



Government Relations Issues Update

Home Energy Efficiency Rebates

TREB Key Message

The provincial government should help Ontario homeowners cope with rising energy costs by reintroducing rebates to homeowners who install energy efficient retrofits.

Background

Ontario residential electricity rates are predicted to rise 46% over the next five years.

Ontario's 3.2 million homeowners need help controlling their energy costs. Unfortunately, home owners no longer have provincial government incentives to install energy efficient retrofits to help reduce energy costs and curb greenhouse gas emissions.

The Government of Ontario stopped accepting applications for home energy retrofit rebates under its Ontario Home Energy Savings Program on March 31, 2011, but continues to pay 50 per cent of the cost of a home energy audit, up to \$150.

After a suspension in the federal ecoEnergy Home Retrofit Program, the federal government reintroduced the program and provides up to \$5,000 to homeowners who undertake renovations that improve the energy efficiency of their homes, for renovations conducted between June 6, 2011 and March 31, 2012.

REALTORS® are urging the provincial government to help Ontario homeowners cope with rising energy costs by reintroducing rebates to homeowners who install

energy efficient retrofits. Supporting energy conservation should be a cornerstone of the government's plan to help homeowners cope with rising energy prices.

Retrofit rebates provide incentives to voluntarily improve home energy efficiency. Improving the energy efficiency of Ontario's housing stock will decrease the demand for electricity, reduce carbon emissions and save homeowners money on their hydro bills.

Under the old Ontario Home Energy Savings Program, homeowners were eligible for up to \$10,000 in retrofit rebates, half from the Government of Ontario and half from the Government of Canada for installed home energy efficient retrofits.

Ontario's Home Energy Savings program, which included rebates for voluntary energy audits and retrofits, was a huge success with over 90,000 home owners completing energy efficient retrofits to their properties.

A recent Ipsos-Reid survey of Ontario home owners revealed that 92 per cent of Ontarians thought that the government should create more incentives for home owners to make environmentally friendly and energy efficient renovations to their homes.