Energy Rebate Bill Introduction
Release
September 15, 2016
Written by: dw
Revised by: KE
French: Yes
Visuals:No

Ontario Introducing Measures to Reduce Electricity Costs

New Bill Aims to Help Families and Businesses Save Money

NEWS September 15, 2016

Premier Kathleen Wynne was in Vaughan today to unveil details of the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016. In addition to the bill, proposed amendments to existing regulations would empower more large businesses and manufacturers to shift their consumption away from peak periods to deliver savings directly to the consumer and the system as a whole.

Commented [MB1]: ICI is covered by O. Reg. 429/04, not the proposed legislation.

These proposed regulatory amendments would expand the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), which encourages large energy users to lower consumption during peak periods. Reducing peak system usage improves reliability and defers the need to build costly new generation. The threshold for participation would be decreased to one megawatt and all sectoral restrictions would be removed, allowing more small industrial, institutional and commercial consumers into the program.

More than one thousand additional commercial, institutional and industrial customers are estimated to be eligible for the expanded program. We anticipate that newly eligible participants will be able to reduce electricity bills by up to one-third.

Commented [LH2]: As per previously approved products.

About five million consumers across Ontario would benefit from the proposed legislation and additional measures as it would provide an on-bill rebate of eight per cent on the amount before tax, an average savings of about $130 annually or $11 each month. Proposed regulatory amendments would meanrural consumers would receive an additional benefit from decreasing rural delivery charges.Eligible customers would receive a combined total benefit of an average of $540 a year or $45 each month.

Commented [LH3]: Based on public Sept 13 NR.

These changes build on Ontario's ongoing commitment to reducing energy bills while maintaining reliability for all consumers. The province has:

- Reduced contract costs by $3.7 billion by renegotiating the Green Energy Investment Agreement
- Approved a plan by Ontario Power Generation to pursue ongoing operations of the Pickering nuclear generating stations, expected to save customers as much as $600 million
- Introduced the competitive Large Renewable Procurement process, annual renewable energy price reviews and revised procurement schedules, which are expected to reduce costs by a further $4.1 billion, based on the results of recent renewable procurements, as compared to previous forecasts.

Creating the conditions for businesses to thrive is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The four-part plan includes 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 hospitals, schools, roads, bridges and transit in Ontario's history and is 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

"I know that family budgets are stretched and the cost of electricity is contributing to that. It's my job as Premier to help people feel more secure in their everyday lives and more optimistic about their family's future. It is why we've invested in a clean, reliable energy system and a plan for jobs and growth. And now that Ontario's economy is stronger, it is why we are providing the ~~permanent~~ electricity cost relief Ontario's families and businesses need."

— Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

"This proposed legislation would benefit ratepayers in a meaningful way by providing an eight per cent rebate for families, farms and many small businesses. Other initiatives would see rural and northern customers receive significant rate relief. Expanding incentives across Ontario would create more opportunity for businesses to be competitive and manage their electricity costs."
—Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

QUICK FACTS

- Since 2003, Ontario has invested more than $35 billion in over 16,000 megawatts (MW) of new and refurbished clean generation, including nuclear, natural gas and renewables, representing about 40 per cent of current supply.

- The Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) delivered an estimated 1,000 MW of reduced peak electricity demand in 2015.

- Ontario is investing over $2.6 billion, through its Conservation First Framework, between 2015 and 2020 to help homeowners and businesses become more energy efficient and save money.

- Ontario's action to eliminate coal-fired electricity delivered savings of more than $4 billion annually in health, financial and environmental costs associated with smog and pollution.

LEARN MORE

Keeping Clean, Reliable Electricity Affordable and Lowering People's Bills

Helping People in Their Everyday Lives

Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan

Commented [KG4]: Legal has advised against the use of the word 'permanent' and recommends against using it publicly.

SNAP's comment is: There is no provision in the Bill to end or modify the program. Any amendments would need to be made by the Legislature. Comms must consider if that is enough to make use of the word permanent.