

Friendly Question (Mar 6, 2017):
Electricity Savings for Condos and Others

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy.

Ever since the government's energy announcement last week, I have been hearing from constituents who are thrilled that they will soon be receiving a 25% reduction on their hydro bill.

This is a significant savings that will make a big difference to peoples' household costs. And not just today, but as a sustainable fix going forward.

Many of my constituents live in condominiums and are wondering whether and how this cost reduction will be passed onto them.

Could the Minister clarify how condo dwellers will benefit from the government's announcement of a 25% reduction in hydro costs?

Word Count: 107

Suggested Response:

Thank you to the Member for that important question.

Ensuring that ALL Ontario households receive this benefit is important to me and to this government. So let me clarify:

If you pay an electricity bill for your residence, you will receive this benefit – regardless of whether you live in a house, a condo, or an apartment.

If you pay energy costs through your condo board, or as part of your rent, you should know that your condo or landlord is now receiving that 25% reduction.

That includes both the costs for your own residence, and any energy costs for the building that are shared among residents.

Every Ontarian in this situation should be contacting their landlord or board to ensure that these savings will be passed onto them.

We are proud of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, and the significant, lasting relief it will provide.

Word Count: 144

Supplementary Question:

Thank you to the Minister for that response, and for his work on this important file.

After decades of neglect of the electricity system by parties of all stripes, it is great to see our government taking steps to secure an energy future that is clean, reliable, and – most importantly – affordable to all.

I know that the 25% reduction in hydro bills will apply for every one of the more than 4 million households in Ontario.

But the Minister has mentioned that many small businesses and farms will benefit from the reduction as well. I understand that there may be even more groups that will fall into this category.

Would the Minister please share with this House some of the groups who will benefit from this announcement, on top of Ontario households?

Word Count: 133

Supplementary Answer

Thank you to the Member for the opportunity to clarify this important point.

The 25% reduction through the Fair Hydro Plan will not only apply to households, but to many other small ratepayers as well.

That includes:

- Hundreds of thousands of small businesses, as mentioned
- The vast majority of farms
- Small offices of all kinds, including non-profits and charities
- Retirement homes
- Long-term care homes
- Housing co-ops
- Community agencies
- Those on retail contracts or with sub-meters
- And more

The simplest thing to remember is this: If your bill includes Time Of Use prices, you will be receiving the full benefit of our plan.

Mr. Speaker, this is going to mean major savings for these cross-sections of Ontario.

We are happy to implementing a plan that is making hydro more fair for everyone in this province.

Word Count: 134