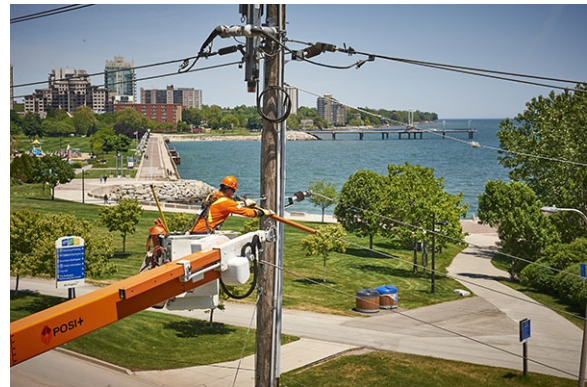


Reducing Electricity Rates by 25 Per Cent

Through the following measures, Ontario's proposed Fair Hydro Plan would reduce electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for eligible households. Approximately 500,000 small businesses and farms would also benefit.

- Recognizing that existing electricity infrastructure is expected to last for decades to come, the Province would refinance the cost of those capital investments to ensure that system costs are more equitably distributed over time.
- A number of important electricity support programs will now be funded by the Province rather than by ratepayers, which would reduce electricity costs for all consumers. These new measures will cost up to \$2.5 billion over the next three years.



Ontario is reducing electricity bills by 25 per cent on average to make everyday life more affordable.

These changes would allocate costs more fairly and ensure they are not disproportionately placed on the shoulders of today's electricity ratepayers.

Support for the Fair Hydro Plan

"We are pleased that electricity ratepayers will see the positive benefits of [Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan] in the near future and for the commitment that rates will not increase beyond the rate of inflation for the next four years."

Alan Spacek, President of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
and Mayor of Kapuskasing, March 2, 2017

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Promoting Energy-Efficient Improvements to Ontario Homes

The Province has established an Affordability Fund to provide support to Ontarians who do not qualify for low-income conservation programs so that they can adopt energy efficiency improvements to help reduce their future electricity bills. The fund was developed with input from electricity distributors and other stakeholders.

The Province is committed to supporting electricity conservation through existing programs such as the Save on Energy Home Assistance Program, Heating & Cooling Incentive program, and Coupon Event. Local natural gas distribution companies also offer conservation programs such as the Home Weatherization Program, Home Winterproofing Program and the Ontario Home Energy Conservation Incentive Program.

Reducing Electricity Costs for Businesses

The government is continuing to lower electricity costs for businesses to help maintain a competitive environment. Ontario is proposing to further expand the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) program by reducing the eligibility threshold from one megawatt (MW) to 500 kilowatts (kW) for targeted manufacturing and industrial sectors, including greenhouses. The ICI program helps consumers reduce their electricity bills by providing an incentive to reduce consumption during peak hours.

This proposed change is in addition to the Province's existing actions to reduce electricity costs for businesses, such as providing ongoing annual support totalling up to \$120 million to qualifying large industrial facilities in northern Ontario and ending the debt retirement charge (DRC) for commercial, industrial and all other electricity users as of April 1, 2018.