

Deputy Minister's Remarks: Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Roadshow

Event location: Mississauga Grand, 35 Brunel Rd, Mississauga, ON

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 12:30 p.m.

Word Count:

- Good afternoon, everyone.
- I'm Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister at the Ontario Ministry of Energy.
- It's a pleasure to be given this opportunity to speak at today's event: the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) roadshow.
- As Canada's largest trade and industry association, the CME has been a strong voice and advocate for Canada's manufacturing sector for many years.
- Today's event is a great opportunity for me to discuss the wide range of energy programs the Government of Ontario, its agencies and energy utilities have put in place to help businesses better manage their energy use and provide tools to effectively reduce energy costs.
- The Ministry wants Ontario businesses to take advantage of available cost saving opportunities and get a competitive edge.
- However, the ministry understands that many businesses in the manufacturing and export sectors are either unaware of, or unsure of the details of the many programs available to them in the area of energy management.
- So the ministry has been working with the CME to launch an education and awareness campaign to get this information out to you, the member businesses.
- With the CME representing more than 10,000 companies, and more than 85 per cent of their membership being small and medium-sized enterprises, they have a unique position to connect these energy consumers with the energy conservation initiatives available to them.
- And this is why the Ministry is pleased to support the CME in the creation of the Energy Management Assistance Program, or EMAP.
- The EMAP will provide the chance to raise awareness of available programs and their impact on energy competitiveness for companies.

- The program will bring together energy utilities and our agencies to get the right information to CME members, at events like this and through webinars.
 - The program will provide opportunities for members of CME to learn from their peers' experience in these programs, providing opportunities to understand challenges and solutions.
 - This will be peer-to-peer learning, based on a set of case studies with real life examples of what can be done, and how beneficial some of these programs can be.
 - As a result of this Energy Management Assistance Program, we expect that CME member businesses will have built their energy management knowledge and capacity, and that manufacturers will be in the position to take full advantage of Ontario's energy programs.
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- One program that EMAP will help manufacturers navigate through is the Industrial Conservation Initiative – or the ICI program.
 - This program helps large consumers save money by reducing their electricity consumption during peak hours.
 - In fact, ICI participants currently save an average of 33 per cent on their electricity bills compared to non-ICI participants.
 - Last year, the government made two important changes to the ICI in order to spread the program's benefits to more businesses.
 - First, the participation threshold was lowered from three megawatts to one megawatt and sector-specific eligibility restrictions were removed.
 - The government also expanded the ICI's entry requirements to include smaller manufacturers and greenhouses with an average peak demand greater than 500 kilowatts.
 - As a result of all of these changes, approximately 1,100 electricity consumers are participating in the program.
 - The EMAP will also highlight the extensive energy efficiency programs available through the IESO's Save on Energy programs.

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- These programs feature lighting or equipment upgrades, energy audits, or simply tips on conserving energy, such as finding leaks in compressed air systems - for example, consider that a hole that is just one-thirtieth of an inch wastes enough electricity to power nine homes.ⁱ
- This will not only promote energy-efficient business practices but will collectively reduce Ontario's carbon footprint.
- The government understands the pressures on businesses and will continue to work collaboratively across government to reduce costs, lower bills and address the challenges facing all electricity consumers.
- We also recognize the importance of electricity prices for businesses, which is why maintaining competitiveness with respect to energy costs is a top government priority -- because of the sector's importance to Ontario's ever-evolving economy.
- After all, these programs are a critical step forward in supporting and understanding the issues faced today by manufacturers across Ontario.
- In fact, the cost of certain electricity support programs are now being funded by the province rather than ratepayers, saving all Ontario businesses \$3 per megawatt hour.

That's why the Ministry of Energy is pleased to continue working with business partners and organizations like the CME, in order to promote the programs that help keep Ontario economically competitive.

Added to this, due to Ontario legislation coming into effect, the debt retirement charge will be effectively removed, saving all businesses \$7 per megawatt hour, which represents an estimated 6.5 per cent reduction in the electricity bill of a typical mid-sized business or 12 per cent for a typical large industrial consumer when combined with the shifting of support program funding under Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.

In total, the removal of the debt retirement charge will save Ontario businesses about \$600 million annually.

- With that, I'd like to thank you for inviting me to speak today and for being an important stakeholder of the Ministry of Energy.
- Thank you.

ⁱ Toronto Hydro Energy-saving tips for industrial facilities

<http://www.torontohydro.com/sites/electricsystem/electricityconservation/savingtipsforbusinesses/Pages/default.aspx>