

September 2025

SAVE ON Energy Programs

Save ON Energy programs offer financial support and technical expertise to help businesses across Ontario reach their energy management goals. Delivered by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and offered by local hydro companies, Save on Energy supports businesses to realize the many benefits from using energy wisely.

Offered Programs

- The [Small Business Program](#) has incentives of up to \$3,000 for eligible lighting equipment and up to \$2,500 for eligible non-lighting equipment. Visit saveonenergy.ca for tips.
- The [Instant Discounts Program](#) has point-of-sale discounts for existing commercial, agricultural, industrial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings and facilities in Ontario that purchase eligible lighting products from participating distributors/dealers. Discounts are available for a variety of [lighting products](#). See <https://saveonenergy.ca/> for a map of participating distributors.
- The [Retrofit Regional Adders Program](#) is offered in some areas of the province where electricity constraints exist, to assist in reducing demand for the transmission assets.

Start of Application Process

Eligible applications are identified by the first three characters of the postal code. Facilities undertaking the retrofit [must be located in the target areas identified to be eligible for the increased incentive](#). If your facility is located in one of the listed target areas, please speak to a Save ON Energy representative about accessing this program, through the Retrofit support line or by email at retrofit@ieso.ca.

- The [Retrofit Program](#) helps businesses become more energy efficient and reinvest cost savings into their operations. The program explains how businesses can shorten the payback period on energy-saving projects, as well as the benefits that come with integrating energy efficiency into their businesses.



- Many energy management tools are eligible for funding and incentives through Save ON Energy. For more information, visit saveonenergy.ca/ or speak with your local hydro utility.

Did you know

You can contact IESO at 1-844-303-5542 for application support or general questions.

- Most non-lighting measures will be eligible for double the incentive normally available from the Retrofit program, with the exception of solar PV distributed energy resources, horticultural lighting and controls, and the energy management information system (EMIS) measures.

For more information, visit:

ofa.on.ca/issues/energy-costs-availability

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Start of Application Process Continued

- Participants in the Retrofit Program are owners and operators of industrial, commercial, institutional and multi-family residential buildings, or Persons with the rights to have the measures installed.
- [Program eligibility requirements | PDF](#)
- Applicants are required to submit an application and receive pre-approval for their projects in order to participate in the program.
- Several incentives are available to help businesses start energy-efficiency projects. Customers can choose measures from three streams: lighting, HVAC, and manufacturing and other equipment.
- Incentives are predefined based on the equipment being installed. Applications must have a min. incentive value of \$500 to be eligible.
- The [program worksheets](#) can help to plan projects, select project measures and to estimate energy savings of available incentives. The [pre-project application checklist](#) and resources to help you at every step of the application process are [available online](#).

Creating an Account

- To apply, you must create an account at the [Save on Energy Retrofit portal](#). The portal centralizes all aspects of the project application from the details of the upgrade to the approval process.
- Create an application in the portal and include project details, such as the estimated project cost, start date and a description of the upgrade. If you're working on multiple facilities, you can fill in details for upgrades at each facility under one application.
- You will also need to include any relevant documents, such as a quote for the project, spec sheets for the equipment and any other supporting documents required to support project review.
- In the portal, you'll be able to see estimates for energy savings based on the project details you provide. See the [YouTube video: Creating a retrofit application](#) and [Tips to make sure your review goes smoothly. | PDF](#) for help.



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Submitting Application

- You need to accept the Retrofit program participant agreement, and then submit the application for review and approval by the IESO.
- Once you submit an application, you will receive an email notification that the application has been received and is under review. During this time, the IESO may request edits.
 - If that's the case, simply return to the portal to make edits to the project details and resubmit the application. Once the review is complete, the IESO will send an email stating that your project has been pre-approved.

When to Start Work

- To be eligible for an incentive, you must submit an application before beginning a project.
- You can begin work once the application is submitted, or wait until the application receives pre-approval to ensure it meets program requirements.
 - If you chooses to start the project before the application is pre-approved, it is important to know there is a risk that the project may receive a lower than expected incentive amount, or that the project application may not be approved.

What to do Post-Project

- After a project is complete, complete the post-project submission.
 - You will need to return to the pre-approved application in the Retrofit portal to prepare the submission.
 - Add the verified data for the completed project and upload any required supporting documents, such as the project invoices, disposal documents for the equipment replaced, and energy-saving calculations.
 - The [post-project submission checklist](#) helps you make sure you do not miss a step.



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What to do Post-Project Continued

- Submit the post-project submission for review and approval, similar to the pre-approval process.
 - See the [YouTube video: Submitting the final invoice](#).
- After the post-project submission is completed and approved, the IESO will ask you to submit an invoice for the approved incentive amount through the Retrofit portal. Finish this important task to receive the incentive payment.
- Please check the invoice guide and template for more guidance on what needs to be included.
 - Once an invoice is approved you can expect to receive an incentive cheque in eight to twelve weeks.



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Viewpoints:



“When we look at the magnitude of the how much power we will need by 2050, it becomes clearer than ever that planning for our future energy needs requires a thoughtful, long-term approach that also respects other key parameters like the environment and our ability to produce food.”

- Paul Maurice, OFA Executive Member, December 2024

“Rural Ontario needs affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to fuel growth and keep businesses economically viable, including a balance of conventional and alternative energy options. Rural energy costs are 30 to 100% higher than urban areas, impacting competitiveness and sustainability.

- Clint Cameron, OFA Director, February 2025

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