

Reducing the cost of living

Relief on electricity bills

- The government will introduce legislation that will rebate — directly on consumers' monthly residential electricity bills — the provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax, an eight per cent saving
- The rebate would go into effect on January 1, 2017
- Eligible rural ~~and remote~~ customers will receive additional savings, which would result in an on-bill monthly saving of about 20 per cent — about \$45 a month

~~Energy~~Electricity-saving home ~~retrofits~~rebates

- The saveONenergy for Home Conservation Program (including Home Assistance Program for low income customers), offered through local distribution companies, provides rebates to help offset the cost of purchasing and installing new heating and cooling equipment in the home and electricity-saving measures like LED lighting, ENERGY STAR certified ceiling fans, baseboard programmable thermostats, clotheslines, and advanced powerbars.
- ~~The government is investing \$100 million to help about 37,000 homeowners conduct audits and identify energy-saving opportunities and complete retrofits, such as replacing furnaces and water heaters and upgrading insulation~~

Removing the Debt Retirement Charge from electricity bills

- This measure is saving a typical residential electricity user about \$70 each year with the removal of the ~~D~~ebt ~~r~~etirement ~~e~~Charge, as of January 1, 2016

Ontario Electricity Support Program

- The ~~new~~ Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP), ~~which is now accepting applications, came into effect on January 1, 2016 will and is helping to~~ make electricity more affordable for low-income families
- The OESP ~~provides an ongoing rate reduction directly on the bills of low-income consumers who are eligible for the program. was developed by the Ontario Energy Board and is designed to lower electricity bills through an on-bill credit. Monthly on-bill credits range from \$30 to \$50, and customers with unique electricity requirements could be eligible for a higher level of assistance. Consumers will receive an on-bill credit of between \$30 and \$50 a month~~

Comment [DB1]: Recommend removing this reference to the \$100M investment in home energy audits and retrofits from the Green Investment Fund (GIF) since it is not a measure intended to reduce electricity bills.

The programs funded by GIF will cover homeowners who heat their homes with natural gas, oil, propane or wood.

Homeowners who heat their homes primarily using electricity (i.e. baseboard heating), can access saveONenergy programs and incentives, offered by their local electricity utility with support from the Independent Electricity System Operator.