Ontario

**NEWS**

**Ministry of Energy**

# Ontario Cutting Electricity Bills by 25%

*Government has heard concerns and is acting to ensure fairness for hydro consumers*

**NEWS** February XX, 2017

Ontario is reducing hydro bills by 25 per cent for everyone in the province and holding costs to inflation for at least the next four years – the single largest reduction in the province's history.

Over the past decade Ontario has invested more than $50 billion in modernizing, rebuilding, and cleaning up our electricity system. The cost of these investments has caused hydro prices to rise sharply in the short term, even though these investments will benefit Ontario for many decades to come.

The government has heard from people that action to fix this problem is needed, and will ensure that costs are shared more appropriately in the years ahead.

The plan includes a complete overhaul of the way households and businesses are billed for power, and will save the average consumer $XX annually for at least the next four years.

Costs will be smoothed out over the life the assets that have been built, reducing prices today and ensuring fairness tomorrow.

Cutting electricity bills is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

**QUOTES**

"We have heard from families and small businesses across Ontario that a lasting, broad reduction in electricity prices was needed. To ensure fair hydro is available to everyone, our government is putting forward a plan to do just that."
— Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

**QUICK FACTS**

- As of January, 2017, the government removed provincial taxes from electricity bills, reducing bills by 8 per cent. The new plan announced today will increase the cut to hydro rates from 8 per cent to 25 per cent for at least the next four years.
- The government has taken a number of actions to reduce electricity ratepayer costs, including:
    - Renegotiating the Green Energy Investment Agreement to reduce contract costs by $3.7 billion.
    - Reducing Feed-In Tariff (FIT) prices saving ratepayers at least $1.9 billion.
    - Introducing a competitive Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) process to drive down costs approximately $1.5 billion lower than the 2013 LTEP forecast.
- In September, actions were announced to reduce electricity costs by:
    - Providing an 8% rebate ($11/month savings)
    - Updating the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (RRRP) for up to $45/month savings when combined with the 8% rebate

- Expanding eligibility for the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) which could provide up to one-third savings for participants
- Suspending the Large Renewable Procurement program (LRP II) and the Energy From Waste Standard Offer Program (EFWSOP), resulting in up to $3.8 billion in costs, relative to the 2013 LTEP forecast. .

**LEARN MORE**

- Estimate how much you can save on your next bill
- Learn how Ontario is developing the next Long-Term Energy Plan.

---

For media inquiries only call:

Colin Nekolaichuk, Minister's Office, 416-325-2690
Colin.Nekolaichuk@ontario.ca 416-325-2690.

Natasha Demetriades, Communications Branch, 416-326-5452
natasha.demetriades@ontario.ca

**ontario.ca/energy-news**
*Disponible en français*