many actions our government has taken to help ease pressure on Ontario electricity consumers. Earlier this year we launched the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) and removed the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC), saving the average low-income family \$430 annually.

Existing programs that help reduce bills for Ontario families, include the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit, the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, the Save on Energy Home Assistance Program, and the Northern Ontario Energy Credit

The investments we are making are helping to secure a clean supply of electricity. An electricity system that is ready for the future, and a healthier environment for ourselves and our children.