

Fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh Electricity Pricing Effective January 1-28, 2021

1. What is the fixed electricity pricing about?

To support Ontarians staying home during the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation, the Ontario Government has taken steps to temporarily hold the price of electricity at 8.5¢/kWh, 24 hours a day. This fixed price applies to electricity **used/consumed** from January 1, 2021 until the end of the day on January 28, 2021.

The fixed 8.5¢/kWh price is equal to the off-peak price set by the OEB on December 15, 2020 for January 1, 2021.

2. Which customers does this affect?

Residential, small business and farm customers that buy their electricity from Energy+ and are on the Ontario Energy Board's Regulated Price Plan (RPP) will pay the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price for all hours of the day, every day of the week. This fixed price applies whether the customer is on time-of-use (TOU) or Tiered pricing.

- Customers of unit-sub meter providers (USMP) that are in a building that is paying RPP Time-of-Use or Tiered prices will also benefit from the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price.

3. Which customers are not affected by this change?

Customers who purchase their electricity under contract from an energy retailer will continue to pay the price agreed to in the contract. The OEB does not set these prices.

The fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price also does not apply to customers that have opted out of the RPP in favour of market-based pricing.

4. I am paying Tiered prices. Will I receive the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price, and does it apply even if I pass the winter Tier threshold?

Yes. The fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price applies to all electricity consumed by customers on Tiered pricing, regardless of whether they pass the winter Tier threshold. The winter Tier threshold is 1,000 kWh per month for residential customers. The Tier threshold is 750 kWh per month for non-residential customers all year round.

5. I am a customer of a unit sub-meter provider (USMP). Will the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price apply to me?

Customers of USMPs that are in a building that buys electricity from its utility and pays RPP prices will also benefit from the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price.

6. I signed a contract with an electricity retailer. Will the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price apply to me?

No. Customers that buy their electricity from an energy retailer under contract will continue to pay the price they agreed to in their contract. The OEB does not set these prices.

7. I just switched from TOU pricing to Tiered pricing. How does that affect me?

The fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price applies to all RPP customers, regardless of whether they are on TOU or Tiered pricing.

8. When will this price change appear on my bill?

Eligible Energy+ customers can expect to see the temporary rate on bills issued from last week in January to last week in February. The temporary new rate will only appear on a customer bill, once the electricity is actually used, starting January 1, 2021 until January 28, 2021. Customers should look at their bill and see what the Electricity Meter reading dates are, to know when they can expect to see the 8.5 ¢/kWh price for electricity used between January 1 and January 28, 2021.

9. What do I have to do to get this price?

Customers don't need to do anything. This change will happen automatically for the electricity that is used from January 1, 2021 until the end of the day on January 28, 2021.

10. What happens after January 28, 2021?

When the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price expires at the end of the day on January 28, 2021, customers will start to pay the RPP prices that were set by the OEB on December 15, 2020. Those prices will be either TOU or Tiered pricing, depending on which price plan the customer is on.

Customers do still have the option to switch from TOU pricing to Tiered pricing, but the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price will be in place until the end of the day on January 28, 2021 for customers on both price plans.

11. Why is this price relief only in place until January 28, 2021?

The government has chosen the 28-day period to align with other supports that the government has put in place for Ontarians staying at home during the province-wide shutdown announced on December 21, 2020.

12. How much will customers save with this change?

Because each customer consumes electricity differently, the bill impact of the fixed 8.5 ¢/kWh price will vary.

13. How much is the government spending on this initiative?

The Ontario Government has indicated that it plans to cover the financial impact of the price change through provincial revenues. That financial impact will therefore not be recovered from ratepayers on future electricity bills.