

# Geo Thermal Rebate (DRC-2016-2055)

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**Date:** Tue, 03 Jan 2017 13:54:52 -0500

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Hi Mr. Foster,

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Energy. Premier Kathleen Wynne has also forwarded your correspondence. I am pleased to respond. I understand that you currently have geothermal home heating, and are inquiring whether there will be any potential electricity rate/cost reductions available to you.

On October 19, Ontario passed the Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, introduced in order to help lower electricity bills for people and businesses across Ontario by rebating the provincial portion of the HST from electricity bills. Beginning January 1, 2017, you will see immediate bill reduction as Ontario is taking action and rebating the average residential electricity bill by 8% or \$11 each month. Eligible rural customers will also benefit from an increase in Rural or Remote Rate Protection, which when combined with the 8% rebate will result in an average savings of \$45 a month, or \$540 annually.

In addition, I encourage you to take advantage of a number of conservation and energy efficiency programs in place in Ontario that can help manage rising electricity prices through the installation of energy saving measures, or by using energy wisely. These are delivered by electricity utilities through the saveONenergy residential program. For more information, please visit <http://www.saveonenergy.ca>, or contact your local utility.

We recognize the value of consumer decisions like your own to switch to a low-carbon technology, like geothermal heating in place of propane heating. These are the kinds of actions Ontario government wants to encourage and why new actions and programs are under development as part of the province's Climate Change Action Plan. Areas of action include "establishing a green bank that would help homeowners and businesses access and finance energy-efficient technologies to reduce greenhouse gas pollution from buildings," and "Making Ontario one of the easiest and most affordable jurisdictions in North America for homeowners and businesses to install or retrofit clean-energy systems like solar, battery storage, advanced insulation, and heat pumps." For more information, please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-action-plan>.

I hope you find this information of assistance.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne

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