

DRAFT MAT STORY COPY

Ontario to Provide Savings on Residential Hydro Bills Starting July 1, 2017

Customers serviced by (Insert LDC name) will receive a pleasant surprise when opening their next electricity bill.

As part of the province's Fair Hydro Plan, starting July 1, 2017, electricity bills for all Ontario residences — and as many as half a million small businesses and farms — will be 25 per cent lower on average.

The provincial government passed the Fair Hydro Act on May 31, which aims to lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average and deliver the largest reduction to electricity rates in Ontario's history. These measures include the eight per cent rebate introduced in January and build on previously announced initiatives to deliver broad-based rate relief on all electricity bills.

Residential customers living in eligible rural and northern communities will receive even greater reductions, as much as 40 to 50 per cent through the Distribution Rate Protection (DRP) program, an expansion of Rural or Remote Rate Protection. DRP provides a rate subsidy to eligible residential customers who experience some of the highest distribution charges in Ontario.

Plus future electricity rate increases will be held to the rate of inflation for four years.

"Ontario residents and business owners across the province told us government needed to do more to reduce the costs and make hydro more affordable, so we took action," said Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy. "Under our plan, electricity rates will come down, stay down and benefit families and businesses across the province."

The province also expanded the Ontario Energy Savings Program and is providing 50 per cent more support in the form of monthly credits for people with low incomes and increasing eligibility.

Also beginning on July 1, on-reserve First Nations households serviced by licensed distributors will receive a 100 per cent credit of the delivery line on their monthly electricity bills.

Visit Ontario.ca/fairhydroplan for more information.