

Media call summary

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Media Call Summary

Reporter & Outlet : Anne Jarvis, Windsor Star

Reporter's Question

Will the greenhouse growers' industry be eligible for the 25 percent break under the gov't's new Fair Hydro Plan?

Response:

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will provide an average of 25 per cent relief on electricity bills to all households, and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. It's the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years.

Smaller greenhouses will be eligible for the average 25 per cent reduction if they are on Time of Use pricing. Larger greenhouses with peak demand of more than one megawatt are eligible for the Industrial Conservation Initiative, which can help reduce bills by up to one-third. All other operations will benefit from moving social programs off the rate base, which will result in about two to four per cent savings. Ontario greenhouses are also eligible for energy efficiency support through the SaveOnEnergy program, which can significantly reduce electricity bills.

It's important to recognize that the industry is growing. Just this month, Greenhill Produce announced a new \$100-million development that will create up to 300 new jobs, building on the nearly 3,000 acres and 81,000 jobs already here. The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers also expect the industry to keep growing by about 150 acres a year. And just last week, the government announced the Greenhouse Competitiveness and Innovation Initiative, which will provide \$19 million in support for the greenhouse sector. This initiative, and others like it, will continue to boost competitiveness for greenhouses, and ensure long-term growth in the sector.

Reporter & Outlet : Brian Donlevy, Easy 1010/Country 1073 Tillsonburg

Reporter's Question

When it comes to negotiating gas/oil rights on Ontario lands is there any protection and are there any protections for other forms of energy (ie turbines)? Plus if anyone has any questions whom they should talk to?

Response:

Referred to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests.

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