

Ontario's Rate Relief Plan

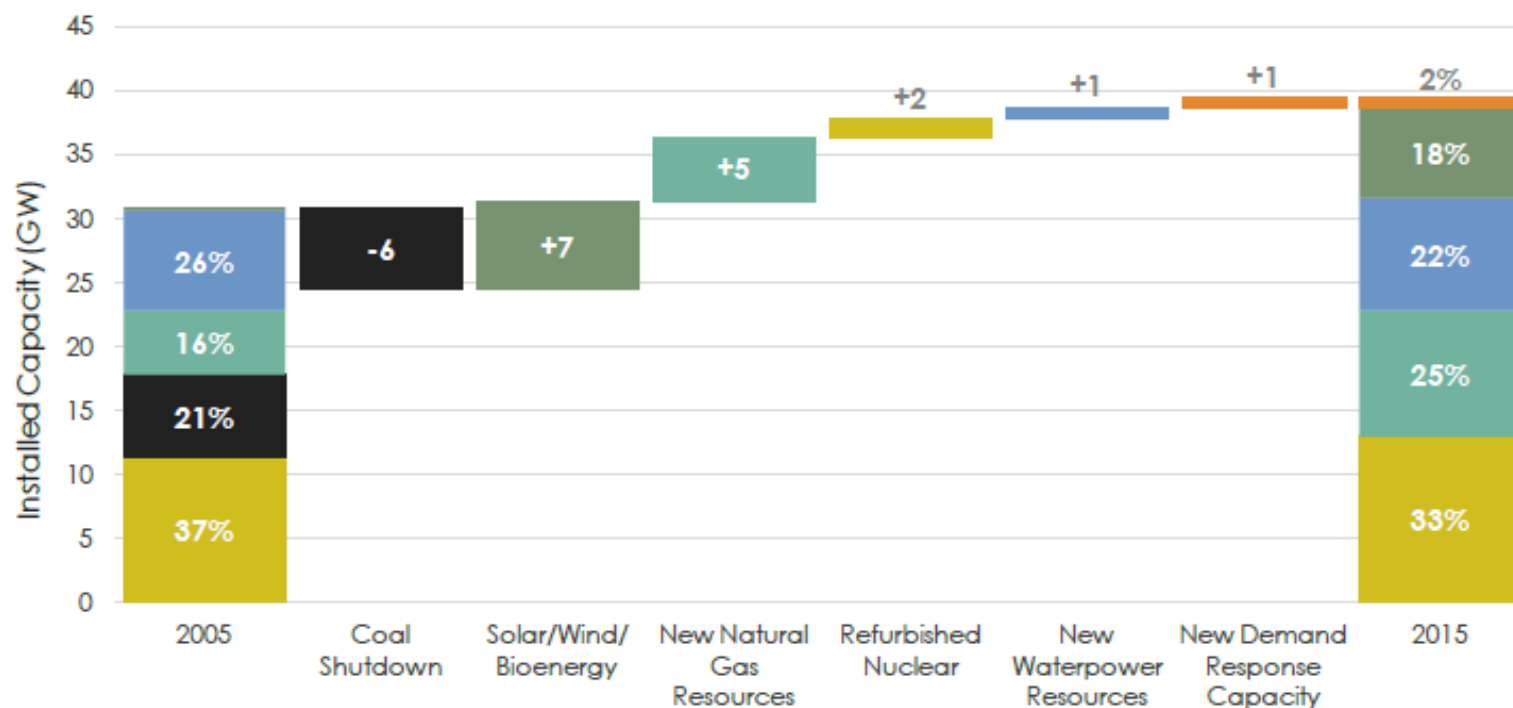
Technical Briefing

March 2017

Working Draft

Electricity System Investments

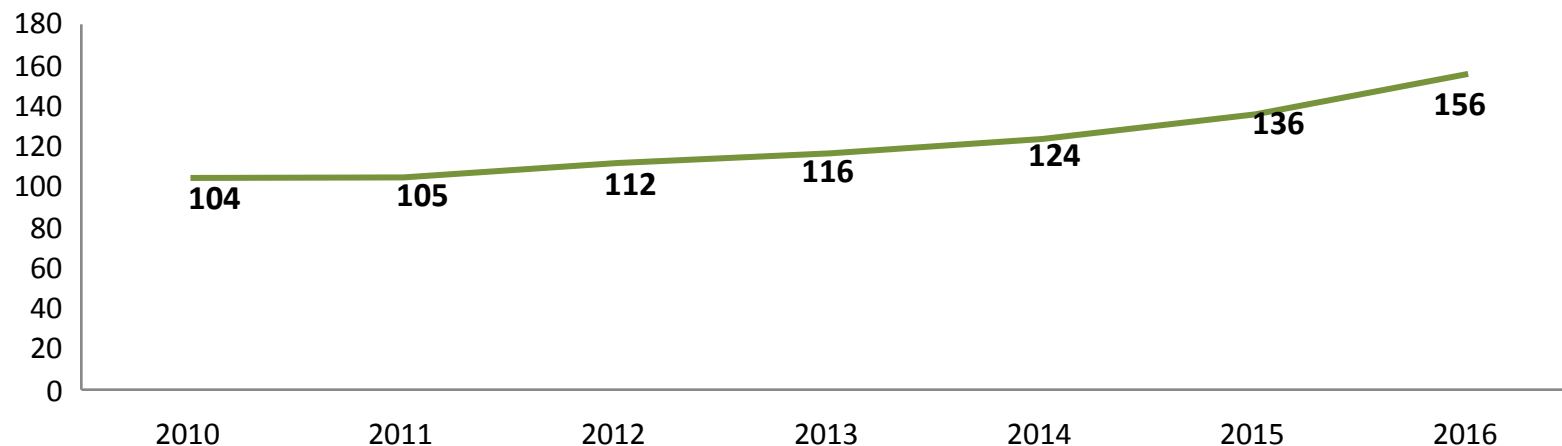
- Between 2005 and 2015, government invested more than \$35 billion in electricity generation to restore reliability, replace coal and meet environmental objectives.
 - Electricity costs are increasing as necessary investments are made to decarbonize and modernize the province's electricity infrastructure.



Historical Electricity Prices

- Since 2010, electricity prices have increased at a rate higher than the Consumer Price Index.

**Typical Residential Electricity Bills
in \$ per month, 750 kWh consumption**



NTD: Will replace 2005 to 2016, to consistent with Electricity System Investment slide

Ongoing Efforts To Bend The Cost Curve of Ontario's Electricity System

- Since 2010, the government has taken a number of important actions to reduce electricity system costs, including:
 - Renegotiating the Green Energy Investment Agreement to reduce contract costs by \$3.7 billion.
 - Reducing Feed-In Tariff (FIT) prices saving ratepayers at least \$1.9 billion.
 - Introducing a competitive Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) process to drive down costs approximately \$1.5 billion lower than the 2013 LTEP forecast.
 - Deferring the construction of two new nuclear reactors at Darlington, avoiding an estimated \$15 billion in new construction costs.
 - Maximizing the value of our existing nuclear fleet by starting Bruce refurbishments in 2020 instead of 2016, thus helping to achieve \$1.7 billion in savings and by continuing to operate Pickering up to 2024, pending regulatory approvals, which could save ratepayers about \$600 million.

Recent Actions Taken To Mitigate Electricity Rates

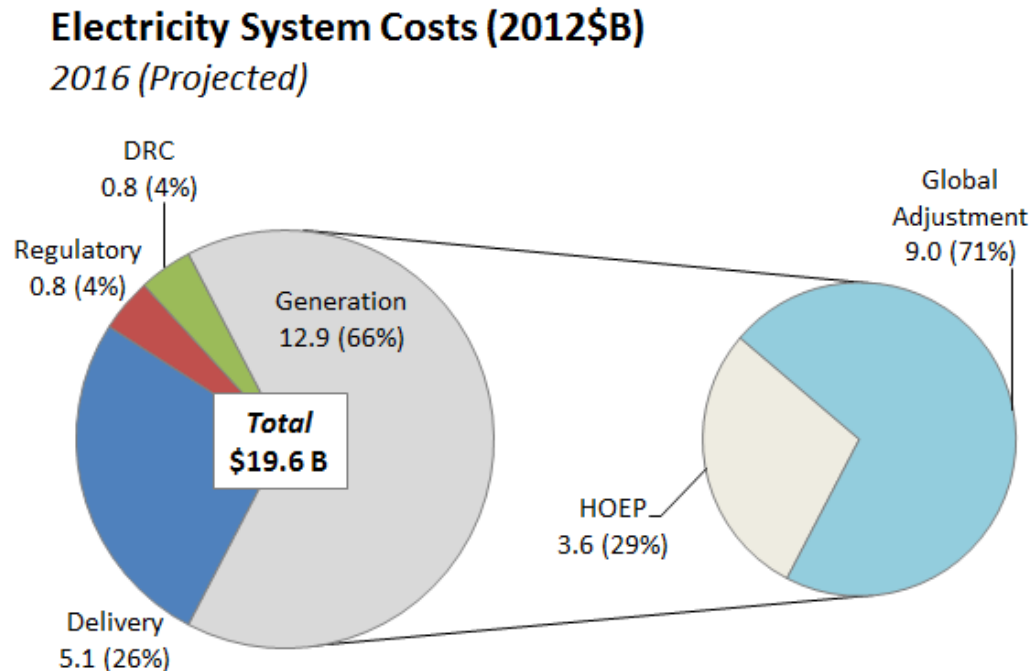
- Following the 2016 Throne Speech, the several actions were announced to further reduce electricity costs.
 - As of January 1, 2017, Ontario is rebating an amount equal to the provincial portion of the HST to reduce eligible residential, small business and farm electricity bills by 8%.
 - Expanded support available to eligible rural ratepayers by updating Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) with additional relief, decreasing total electricity bills by an average of \$45 each month when combined with the 8% rebate.
 - Expanding the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) – up to one-third savings for participants.
 - Suspending the LRP II and the Energy from Waste Standard Offer Program (EFWSOP) – up to \$3.8 billion in cost savings.
 - Limiting the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) 5 procurement target to 150 MW and suspending future FIT procurements – up to [\$xx] cost savings.

Ontario's Rate Relief Plan

- Refinancing the Global Adjustment (GA) over a longer time period for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) eligible consumers, including families, farms and small businesses.
- Helping vulnerable electricity consumers by enhancing electricity support and conservation programs and removing costs from electricity bills. Eligible consumers will receive additional funding through assistance programs including:
 - Establishing a new Affordability Fund which will support Ontarians who have difficulty paying their electricity bills to be able to access energy efficiency improvements.
 - Broadening Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) to provide distribution charge relief for the customers of the costliest local distribution companies (LDC's).
 - Expanding the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) to ensure the program uptake is as close as possible to 100%.
 - Establishing a new On-Reserve First Nations Delivery Rate.
- Enhancing competitiveness for Class B electricity consumers (i.e. manufacturing) by lowering the eligibility threshold for Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI).
- 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).

Global Adjustment – Overview

- Electricity generators in Ontario received contracted or regulated rates, which are designed to recover the cost of building and operating generation facilities.
 - The GA recovers the fixed costs of running the province's generation fleet, including capital costs, as well as the cost of conservation programs.



Refinancing the Global Adjustment – Approach

- The majority of the province's electricity generators are under 20-year contracts. Many of these generators will be able to operate past their contract life.
- There is an opportunity to recognize the long-term benefit of these assets to the electricity system and “bring forward” that benefit for ratepayers today by deferring some of the current costs.
- By recognizing that generation assets are expected to continue to provide benefit to future ratepayers, beyond the term of current contracts, future ratepayers are expected to be able to utilize these assets and reduce the need to finance the development of new generation assets.



Refinancing the Global Adjustment – Approach (cont'd)

- Refinancing the Global Adjustment (GA) will provide significant and immediate rate relief by spreading the cost of electricity investments over a longer period of time.
 - A typical Toronto Hydro consumer, using 750 kWh per month, would see an immediate savings of about \$26/month. Rates would then remain below forecast for roughly [x] years, before increasing to levels above those currently forecast.
- In the early years, a portion of the costs covered by the GA would be financed to reduce pressure on electricity ratepayers.
- In the later years, when some system costs are expected to be reduced due to continued operation of existing assets under 20-year contracts, the cost of financing would be added to the GA costs recovered from ratepayers.
- Under current forecasts, the immediate reduction (i.e., financed portion) in the GA would be about [\$2.5] billion in 2017.

Refinancing the Global Adjustment – Implementation

- The following entities would implement the Global Adjustment smoothing mechanism:
 - The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) would establish the GA Smoothing regulatory account: IESO as the administrator of the Global Adjustment, would establish a new deferral account enabled in legislation
 - Ontario Power Generation (OPG) would buy the GA Smoothing account from IESO: OPG has experience working with large financial assets and liabilities including jointly managing nuclear funds. That expertise, combined with its strong balance sheet allows OPG to effectively to manage this mechanism
 - OPG would borrow from Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation (OEFC) and from outside lenders to fund GA smoothing: OPG would be provided with flexibility to find the least cost and most effective method and source of financing including OEFC and external lenders.
 - Ontario Energy Board (OEB) would oversee the GA smoothing profile for the benefit of ratepayers [tbd]: as the independent regulator, OEB would review customer bill impacts resulting from this mechanism

Helping Vulnerable Electricity Consumers

- Initiatives to help vulnerable consumers:
 - Establishing a new Affordability Fund which will support Ontarians who have difficulty paying their electricity bills to be able to access energy efficiency improvements.
 - Broadening Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) to provide distribution charge relief for the customers of the costliest local distribution companies (LDC's).
 - Expanding the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) to ensure the program uptake is as close as possible to 100%.
 - Establishing a new On-Reserve First Nations Delivery Rate.

Establishing a New Affordability Fund

- The “Affordability Fund” would be established to assist electricity customers who cannot qualify for low-income conservation programs.
- The “Affordability Fund” would provide LDCs with an additional tool to help customers in need. LDCs would use the Fund to provide support to customers for energy efficiency improvements to help reduce their future electricity bills and avoid future disconnections.
- The Province is moving forward in having the Affordability Fund funded by the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers.
 - This is project to cost approximately \$200 million in the coming fiscal year.

Broadening Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (RRRP)

- The RRRP is provided to a number of rural residential customers in Ontario.
- The Province is moving forward in broadening the RRRP to provide delivery charge relief to not only the current customers but also to those LDCs with some of the highest rates.
 - With this new proposal, about 800,000 customers will benefit from the enhanced RRRP program.
- The Province is also moving forward in having these RRRP costs be funded by the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers.
 - This is projected to cost approximately \$500 million in the coming fiscal year.

Expanding the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP)

- The OESP is an income-tested, application based program that lowers electricity costs for the most vulnerable consumers, providing a rebate directly on bills.
- Increasing the OESP credits by 50% would mean that single, low-income consumers who receive the lowest credit amount would get an increase from \$30 to \$45 per month (\$540 per year, an increase of \$180), and the lowest credit for the enhanced scale would increase from \$45 to \$68 (\$816 per year, an increase of \$276).
- The Province is expanding the OESP to ensure the program uptake is as close as possible to 100% by:
 - Streamlining the application process to make it easier and quicker to get approval;
 - Increasing awareness of the program to eligible recipients;
 - Exploring automatic qualifications for customers that are enrolled in other low-income support programs; and
 - Expanding eligibility for more low-income Ontarians.
- The Province is also moving forward in having the OESP funded by the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers.
 - This is projected to cost approximately \$185 million in the coming fiscal year.

Establishing a First Nations On-Reserve Rate

- In 2016, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) engaged with First Nations, including remote communities, the distributors serving them, and consumer groups such as the Low Income Energy Network.
- Following the engagement process the OEB recommends:
 - Eliminating the delivery charge for all on-reserve First Nations residential customers and removing the monthly service charge for customers of licensed distributors which charge a bundled rate. The OEB estimates this would provide residential customers an average monthly benefit of \$85.
 - Automatically qualify on-reserve First Nations residential customers (~21,500 customers).
 - Enable greater information sharing between distributors and band councils to identify all on-reserve First Nations customers.
- Government intends to introduce legislation to implement this recommendation.
- The Province is also moving forward in having the First Nations On-Reserve Rate funded by the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers.
 - This is projected to cost approximately \$20 million in the coming fiscal year.

Enhancing Competitiveness for Class B Electricity Consumers

- Expanding the eligibility threshold for Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) will provide Class B consumers the opportunity to save on their electricity costs. The expanded ICI would include
 - Extending eligibility to larger Class B consumers with average monthly peak demand over 500 kilowatts; and
 - Targeting eligibility to energy intensive industries with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 31 - 33 (i.e., Manufacturing).
- Under the expanded ICI, larger Class B consumers whose electricity demand is currently too low to qualify for ICI, would now be eligible for the expanded ICI if they wish to participate.
- In addition, the Ministry will assist Class B participation in ICI through a targeted outreach campaign delivered by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC).

Improving Electricity Sector Efficiency

Ontario Energy Board

- OEB regulates and licences more than 70 Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) in the province and will identify opportunities for cost efficiencies by:
 - Encouraging shared partnerships on services between utilities, which will help reduce costs and encourage further innovation for small to medium sized utilities
 - Reviewing business cases behind its regulatory requirements to reduce “red tape” and eliminate costs that LDCs indicate are creating pressures on operating expenses
 - Looking at opportunities to further drive transmitter and LDC efficiencies and productivity improvements, including the use of innovative technologies and business processes.

Ontario Power Generation

- OPG’s current application would have resulted in an average \$1.05 per month impact on customer bills, on an annual basis for the 2017-2021 application period, if accepted by the OEB.
- This regulatory change would reduce average bill impacts to \$0.62 per month on an annual basis; a 40% reduction relative to OPG’s current application.

Improving Electricity Sector Efficiency (cont'd)

Independent Electricity System Operator

- The IESO plans for the province's electricity needs, balances the supply and demand for electricity in Ontario in real time and administers conservation programs.
- The IESO and stakeholders have begun a Market Renewal Project that is intended to enhance the efficiency and performance of the wholesale electricity market.
- The IESO's Market Renewal initiatives include:
 - Developing a capacity auction process;
 - Introducing a day-ahead energy market, and
 - Switching to a single-schedule energy dispatch algorithm.
- Changes related to IESO's Market Renewal initiatives are estimated to save at least \$200 million per year, starting in 2021.

2017 Long-Term Energy Plan

- The Ministry of Energy is developing the next Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) after receiving feedback from the public, stakeholders and indigenous communities during the engagement process that took place from October to January 2017.
- The LTEP process is designed to be iterative and flexible and only commit resources as demand needs become clearer.
- The Ministry of Energy anticipates that the next LTEP will be published in spring 2017.