

GETTING HOME ENERGY BILLS UNDER CONTROL

For eight years, billions of your energy dollars have been thrown away through mismanagement and expensive experiments. The result? Skyrocketing rates are making it harder and harder for families to pay their hydro bills and harder and harder for our economy to grow.

A Tim Hudak government will fight this unfair burden and make energy more affordable for Ontario families. We will treat energy policy as economic policy and take immediate steps to give the typical Ontario household \$275 in annual relief from rising energy bills.



My husband and I are senior citizens living on a small pension. The rise in the prices of electricity and home heating fuel is very difficult for us.

- Heather Bodrogi, Keswick

We will remove the HST from home hydro bills.

The HST has made life unaffordable for many families. Combine the HST with expensive energy experiments and hydro bills have soared. We will remove the provincial portion of the HST from those bills.

We will remove the HST from the cost of home heating.

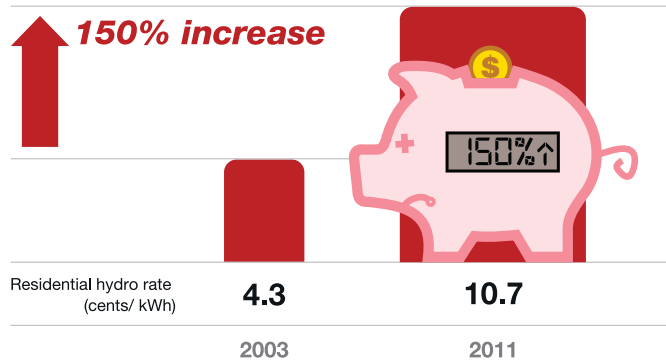
We live in Canada. Heating our homes is not a luxury. Increasing the cost with a surprise tax increase is grossly unfair. We will remove the provincial portion of the HST from every home heating bill.

We will remove the Debt Retirement Charge from home hydro bills.

This charge was added to hydro bills in 2002. As of 2010, the full amount had been collected – yet it was extended to 2018. It's like a credit card you've paid off, yet have to keep paying, and no one tells you why. We will remove it from your hydro bill.

[hydro rates]

Impact of smart meter tax machines



Source: Ontario Energy Board

We will unplug the mandatory smart meters.

We will end mandatory time-of-use pricing. We will stop forcing families to be showered and ready for school and work before 7am or compelling seniors to do laundry late into the night. The smart meters forced on our homes – at a cost of more than \$1 billion – have become nothing but government-sponsored tax machines. We will let you decide whether your family wants to use the time-of-use pricing system.

We will eliminate expensive energy bureaucracy.

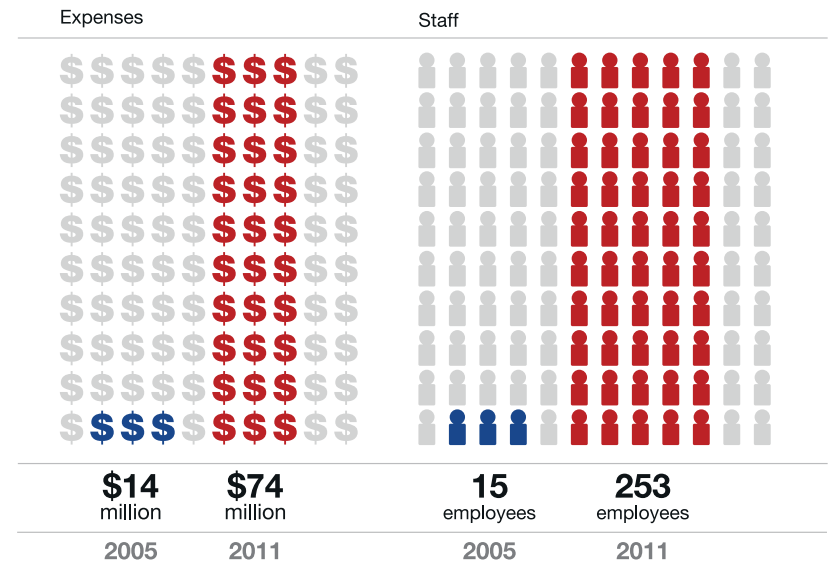
The Ontario Power Authority was a 15-person “transitional” body created by Dalton McGuinty’s Liberal government to manage Ontario’s energy supply. Today it’s a 253-person permanent entity where 91 people earn over \$100,000 and the CEO earns over \$570,000. In just six years, it has burned through \$300 million in expenditures. A Tim Hudak government will close it.

We will invest in an affordable clean energy supply mix.

We will focus on the proven technologies that are effective, efficient, and clean; like natural gas, hydroelectric, and nuclear. Any investments in nuclear technology will, of course, be subject to the most rigorous safety standards in the world. We will have an open and fair process for alternate energy sources like solar, wind, and biomass that demands affordable prices and respects local decisions.

[growth in OPA]

Ontario Power Authority



Source: Ministry of Finance and Ontario Power Authority

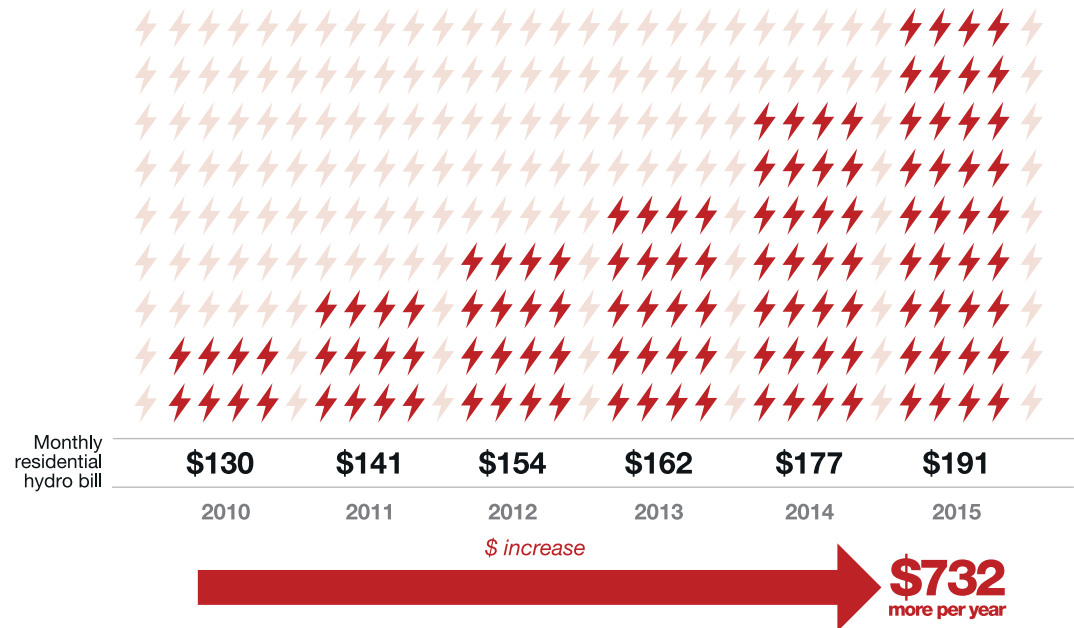
We will stop the expensive energy experiments that are driving up hydro bills.

A Tim Hudak government will end the Liberal government's schemes that have families subsidize hydro prices. We will end the feed-in tariff program that, in some cases, pays up to 15 times the usual cost of the hydro. Hardworking farmers and other Ontarians who signed contracts to host energy production on their property will have their contracts honoured. But there will be no more of these deals.

We will end the king of all secret, sweetheart deals – the \$7 billion Samsung deal – that happened without a competitive process or a guarantee of job creation targets. Building our green energy sector cannot be achieved by writing a cheque to one single foreign-owned multinational corporation that was handed every advantage.

[hydro bill increases]

Projected hydro bill increases under Dalton McGuinty, 2010-2015



Source: Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters

We will give families a voice in how hydro rates are set.

Families understand that their hydro bill goes up if they leave the lights on. But why does it skyrocket for no apparent reason? The Ontario Energy Board sets rates, but this body has lost its independence. We will restore that independence by ending the day-to-day political interference of the last eight years. And we will establish a powerful Consumer Advocate at the OEB. The Consumer Advocate will represent only consumers. Not the bureaucrats. Not the energy sector. Not the special interests.