

MEETING NOTE

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Monday, February 27, 2017

LOCATION OF MEETING: Ontario Good Roads Association Conference
Royal York Hotel, Toronto

PURPOSE: To discuss issues raised by the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

ATTENDEES: Parliamentary Assistant
Bob Delaney

Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
Brian Grattan, Economic Development Officer / Deputy Clerk

AGENDA:

1. Higher energy costs
2. Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs

NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Higher Energy Costs

- Concerns about electricity costs for business and residents

2. Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs

- Higher electricity costs are having an impact on the Township's facilities and its residents.

Suggested Response:

1. Ontario is taking action to reduce electricity bills for families. We're doing this because we know that families need help with the cost of everyday living.

- We have introduced new measures that will be effective January 1, 2017, including:
 - Rebating the amount equal to the provincial portion of the HST to reduce eligible residential, small business and farm electricity bills by 8% (\$130 annually); and
 - Providing eligible rural ratepayers with additional relief, decreasing total electricity bills by an average of \$540 a year or \$45 each month (combined with the 8% rebate included).
 - The government recognizes that for low-income Ontarians, paying their electricity bills can be particularly challenging, which is why the government has additional measures in place to help those who need it most.
 - The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) developed the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP), which provides an ongoing rate reduction directly on the bills of low-income electricity consumers who have applied and meet the eligibility requirements.
 - The OESP credit amount qualified customers receive is based on household income and household size, and credits typically range from \$30-\$50.
 - The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a comprehensive province-wide strategy designed to help qualifying low-income consumers. The program includes:
 - Emergency financial assistance: A one-time grant towards your electricity or natural gas bill if you are temporarily unable to make ends meet in an emergency situation.
 - Special rules: Utilities have to follow special rules when dealing with customers with limited finances; for example, waiving security deposits, allowing longer payment times and more.
 - Conservation programs: Administered through local distributors to help qualified Ontario homeowners, tenants and social housing providers improve energy efficiency.
 - The government has introduced legislation that will provide the OEB with authority to establish additional rules regarding when and how utilities can disconnect customers from electricity and gas.
 - Other assistance for low-income energy consumers is provided through the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit (OEPTC)
2. Ontario has a suite of conservation and energy efficiency programs in place that help homes and business consumers (including municipal, commercial and industrial customers) manage rising electricity prices

through energy management services and financial incentives for the installation of electricity savings measures.

Energy efficiency programs are available through the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), local distribution companies (LDCs) and Ontario's two largest natural gas utilities, Enbridge and Union Gas.

Background: (Item 1)

Initiative	Key Information	Notes
Rate Mitigation Legislation + Regulation	\$130 – annual savings for average household (\$11 per month) via 8% bill reduction \$540 – annual savings for eligible rural customers (\$45 per month) via Rural and Remote Rate Protection	Takes effect on January 1, 2017.
OESP	\$30 to \$50 – monthly on-bill rebate for eligible customers \$45 to \$75 – monthly on-bill rebate for those with unique electricity needs	Program took effect on January 1, 2016.
LEAP	\$500 – one-time annual emergency relief for electricity bills \$600 – if home is electrically heated \$500 – one-time annual emergency relief for gas bills	Also provides flexible customer service rules re: utility treatment of LEAP customers.
NOEC	- For 2016 benefit year: \$146 – annual credit for eligible individual \$224 – annual credit for eligible family	Part of Ontario Trillium Benefit.
OEPTC	- For 2016 benefit year: \$1,008 – maximum amount for individuals / families \$1,148 – maximum amount for qualifying seniors	Part of Ontario Trillium Benefit.

Background: Item 2

- As we plan for Ontario's energy needs for the next 20 years, conservation will be the first resource considered, wherever cost-effective.

- Conservation is the cleanest and most cost-effective energy resource, offers consumers a way to reduce their energy bills and reduces the need to build new generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- On January 1, 2015, Ontario launched the six-year Conservation First Framework to support province-wide and local electricity conservation and demand management (CDM) programs.
- The Conservation First Framework is aligned with the natural gas Demand Side Management (DSM) Framework to enable greater collaboration of conservation efforts among electricity and natural gas utilities.
- In order to improve the availability of programs for customers, on December 16, 2016, the Minister of Energy directed the IESO to, among other items, require that province-wide CDM programs be delivered in each distributor service area (if LDCs choose not to deliver, IESO will deliver on their behalf).
- See the Appendix for examples of conservation and energy efficiency programs.

APPENDIX:

2. Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs

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For residential customers, electricity and natural gas energy efficiency programs include:

- Save on Energy rebates help offset the cost of purchasing and installing new heating and cooling equipment in the home, and coupons are available to help Ontarians save on a wide range of energy-efficient products, including LED bulbs, power bars with integrated timers or auto-shutoff, and more.
- For low-income electricity customers, the Save on Energy Home Assistance Program offers detailed in-home energy assessments and installation of energy-saving measures at no cost. Enbridge Gas and Union Gas have similar programs for their natural gas low-income customers.
- Financial incentives are available for home energy audits and energy retrofits through Enbridge Gas' Home Energy Conservation Program and Union Gas' Home Reno Rebate. These programs have been extended across the province to homes that heat with natural gas, oil, propane and wood through a \$100 million provincial investment from the Green Investment Fund.

For business customers, programs include:

- The Save on Energy Retrofit Program provides various incentives for as much as 50 per cent of project costs, and advanced funding for assisted and social housing buildings, for updating old or inefficient equipment. Up to \$2,000 in incentives are available for new energy efficient lighting.
- Enbridge and Union provide financial incentives for a list of natural gas reducing measures (e.g. furnaces, water heaters, ovens etc.), and for custom natural gas reduction projects. The RunSmart and RunItRight programs help to enhance and optimize existing building systems and operations to fine energy efficiencies.
- The Industrial Accelerator Program (IAP) assists eligible industrial, commercial and institutional customers that are connected to the IESO transmission grid to fast-track capital investment in major energy-efficiency projects. Transmission-connected customers with distribution-connected sites can also elect to have these administered through the IAP.

For the industrial sector, programs include:

- The Industrial Accelerator Program (IAP) assists eligible transmission-connected companies to fast track capital investment in major energy conservation projects. The program will provide financial incentives to encourage investment in innovative process changes and equipment retrofits to reduce electricity consumption on the provincial system and to help companies become more competitive by positively impacting their bottom line.
- The Process and Systems Upgrade Initiative (PSUI) is an industrial conservation program available to *distribution-connected* industrial and commercial. The program helps organizations with complex systems and processes identify, implement, and validate energy efficiency projects from start to finish.
- The IESO holds annual demand response auctions which provide availability and utilization payments to successful participants that commit to reducing their consumption when called upon to do so.