

1. Why this issue was raised at this moment? Is this for provincial election?

We have heard from Ontarians across the province that the costs of these new investments have grown too quickly, which is why we are moving forward with a plan that will ensure costs are shared more evenly over the years ahead.

This plan is the biggest rate reduction in Ontario's history. It recognizes that the decision to invest in a clean, modern and reliable system was the right one – but that the costs of this decision should not be put on today's electricity bills alone.

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan includes:

- Refinancing the Global Adjustment (GA) over a longer term period for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) eligible consumers, including families, small businesses and farms.
- Helping vulnerable electricity consumers by enhancing electricity support programs and shifting costs off the electricity bill. Eligible consumers will receive additional funding through assistance programs including:
 - Establishing a new Affordability Fund which will support Ontarians who are not eligible for the Home Assistance Program and who have difficulty paying their electricity bills.
 - Broadening Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) to provide distribution charge relief for the customers of the local distribution companies (LDC's) with the highest distribution charges.
 - Expanding the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) to increase participation and provide further assistance to eligible participants.
 - Establishing a new On-Reserve First Nations Delivery Rate.
- Improving sector efficiency and modernizing Ontario's electricity market, working in collaboration with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).
- Any rate increases over the next four years will be held to the rate of inflation.

Last year, we offered Ontarians much needed relief by introducing a series of measures to help make life more affordable. This includes:

- Introducing the Ontario Electricity Support Program
- Introducing a rebate equal to the provincial portion of the HST to reduce bills by 8% pre-tax
- Additional relief for eligible rural customers, and
- Expanding the Industrial Conservation Initiative so more businesses can take advantage of it.

2. Are we expecting more cuts in the near future?

The government has been working hard to reduce electricity ratepayer costs and will continue to look for efficiencies in the system wherever possible without compromising the reliability of our system.

3. Some financial experts said, the plan is cutting the bill we pay every year, but taxpayers will have to pay more in total by the end. What the government would say about this critics?

The government is dedicated to reducing electricity costs wherever possible, while maintaining reliability for all consumers.

The proposed initiatives would deliver significant on-bill savings for eligible electricity consumers.

With this proposed Fair Hydro Plan and as a result of the government's prudent fiscal management, the Ontario government remains committed to balancing the budget by 2017-18, recognizing that balance provides the foundation for the long-term well-being and prosperity of Ontarians.