

MPP New release template

Ontario Rebating Provincial Tax on Electricity Bills

Families, Farms and Small Businesses in [COMMUNITY] will see bill reductions

NEWS

September 16, 2016

To help people in their everyday lives, Ontario is taking action and rebating the provincial portion of the HST on the electricity bills of residential consumers, small business and farms starting January 1, 2017. Additionally, the government intends to introduce new measures to further reduce bills for rural families, and introduce expanded relief programs for commercial and industrial electricity consumers.

Over the last number of years, Ontario's economy has fully recovered from the impact of the global recession. While the province and independent economic analysis projects consistent economic growth for Ontario, many families are not yet feeling the impact of the recovery in their everyday lives. Therefore, Ontario's government intends to take action to help with the costs related to electricity.

Together, these actions will directly benefit electricity consumers in [COMMUNITY], including:

- Reducing the average residential electricity bill by 8 per cent (8%) on the amount before tax or \$11 each month
- Decreasing total bills for eligible rural customers by an average of \$45 each month
- Giving businesses in [COMMUNITY] incentive to reduce bills by up to one-third through the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI). This would also reduce cost pressures on the electricity system by incenting more consumers to lower their electricity demand during peak periods.

Through these initiatives, more than five million residential consumers and more than 1,000 industrial customers could see a reduction in their electricity bills.

Helping Ontarians with the cost of everyday living and helping businesses compete are part of the government's plan to build Ontario up. The government's four-part economic plan includes investing in talent and skills, including helping more people get and create the jobs of the future by expanding access to high-quality college and university education. The plan is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history and investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. The plan is also helping working Ontarians achieve a more secure retirement.

QUOTES

"The actions we're announcing today would benefit all ratepayers in a meaningful way. Many [rural and/or northern] customers would receive significant rate relief through these initiatives. Expanding incentives across Ontario would create more opportunity for businesses to be competitive and

manage their electricity costs. The proposed rebate would add an extra relief for families, farms and small businesses.”

- [LOCAL MPP]

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 ICI program and Rate Reductions for Electricity Customers
- Read [Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan](#)
- Read [Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan](#)