

Smart Thermostats Save Money and Fight Climate Change

August 30, 2017

Helping homeowners save money

Early registration is now open for a new GreenON Installations program to give eligible Ontario residents a new smart thermostat to help them save money and energy at home. The Green Ontario Fund will provide and install the thermostats at no cost on a first-come-first-serve basis. It will also provide a personalized home energy report to help individuals further save money and reduce their carbon footprint.

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As part of the 2017 Budget, the province is investing \$377 million from cap and trade auction proceeds in the Green Ontario Fund to make it easier for businesses and households, including income-tested households and Indigenous communities, to adopt proven low-carbon technologies. More programs for residents, businesses and industry will be announced in the coming months.

Cost and energy savings

Studies show that residents can save up to 15 per cent on their energy bills by adjusting the temperature a couple of degrees at night or when no one is home.

Smart thermostats can also help residents reduce up to 260 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Type of thermostat	Features
Manual thermostat	▪ Temperature is manually controlled by the user. ▪ Easy to use. Can be used to reduce energy but depends on the behaviour of the user. ▪ Relies on the individual user to manually lower the temperature on the thermostat

Type of thermostat	Features
Programmable thermostat	- Features a clock and memory that allows the user to program the thermostat to adjust the temperature automatically throughout the day or night - Can be programmed to adjust temperatures when residents are sleeping or not at home, reducing unnecessary use of heating or air conditioning - If used properly, programmable thermostats can save money and lower GHGs. - Thermostat doesn't adjust itself based on resident's patterns of use
Smart thermostat	- Connected to the internet, and can be used like a programmable thermostat - Easy to use. Can sense time of day use patterns adjust itself automatically when no one is home. - Can be programmed remotely by smartphone and communicate with utility providers for optimal operations, and cost savings in response to best time of day usage charges.

Commented [CRED2]: Suggested rewording to avoid potential interpretation that customers can change the TOU charges themselves (while TOU pilots are underway, these are for a small subset of the population).

Greenhouse gas pollution from buildings

Buildings, and the energy they consume, account for almost one quarter of Ontario's total greenhouse gas pollution. They are the third biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution in Ontario, after transportation and industry.

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