

Thoughts? DRAFT Helping Small Businesses Save Energy

From: "Codd-Downey, Beckie (GHLO)" <beckie.codd-downey@ontario.ca>

To: "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>

Date: Wed, 08 Mar 2017 14:19:29 -0500



I understand the impact of Ottawa's small and medium sized businesses to workers and families to our community and our province's economy as a whole. That's why I'm proud that our government has taken action to deliver relief to businesses and families struggling hydro bills through Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.

Across Ontario, nearly half a million small businesses will receive the full benefit of the initiatives in the Fair Hydro Plan, reducing their bills by an average of 25%. Which means if your business is on Time Of Use rates, you will qualify.

For larger companies, we expanded the ICI program in January to capture over a thousand new businesses, and under the Fair Hydro Plan we have expanded it to even more medium-sized manufacturing, participants in this program are able to save up to 1/3 on their electricity bill.

And all hydro rate payers, regardless of size, will see a reduction in the regulatory fees they pay as a result of our government taking social programs currently funded by hydro payers and shifting them to provincial funding instead. For a typical medium-sized business this change will see moderate savings of about \$3/MWh on their electricity rates.

On top of these changes, Ontario continues to provide a range of programs

and services to help businesses succeed and thrive — including options for managing energy costs for a better bottom line, including:

[Ontario's SaveONenergy for Business Programs](#)

- The saveONenergy for Business electricity conservation program, made available through local distribution companies, with the support of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), offers financial incentives to help small businesses with the costs of installing energy-efficient equipment and improving the energy efficiency of their buildings.

[Audit Funding](#)

- An energy audit is the first step in understanding how energy is being used in your building. This will help to identify opportunities to reduce operating costs and improve performance.
- Business customers are eligible for incentives to complete energy audits assessing the potential for energy savings through equipment replacement and operational practices.
- The Audit Funding incentive is intended to cover up to 50% of the cost of an energy audit.

[Small Business Lighting](#)

- Under the Small Business Lighting program, qualifying businesses can get the first \$1,500 in lighting upgrades free. The incentive will increase in 2016.
- Further upgrades to lighting, heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC), and other systems can qualify for financial incentives worth up to 50% of project costs.

[Retrofit Program](#)

- The Retrofit Program helps businesses install and benefit from newer, more energy-efficient solutions, allowing them to operate more efficiently and improve their bottom line.
- Incentives are available for high-efficiency equipment such as lighting, motors and heating, and for installing new control systems to improve the overall efficiency of buildings.

[Energy Managers](#)

- Starting in 2016, various energy manager initiatives will be available to assist small businesses. Where available, these resources will be offered to small businesses free of charge to help identify energy-efficiency opportunities, develop energy management plans and complete saveONenergy incentive applications. Interested small businesses should contact their local distribution company for availability.
- On a provincial level, the IESO will be offering incentives for energy managers with a sector/regional focus, of which small business may be included.

To find out more and to participate in saveONenergy programs, visit

saveONenergy.ca/business **or contact** [Hydro Ottawa](#) .