

## **Ontario Investing in Energy Efficient Improvements for Social Housing**

*Improving Living Conditions and Fighting Climate Change*

February 9, 2018 1:00 P.M.

Ontario is upgrading energy efficiency of social housing and improving living conditions for residents while fighting climate change through a new program from the Green Ontario Fund, a non-profit provincial agency funded by proceeds from the province's cap on pollution and carbon market.

Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, was joined today by Peter Milczyn, Minister of Housing and Parminder Sandhu, Green Ontario Fund board chair, to announce the launch of the [GreenON Social Housing program](#).

Along with [existing provincial programs](#) designed for larger social housing buildings, this new program will help improve the energy efficiency of social housing apartment buildings with fewer than 100 units across the province.

Improvements will include upgrades to energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, windows, lighting and insulation. These renovations will also improve the living conditions for low-income and vulnerable tenants and the long-term sustainability of buildings.

Supporting the sustainability and comfort of social housing is part of Ontario's plan to create fairness and opportunity during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, easier access to affordable child care, and free prescription drugs for everyone under 25 through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation.

### **QUOTES**

" Renovating older social housing buildings not only helps fight climate change, it improves living conditions for low-income and vulnerable tenants. These upgrades are made possible through capping the greenhouse gas pollution businesses can emit and investing the proceeds from our carbon market, through the Climate Change Action Plan, into projects that reduce harmful emissions and make life better for Ontario residents. Increasing energy efficiency also means we can reinvest savings from lower utility bills back into further improvements."

- Chris Ballard

Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

" Making social housing more energy efficient not only reduces our carbon footprint, it makes the lives of residents safer and more comfortable."

- Peter Milczyn

Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy

" Social housing providers generally don't have the financial resources to invest in high-efficiency energy upgrades. This program will enhance the safety and comfort of residents, improve the long-term viability of our social housing infrastructure and further reduce Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions. "

- Parminder Sandhu

Chair of the Green Ontario Fund board of directors

## QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing \$25 million over the next three years to improve energy efficiency in social housing apartment buildings with less than 100 units.
- Over the next three years, Ontario will also invest \$2 billion dollars in affordable and sustainable housing across the province.
- Service managers interested in eligibility criteria and how to apply for GreenON Social Housing should visit [GreenON.ca](http://GreenON.ca).
- The Green Ontario Fund offers programs and rebates that help households and businesses reduce their energy costs and fight climate change. Visit [GreenON.ca](http://GreenON.ca) to find out how small – or big – changes in your home can help save money while reducing greenhouse gas pollution.
- A 2012 [Deutsche Bank study](#) found that every \$1 million invested in energy efficiency-related retrofits in multi-family affordable housing buildings generated between \$1.3 million and \$3.9 million in energy savings, improving both the sustainability of those buildings and the quality of life of their residents.

## LEARN MORE

- [Green Ontario Fund](#)
- [Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#)
- [Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan](#)
- [Ontario's Cap and Trade Program](#)

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