

Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP)

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The proposed Ontario Electricity Support Program would provide assistance directly to eligible low-income electricity consumers following the conclusion of the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit on December 31, 2015.

Eligibility

Eligibility for the new program is based on two criteria:

- Household income
- Household size

Based on income level and household size, those qualified would receive a predetermined credit on their electricity bills, ranging from \$20 to \$50 per month. For example, a family of four with an annual income of less than \$28,000, would be eligible for a \$38 monthly credit -- a total of about \$455 per year.

Proposed Levels of Support								
Stepped sliding scale - benefit level		Household size						
		1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7+ persons
Income bracket	< \$28,000	\$20	\$30	\$34	\$38	\$42	\$46	\$50
	\$28,001 - \$39,000	-	-	\$30	\$34	\$38	\$42	\$46
	\$39,001 - \$48,000	-	-	-	-	\$30	\$34	\$38
	\$48,001 - \$52,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$30

The Need

For many low-income Ontarians, paying their monthly electricity bill can be a major and ongoing challenge. In fact, in comparison to other electricity consumers in the province, low-income Ontarians spend a proportionately higher percentage of their income on electricity each month. For example, the electricity bill for a typical household consuming 800 kilowatt hours of electricity per month represents on average ten per cent of the total income of a household with

an annual income of \$20,000, while amounting to only two per cent or less on average of the total income of a household with an annual income of \$100,000 or more in 2016.

Current Energy Assistance and Energy Conservation Programs:

[Low-Income Energy Assistance Program \(LEAP\):](#)

- Helps electricity and natural gas customers with limited financial resources.
- LEAP has provided nearly \$12.5 million in emergency financial assistance to more than 35,000 low-income electricity and natural gas customers throughout Ontario (Source: Ontario Energy Board's 2013/14 Annual Report).
- Low-income customers can receive up to \$500 in emergency assistance for their electricity bills (\$600 if the home is heated electrically) and \$500 for gas bills.

[saveONenergy Home Assistance Program:](#)

- Assists low-income participants with upgrading the electrical efficiency of their households at no cost to participants.
- This program has been in place since 2011 and reached almost 27,000 homes in 2013.
- Union and Enbridge gas also provide audits and energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to income eligible natural gas customers.

[Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit \(OEPTC\)](#)

- Helps low- to moderate-income individuals and families with the sales tax they pay on energy and with property taxes.
- The OEPTC is paid monthly as part of the Ontario Trillium Benefit delivered through the income tax system.

[Northern Ontario Energy Credit \(NOEC\)](#)

- A refundable tax credit for low- to middle-income individuals and families living in northern Ontario, effective for 2010 and subsequent years.
- The NOEC is paid monthly as part of the Ontario Trillium Benefit and is delivered through the income tax system.

[Ontario Clean Energy Benefit \(OCEB\)](#)

- Helps Ontario families, farms and small businesses through the transition to a cleaner, modern electricity system by providing a 10 per cent rebate on applicable electricity charges and taxes (limited to the first 3,000 kilowatt hours consumed each month).
- This program is helping over four million residential consumers and over 400,000 small businesses and farms until December 31, 2015.

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For more information, please visit the Ontario Energy Board's website at

www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/oesp.

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