

Ontario Providing Electricity Bill Relief

Families, Farms and Businesses to see benefits

NEWS

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Ontario is introducing legislation which would provide an 8 per cent (8%) pre-tax rebate on monthly electricity bills for nearly five million rural and urban residential electricity customers. Low-volume consumers, such as farms and small businesses would also see the rebate on their electricity bills.

The province is also putting forward measures that would assist rural electricity consumers and create even more opportunity for businesses to manage their electricity costs. Once in place, the package of reforms would take effect January 1, 2017.

In addition to the proposed legislation the measures include:

- Implementing the largest single rate relief ever for approximately 330,000 rural electricity consumers by updating the Rural and Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) and provide an additional \$110 million in support.
- Offering more businesses the opportunity to participate in the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) by lowering the eligible electricity threshold to from 5 MW to 1 MW. In addition, sector restrictions will be removed and small industrial, institutional and commercial businesses will be eligible to participate.
- Mitigating increased costs for commercial and industrial electricity consumers as a result of cap and trade by recycling proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account (GGRA) to offset the cost of ongoing emissions reduction initiatives.

Providing clean, reliable and affordable power for decades to come is part of the government's plan to build Ontario up. The four-part plan includes investing in people's talents and skills, making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history, creating a dynamic, innovative environment where business thrives and building a secure retirement savings plan.

QUOTES

"This legislation and other measures would benefit all ratepayers in a lasting, meaningful way. Rural customers would receive the largest single rate relief ever. Expanding industrial incentives across Ontario would create more opportunity for businesses to be competitive and manage their energy costs and the proposed rebate would add an extra relief for residential, small businesses, commercial farms and industrial customers."

— Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

QUICK FACTS

- Since 2003, the Province has invested more than \$35 billion in over 16,000 megawatts (MW) of new and refurbished clean generation, including nuclear, natural gas and renewables – this represents about 40% of our current supply.
- Ontario has taken action to replace coal-fired generation with cleaner sources of energy which has decreased electricity sector emissions by approximately 80% since 2003.
- Earlier this year, the province introduced the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) to provide a monthly credit to low-income households who have applied and meet the eligibility requirements.

LEARN MORE

- Backgrounders on the proposed 8% rebate, ICI, RRRP and GGRA
- Read Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan

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