

IESO's Residential and Commercial Energy Programs Webinar Summary

January 21st, 2025

[Webinar Recording](#)

In this webinar, Arwa Sayyadi and Vicki Gagnon from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) provided an overview of the organization's low-income residential program, as well as commercial programs such as the retrofit rebate program. The session also included a brief discussion on strategies municipalities can use to effectively promote these programs within their communities.

Presenters

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- Vicki Gagnon, IESO

Key Findings

- As Ontario continues to grow, the IESO long-term forecast shows a 75% increase in electricity demand by 2050.
- IESO will continue with energy efficiency programming through a \$10.9 billion over 12 years funding commitment.
- IESO is moving away from existing time-bound start-stop demand site management program model. Moving toward a 12 year framework.
- New programming offers include Home Renovation Savings Program delivered in partnership with Enbridge, Peak Perks is being expanded to small businesses, and the retrofit program will expand to installations of solar PV systems for businesses.
- There will be public engagement toward the end of February to learn about all of the programs.

Presentation Summary

Residential Programs

Home Renovations Savings Program

- Offers rebates to residential consumers who heat their home with electricity as well as Enbridge Gas natural gas customers.
- The rebate supports Ontario homeowners in making energy efficient upgrades to their homes to reduce energy use and improve home comfort.

- ☉ Participants can choose to complete a home energy assessment and bundle it with other measures.
- ☉ Government's Affordable Energy Act, which came into effect in December 2024, ensures that the Home Renovation Savings Program will be expanded to homeowners who also heat their home with propane and oil, instead of being restricted to those who heat with electricity. This will be fully launched on January 28, 2025.
- ☉ Offers rebates up to 30% for home energy efficiency, renovations, and improvements, including windows, doors, insulation, air sealing, smart thermostats, heat pumps, rooftop solar panels and battery storage systems.
- ☉ The program will be expanded to include rebates or energy efficient appliances, including refrigerators and freezers.

Energy Affordability Program

- ☉ Provides support to income eligible electricity consumers at no cost.
- ☉ Participants can receive an energy saving kit or can have a home energy expert visit their home and carry out upgrades.
- ☉ A Home Energy Expert will determine what the participant is eligible for.
- ☉ This program is also run as a one window approach with Enbridge's home winterproofing program.
- ☉ Comprehensive Support stream: Involves a home energy expert visiting the home to identify opportunities to help participants save energy. Measures under this stream can include lighting, shower heads, aerators, drying racks, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and A/Cs.
- ☉ Energy Saving Kit stream: Residents who qualify for this level of support receive an energy savings kit with products to help them save energy in their home, and the products can include light bulbs, faucet aerators, drying rack, and weather stripping.

Peak Perks Program

- ☉ Involves participants taking part in a brief, automated, smart thermostat adjustment during specific periods of peak electricity demand. These events are designed to help reduce stress on the electricity grid.
- ☉ The thermostat is automatically adjusted typically by no more than 2°C. In some cases, the thermostat can be adjusted beforehand to a pre-cool setting to allow the participant to be more comfortable while the event is taking place.
- ☉ The event only occurs on weekdays for up to 3 hours during peak demand and can occur up to 10 times between June and September.

CoolSaver Program

- ☉ Limited to residents of Toronto, York Region, and Ottawa.
- ☉ Discounts are provided for A/C tune-ups or A/C replacements.

- ⦿ Participants need to ensure that the data is measured and analyzed by a qualified technician, and that the A/C measure being replaced, does meet the end of life criteria or criteria for receiving a tune up.

Commercial Programs

Instant Discounts Program

- ⦿ LED lighting is incented through this program. 390 participating distributors across the province. The discount is applied at checkout.
- ⦿ Occupancy sensor controls are incented for a point-of-sale discount.

Retrofit Program

- ⦿ The incentives are on a predetermined prescriptive basis, based on the amount of energy savings.
- ⦿ There's also a custom stream for more unique solutions which is incented at \$1,200 a kilowatt or 13 cents a kilowatt hour.
- ⦿ Projects that are eligible for the program provide sustainable, measurable, and verified reductions in peak electricity demand and electricity consumption. This includes network lighting controls and a variety of HVAC equipment. New prescriptive measures are computer room air conditioning and solar photovoltaic.
- ⦿ Offers social and affordable housing providers double the regular retrofit prescriptive incentives, capped at 50% of the eligible project costs, and up to 50% of the total estimated prescriptive incentive payable in advance to help manage the expenses of the upfront capital costs of the measures
- ⦿ Prescriptive non-lighting incentives are double in Niagara, Kingston, Pembroke, Kenora, Waubushene, Barrie Muskoka, Elmira, and the Peterborough areas. For social housing in these areas, you get double the double incentive.
- ⦿ The program has expanded to incentives for solar PV. The incentives are capped at 50% of the total installed product cost, including labor and materials. And it's for behind the meter, on-site facility, consumption or peak load, reduction load displacement. Net metering is not allowed.
- ⦿ Pre-approval for the retrofit incentive does not guarantee a connection to the grid. You need to contact your LDC early in the process and work with them to ensure connectivity.
- ⦿ Has spring and fall adjustments, adding or removing measures or adjusting incentive levels for certain measures.

Existing Building Commissioning Program

- ⦿ Provides funds to help hire a commissioning agent to identify savings opportunities.
- ⦿ Intended for buildings that are no longer operating at the optimum specifications or ones that have shifted the use of space.

Additional Resources

- 🕒 [Home Renovations Savings](#)
- 🕒 [Energy Affordability Program](#)
- 🕒 [Peak Perks](#)
- 🕒 [CoolSaver Program](#)
- 🕒 [Instant Discounts Program](#)
- 🕒 [Retrofit Program](#)
- 🕒 [Instant Discounts Program](#)
- 🕒 [Existing Building Commissioning Program](#)

Contact Information

Please reach out to us at any time with questions, input, or for additional information.

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