

Actions to Reduce Energy Costs

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Hey – draft message on our actions to reduce energy costs below. Kind of a laundry list given we've done so much to help reduce costs but let me know what you think.

We're taking concrete action to help reduce electricity costs for families and businesses across the province. Our new agreement with Quebec, which will reduce electricity system costs by about \$70 M from previous forecasts, is the latest in a long list of steps we've taken to make life more affordable. Agreements like this help Ontario achieve our climate change goals with the added benefit of further removing costs from the electricity system and helping people in their everyday lives.

We recognize that modernizing the badly neglected electricity system we inherited from the previous conservative government has come at a cost. But in eliminating coal, generating 90% of our power emissions-free and ensuring our system is clean and reliable, we're leading by example and that's not a record we're going to shy away from. Even with these necessary investments, Ontario still sits in the middle of the pack in terms of energy costs according to the independent Financial Accountability Officer. The good news is that Ontario is in this position even after doing the heavy lifting in terms of rebuilding aging infrastructure and transitioning off of coal. Thanks to our early leadership, Ontarians won't see the cost increases coal-dependent provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan will.

Still, despite consistent economic growth since the global recession, many families aren't feeling the impact of the recovery in their everyday lives. That's why we've taken action to reduce electricity costs across the province, including:

- Permanently rebating the provincial portion of the HST to reduce bills by 8% and cutting delivery charges for the most rural customers by 20%
- Empowering industrial businesses to reduce bills by one third through the Industrial Conservation Initiative
- Suspending the second round of the Large Renewable Procurement process, saving up to \$3.8 B in costs.

- Reducing Feed-In-Tariff prices through annual price reviews, saving ratepayers at least \$1.9 B.
- Renegotiating the Green Energy Investment Agreement with Samsung, reducing contract costs by \$3.7 B.
- Deferring construction of two new nuclear reactors at Darlington, avoiding \$15 B in new construction costs.
- Maximizing the value of our existing nuclear by delaying the start of the Bruce refurbishment – saving \$1.7 B – and continuing to safely operate Pickering up to 2024, saving up to another \$600 M.

This is on top of existing programs like the Ontario Electricity Support Program, which is saving families in need \$360/year on average, and the Rural or Remote Rate Protection program, which is saving rural and remote customers an additional \$324/year on average. Our plan provides needed assistance to consumers of all sizes, and it targets support to those that need help with the cost of everyday living most.