

The Ontario government is taking action to help Ontarians with the cost of everyday living, through a series of measures to reduce electricity bills.

As of January 1, 2017, residential customers are eligible to receive an 8 per cent rebate on their pre-tax bill, equivalent to the provincial portion of HST. As a result, the typical residential user consuming [750 kWh per month] will save approximately \$130 per year.

Other eligible low-volume consumers, including many small businesses, would also receive the rebate

The amount of rural rate protection (RRRP) available to approximately 330,000 eligible rural customers living in low-density areas will also be increased from January 1st.

When combined with the 8 per cent rebate, on average these customers will see savings of approximately \$540 per year or \$45 each month

- **The 8% rebate and RRRP increase would be in addition to the existing programs that provide support to Ontario families in paying their bills:**
 - **The Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit saves qualifying individuals up to \$1,008 per year, with a maximum of \$1,148 per year for qualifying seniors.**
 - **The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program provides emergency financial support of up to \$600 for families and individuals having trouble paying their bills.**
 - **The saveONenergy Home Assistance Program was developed to help income-eligible homeowners and tenants manage their energy use and costs by offering detailed in-home energy assessments and installing energy-saving measures at no cost. Social and assisted housing providers also qualify for assistance in making their buildings more energy efficient.**
 - **The Northern Ontario Energy Credit helps families and individuals in Northern Ontario by providing tax credits for low- to middle-income families and individuals living in northern Ontario. The maximum annual credit for a single person is \$146, and for a family (including single parents), is \$224.**

ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SUPPORT PROGRAM:

- **The government recognizes that the price of electricity can be difficult for those that pay a higher share of their income towards the bill – particularly low-income families and seniors on a fixed income. For many low-income Ontarians, paying their electricity bill can be a challenge, with this monthly expense representing a greater portion of their income.**

- **That is why the OEB developed the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP), which provides an ongoing rate reduction directly on the bills of low-income electricity consumers who have applied and meet the eligibility requirements.**
- **OESP monthly credits range from \$30 to \$50. A household receiving the lowest OESP credit would receive \$360/ year off their bills, or \$425/ year when combined with the removal of the DRC.**
- **OESP customers with unique electricity needs could be eligible for a higher level of assistance.**

Ontario also intends to implement new measures to ensure that Ontario commercial and industrial ratepayers can also benefit from lower electricity costs.