Theresa McClenaghan

LOW-INCOME ENERGY NETWORK

Rising energy costs, conservation and low-income consumers

March 29, 2006

Presentation to Ontario Power Authority Board

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The Ontario Trillium Foundation La Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

Presentation overview

1. Low-income Energy Network (LIEN)
2. Rising energy prices
3. Low-income energy burden
4. Energy conservation and low-income consumers
5. Barriers to energy conservation
6. Helping low-income consumers
7. OPA's role and low-income consumers

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What is the Low-Income Energy Network?

- Formed in 2004, LIEN is a network of anti-poverty, affordable housing, environmental and social justice groups
- LIEN now has over 50 member organizations, as well as individual and corporate supporters
- We seek to address and raise awareness of energy poverty through:
  - outreach to community groups;
  - outreach to the public, e.g. through the media;
  - participating in OEB hearings and legislative processes;
  - working with policy-makers and local utilities to develop workable solutions.

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introduce
- Mary Todorow
- Zeenat Bhanji
- TAM

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LIEN Structure

- LIEN is directed by a steering committee representing:
  - Advocacy Center for Tenants Ontario, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation, Income Security Advocacy Centre, Share the Warmth Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, Toronto Environmental Alliance
- works on a consensus basis
- recently hired a full-time coordinator, with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation

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How LIEN got its start (1)

- Environmental, anti-poverty and affordable housing advocacy groups already working independently on energy issues
  - ACTO addressing impact of security deposit requirements on low-income consumers' access to electricity services
  - Following October 30, 2003 announcement of electricity rate cap review, ACTO, ISAC, SPC-Toronto comment to Minister of Energy on impact of higher electricity prices on low-income consumers
  - Canadian Environmental Law Association, with IndECO and in consultation with ACTO, submits report - *DSM for low-income consumers* - to Ontario Energy Board's consultation on Demand Side Management (conservation)

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How LIEN got its start (2)

- Environmental, anti-poverty and affordable housing advocacy groups already working independently on energy issues
  - Share the Warmth, in partnership with social service agencies and participating local utilities, provides direct financial assistance to low-income consumers in energy crisis and facing disconnection
  - CELA and TEA bring proposals to provincial government on environmentally sustainable solutions to the energy crisis, (with focus on conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources)

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How LIEN got its start (3)

- Realization of the need to work together and develop a shared response to energy crisis.
- First meeting on March 10, 2004 of what becomes the Low-Income Energy Network:
  - CELA, Share the Warmth, ACTO, ISAC, CSPC-Toronto, TDRC and TEA
- Focus together on March 29th media event to highlight impact of impending April 1st electricity price hike on low-income households and to propose positive solutions

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How LIEN got its start (4)

- Following March 29th media conference, LIEN founding members agree to continue to work together on low-income consumer issues
- LIEN drafts Mission Statement, sets up interim steering committee to direct LIEN activities and continues to recruit supporting members

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LIEN Mission Statement

The Low-Income Energy Network:

- aims to ensure universal access to adequate energy as a basic necessity, while minimizing the impacts on health and on the local and global environment of meeting the essential energy and conservation needs of all Ontarians.
- promotes programs and policies which tackle the problems of energy poverty and homelessness, reduce Ontario's contribution to smog and climate change, and promote a healthy economy through renewable and energy efficient technologies.

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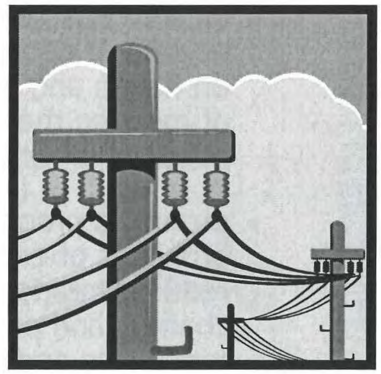
Universal access to energy

- Electricity and heat are basic necessities and universal, non-discriminatory access to these services must be ensured for all Ontarians, including low-income consumers.
- Low-income residential consumers face a disproportionate energy burden.
- Low-income consumers face barriers to taking full advantage of energy conservation possibilities.



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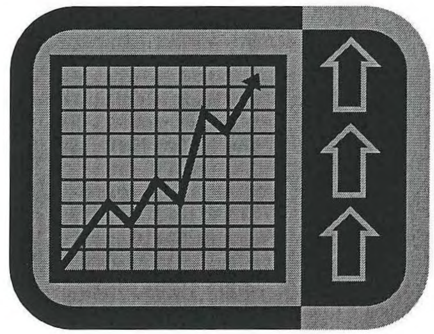
Rising energy prices

- As of April 1, 2005 - OEB's Regulated Price Plan increased electricity prices
- On May 1, 2006, and every six months after that, prices may change based on an updated OEB forecast & any difference in the amount consumers paid for electricity and the amount paid to generators
- Natural gas prices and oil also on the rise



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Energy Competition Act, 1998 restructures Ontario's electricity system and sets framework for the opening of competitive electricity market (wholesale & retail) on May 1, 2002

Electricity costs rise - consumer backlash prompts Conservative government to introduce price cap of 4.3¢ per kWh effective December 1, 2002 to at least 2006

Liberals promised to keep this price cap when campaigning, but announce on October 30, 2003 that it wants a price regime that "better reflects the true cost of electricity"

In November, 2003, Liberals announced interim price caps effective April 1, 2004:

- 4.7¢ per kWh for the **first** 750 kWh, and
- 5.5¢ per kWh for consumption **above** 750 kWh

As of April 1, 2005 - OEB's Regulated Price Plan:

5¢ per kWh for the **first** 750 kWh consumed

5.8¢ per kWh for consumption **above** 750 kWh

Starting November 1, 2005, the lower-price threshold of 750 kWh will change twice a year for <u>residential consumers only:</u>

to <u>1000 kWh</u> per month during the winter season (Nov. 1 to April 30), and

to <u>600 kWh</u> during the summer season (May 1 to October 31) when peak demand is highest in Ontario

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Energy use and the environment

- Electricity generating stations are big polluters.
  - 20% of greenhouse gases
  - 15% to 23% of smog-causing pollutants
  - Radioactive wastes we don't know how to deal with
- 33% of electricity used by residential sector;
  - home energy use (electricity natural gas & oil) is responsible for 15% of greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario.
- Environmentalists call for higher electricity costs to spur conservation, <u>BUT</u> higher prices will increase the energy burden on low-income people

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Canada signed onto Kyoto Protocol on April 29, 1998.
Ratified by Canada on December 17, 2004.
Protocol came into force on February 16, 2005.

Canada's commitment under the Kyoto Protocol is to reduce net GHG emissions (covering 6 GHGs and 'sinks') to 6% below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

The 6 GHGs are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride. Presently, 'sink' activities refer to net removals of GHGs resulting from direct human-induced land-use change and forestry activity limited to afforestation, deforestation, and reforestation.

Total Canadian GHG emissions increased by 24% between 1990 and 2003. [2]

[2] This figure comes from the most recent government data in Canada's 2003 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, submitted to the UNFCCC on May 27, 2005. See: http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/application/x-zip-compressed/can_2005_nir_27may.zip Canada's climate action plan released in April 2005 is based on 2002 emissions data, which accounts for some of the discrepancies in numbers between the plan and 2003 emissions data.

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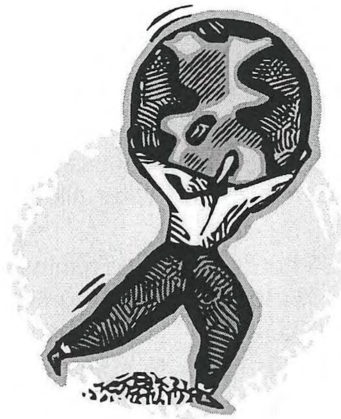
Low-income energy burden



- Low-income energy consumers face a disproportionate energy burden
- Energy burden refers to the amount of household income spent on energy
  - some experts say 6% is an affordable burden
  - U.K. fuel-poor household defined as spending more than 10%

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The typical low-income family in Ontario has only a $200 "cushion" to buffer income interruptions or deal with unexpected expenditures. The $200 "cushion" figure is provided by Statistics Canada - 2002 published study based on 1999 Survey of Financial Security (next survey to be conducted in 2005). Low-income in this survey is defined by Stats Canada's **post-tax**, rather than pre-tax, LICOs.

U.K.'s *Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act* of 2000 formally recognized fuel poverty "as a major issue of public well-being"

Definition of a fuel-poor household is "one that needs to spend in excess of 10 percent of household income in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime (18°C to 21°C)

U.K. Fuel Poverty Strategy, published in 2001, set targets for eradication of fuel poverty in England

"In England, the Government as far as reasonably practicable will seek an end to fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010.

Fuel poverty in other households in England will, as far as reasonably practicable, also be tackled as progress is made on these groups, with a target that by 22 November 2016 no person in England should have to live in fuel poverty.

Separate targets will be/are being set by the Devolved Administrations in respect of tackling fuel poverty."

Source: November 2004, Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DFRA) publication, ***Fuel Poverty in England: The Government's Plan for Action***

A vulnerable household is one containing children or those who are elderly, disabled or long-term sick.

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Low-income energy burden

- With the April 1st, 2005 rate increases, electricity bills for an average residential customer range from $94 to $159 per month.
  - For a single mother with two children on social assistance, this represents 17% to 28% of her maximum shelter allowance of $571.
  - For a single person working 35 hours a week at minimum wage ($7.75) this represents 8% to 14% of this worker's total monthly pre-tax income of $1175.42.
- The typical low-income family in Ontario has only a $200 "cushion" to buffer income interruptions or deal with unexpected expenditures.

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ODSP rates increased by 3% as of February 2005 and OW benefits increased by 3% as of March 2005. Next increase in ODSP/OW rates of 2% will be in September 2006.

Minimum wage increased from $7.45 to $7.75 per hour as of February 1, 2006.

According to the OEB, for the majority of (mythical,typical) residential consumers using 1,000 kWh per month, the combined total bill impact (commodity plus distribution rate increase) will be between 4% and 10%. OEB has posted charts with combined total bill impact of new price plan and distribution rate changes approved by the OEB for the 1000 kWh per month customer.

This is the range across Ontario, as of April 1st, 2005 - and it's an all-in bill, distribution, transmission, commodity (the new tiered pricing of 5 cents/5.8 cents with the 750 kWh threshold), GST, debt retirement charge, etc.

Residential customer - 1000 kWh per month - all-in electricity bill

lowest - $93.88 - (or 9.388 cents/kWh)

highest - $159.41 - (or 15.941 cents/kWh)

median - $111.22 - (or 11.122 cents/kWh)

average - $112.41 - (or 11.241 cents/kWh)

As of Nov. 1, 2005 to April 30 2006 (i.e. increased the first block from 750 kWh to 1,000 kWh). The levels of the bills go down by around $2. This is because an additional 250 kWh are at the 5.0 cent rate as opposed to the 5.8 cents. It is not exactly $2 because of the loss factor adjustments.

Residential customer - 1000 kWh per month - all-in electricity bill

lowest - $91.64 - (or 9.164 cents/kWh)

highest - $157.10 - (or 15.710 cents/kWh)

median - $108.96 - (or 10.896 cents/kWh)

average - $110.12 - (or 11.012 cents/kWh)

Rising energy prices and low-income consumers

- Low-income households are particularly vulnerable to increases in shelter and utility costs - put housing in jeopardy.
- High energy costs are the second reason for economic evictions in Ontario, right after unaffordable rents, according to Share the Warmth.
- Heating, eating or paying the rent will be choice faced by many.
- Reductions in energy use may be at the expense of socially acceptable standards of living.

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The 2005 National Energy Assistance Survey Report Key Findings (US) found Signs of Unaffordable Energy Bills to include:

•73 percent reported that they reduced expenses for household necessities because they did not have enough money to pay their energy bills

•19 percent that they kept their home at a temperature they felt was unsafe or unhealthy

•18 percent left their home for at least part of the day because it was too cold or too hot

•24 percent used their stove or oven to provide heat

•20 percent reported that they went without food for at least one day in the past five years.

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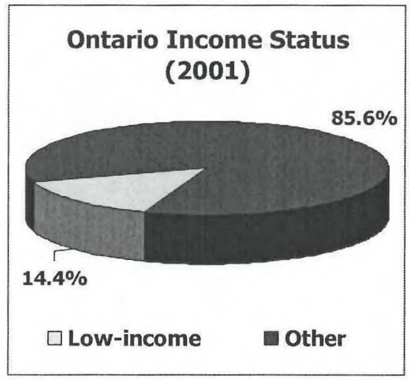
Poverty

- 14.4% of Ontario's population (1,611,505 persons or 759,590 households) are living at or below the "poverty line"
  - the majority (65%) of these low-income households are renters (490,485 households), and 35% are low-income homeowners (269,095 households)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population

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Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population. Incidence of low income among the population living in private households, provinces – Ontario.

-in addition to 2001 Census data on LICO households, there is the longitudinal Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) which follows the same people for six years - there is slippage and people do not always disclose all income information, especially about social assistance

-according to 2001 SLID figures, there were 1,378,000 persons in low-income in Ontario, or 11.7% of the population

according to Richard Shillington, data suggests value in the range between Census and SLID is reasonable for planning purposes

-Green Communities Canada's 2001 Census custom tabulation:

759,590 households with at least one low-income person present

490,485 are tenant households - and 36% of all Ontario tenant households are low-income

269,095 are homeowner households, and 39% of these are senior-led;

represent only 9% of all Ontario homeowner households

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Before-Tax Low-Income Cut-Offs (LICOs), 2004

	Population of Community of Residence				
Family Size	**500,000 +**	**100,000 – 499,999**	**30,000 – 99,999**	**< than 30,000**	**Rural**
1	$20,337	$17,515	$17,407	$15,928	$14,000
2	$25,319	$21,804	$21,669	$19,828	$17,429
3	$31,126	$26,805	$26,639	$24,375	$21,426
4	$37,791	$32,546	$32,345	$29,596	$26,015
5	$42,862	$36,912	$36,685	$33,567	$29,505
6	$48,341	$41,631	$41,375	$37,858	$33,278
7 +	$53,821	$46,350	$46,065	$42,150	$37,050

Source: Statistics Canada - Low income cut-offs for 2004 and low income measures for 2002, Catalogue no. 75F0002MIE2005003

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Low Income Cutoffs (LICOs) published by Statistics Canada, using pre-tax, post-transfer household income are currently the best approach for defining low income. Post-tax LICOs adjust for federal and provincial income taxes, but do not reflect regressive taxes such as EI and CPP premiums, GST, provincial sales taxes and property taxes.

The pre-tax, post-transfer LICOs vary according to family size and size of community. Persons and families living at or below these income levels are widely considered to be living in straitened circumstances. Both the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) and the National Council of Welfare (NCW) have adopted the Statistics Canada pre-tax, post-transfer LICOs as poverty lines.

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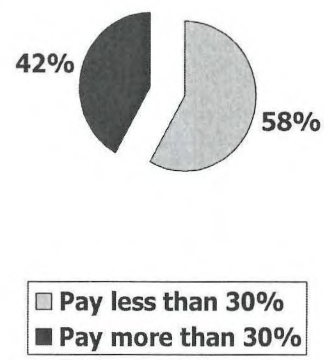
Housing affordability

- 42% of Ontario tenant households (564,735) pay 30% or more of their household income on shelter costs (including utilities).
  - 20% pay 50% and over of their household income on shelter costs - and are at increased risk of homelessness
- 66.4% of Ontario households in core housing need are tenant households - a significantly disproportionate share.



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There are 1,351,365 tenant households in Ontario. 20% of Ontario's tenant households (265,995) pay 50% or more of their household income on shelter costs.

2001 Census - Toronto CMA tenant households' median income is $36,802 - an affordable rent (i.e. 30% of total income) would be $920

The median income of Ontario's renter households is less than half of homeowner households ($66,382 vs. $32,194).

CMHC considers households to be in core housing need if they do not live in, and cannot access, acceptable housing:

- affordable (costs less than 30% of before-tax HH income)
- in adequate condition (not requiring any major repairs)
- suitable size (enough bedrooms for size & make-up of HH)

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Vulnerability to rising electricity prices

- The lowest household income quintile in Ontario has a far greater proportion of households that:
  - have electric heating as their principal heating equipment (22.4% compared to 12.6% for the average income household and a number too unreliable to be published for the highest quintile)
  - use electricity as principal heating fuel (26.4% compared to 9.8% for the highest quintile)
  - use electricity as principal heating fuel for hot water (30.4% compared to 15.1% for the highest quintile).

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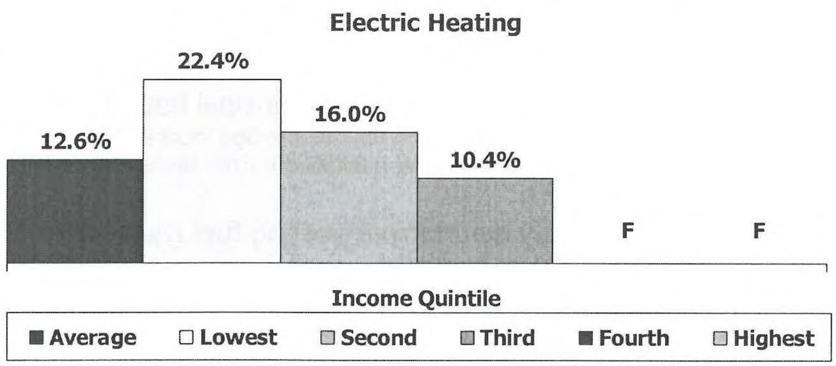
Principal Heating Equipment



Source: Survey of Household Spending 2004, Statistics Canada

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Energy conservation and low-income consumers

- Conservation and energy efficiency is a cheap, clean, and sustainable solution to the energy crisis
- OPA directed to reduce overall electricial energy consumption & demand by low-income and social housing residents by 100 MW

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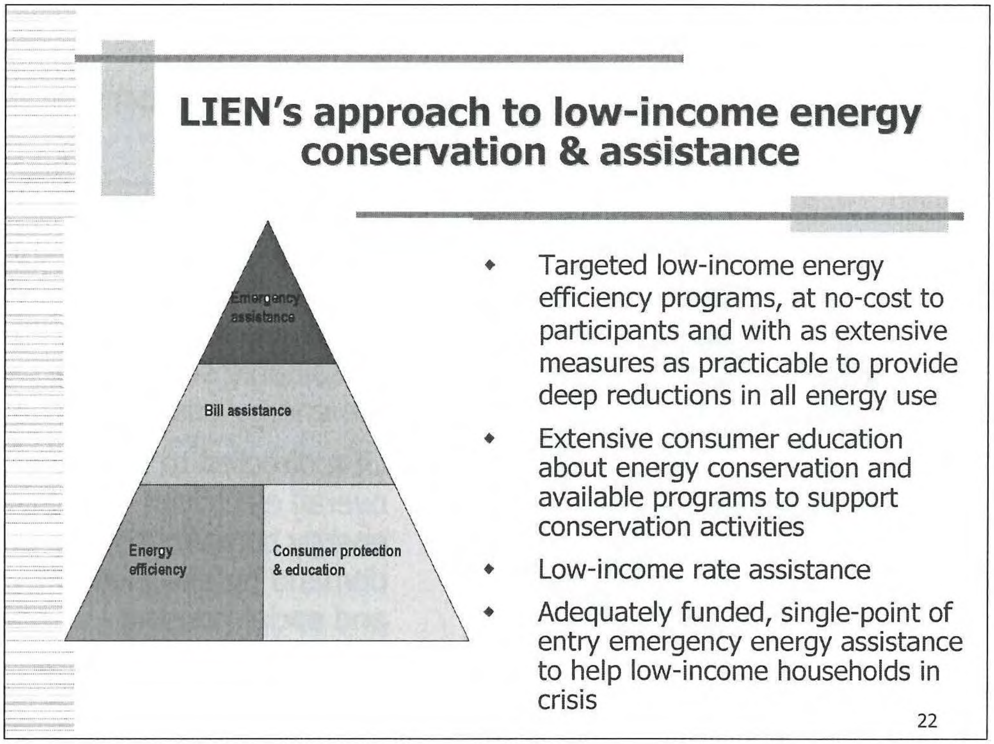

LIEN's four-pillared approach to low-income energy conservation and assistance.

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Benefits to Low-Income Household

- Lower energy bills
- Reduce risk of homelessness
- Improve comfort/quality of life
- allow people with low incomes to participate in the "Culture of Conservation"

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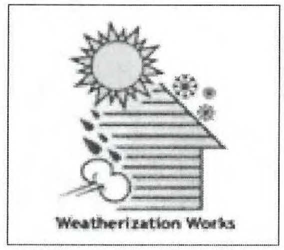
Benefits for Society

- Reduce demand for emergency assistance (public & charitable funds)
- Reduce need for public expenditures such as health, fire, building inspections, homeless shelters, and housing programs
- Reduce poverty
- Reduce pollution
- Reduce need for new generation facilities



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Benefits for Utility

- Reduce costs associated with late payment or non-payment of bills (e.g. collection, disconnection, reconnection)
- Reduce costs associated with emergency calls

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Barriers to conservation for low-income consumers: homeowners & renters

- Lack of capital to invest in energy efficiency
- More likely to live in sub-standard housing - older, drafty/poorly insulated with inefficient appliances & heating systems
  - Apartment buildings: may not even have thermostats in individual units

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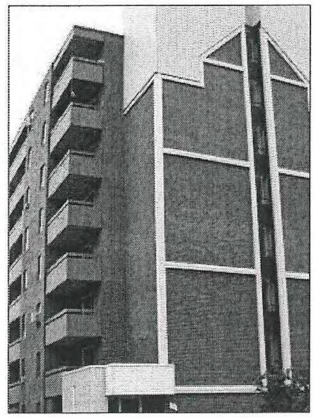
Barriers to conservation for low-income consumers: renters

- Split incentive between landlords & tenants
  - tenants don't own building/ appliances so can't benefit from long-term investment;
  - tenants don't have authority to invest
  - landlords can pass on higher energy costs under current rent rules/don't directly enjoy improved comfort of less drafty home



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Conservation and housing tenure

- Conservation for low-income homeowners less complex to address - owner & resident one and the same
- Social housing and private rental - have distinct mandates/interests, legislative and regulatory regimes, particularly with respect to rent rules and how energy efficiency retrofit costs and savings can be passed on to tenants
- Currently, most social housing tenants pay for utilities in their rent; most tenants in multi-residential private rental sector pay for utilities in their rent
- Electricity sub-metering being proposed as "quick fix"

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In contrast, in the rental-housing sector, the owner and resident are separate with markedly different interests: the landlord's purpose is to make a profit and minimize costs, while the tenant seeks a safe, comfortable and affordable home.

This split incentive creates a barrier to energy efficiency. The concern, at its most basic level, is that if the landlord does not pay for the electricity, the landlord will have no incentive to conserve, but conversely, if the tenant does not pay, the tenant will have no incentive to conserve.

– low.

Who's calling for sub-metering?

Landlords

- want to transfer volatile utility costs to tenants, argue that tenants and the environment will benefit

Ontario government

- facing energy supply/demand crunch, promised to close coal-fired plants - want to promote "culture of conservation" among all energy consumers

Suppliers

- meter and billing services companies see business opportunity in multi-residential rental sector

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(Federation of Rental Housing Providers) FRPO have produced two reports:

1. *Options to Reduce Energy Consumption by Encouraging Sub-Metering and Individual Billing in Multi-residential Rental Dwellings*. February 26, 2003

2. *Energy Conservation and Electricity Sub-Metering in Multi-residential Housing in Ontario*. December 22, 2004

891,560 tenant households live in multi-residential buildings that are 5 or more storeys (543,355 households) or fewer than 5 storeys (348, 205 households) - FRPO has estimated that 90% of these buildings are bulk-metered.

FRPO cites two main benefits to tenants:

1. Sub-metered tenants will only pay for the energy they use, and won't be subsidizing heavy users

2. Sub-metering allows tenants the opportunity to benefit directly from energy conservation

Three meter companies are represented on FRPO's Utilities Committee: Ozz Corporation, Stratacon Group, Wirebury

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LIEN & ACTO: sub-metering not answer

Zapping Tenants report:

- Not cost-effective
- Not most effective conservation
- Not fair to tenants

Financial incentive shifted from landlord to tenant,

- But, landlord has control over factors that can significantly reduce energy use (One-Tonne Challenge list)

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It is our position that sub-metering puts the financial incentive to conserve in the wrong place. With bulk metering, the landlord pays for electricity, and the financial incentive for conserving lies primarily with the landlord. Sub-metering shifts the incentive to conserve from the landlord to the tenant. This shift shields the landlord from the responsibility to provide and maintain an energy-efficient building and appliances for the use of tenants. This represents a significant lost conservation opportunity

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Helping low-income consumers

Energy conservation programs

- OEB encouraged LDCs to undertake low-income CDM, not mandatory
  - LIEN produced template for program for low-income homeowners and tenants who pay for utilities (electricity, gas) directly
  - Brantford Power piloting "Conserving Homes" program based on LIEN template
  - 33 LDCs are spending approx. $9.6 million on targeted low-income or social housing energy conservation programs (about 6% of all LDC CDM spending approved by the OEB)
  - more than half of this spending by Hydro One Networks ($5 million)
  - most funding for social housing sector

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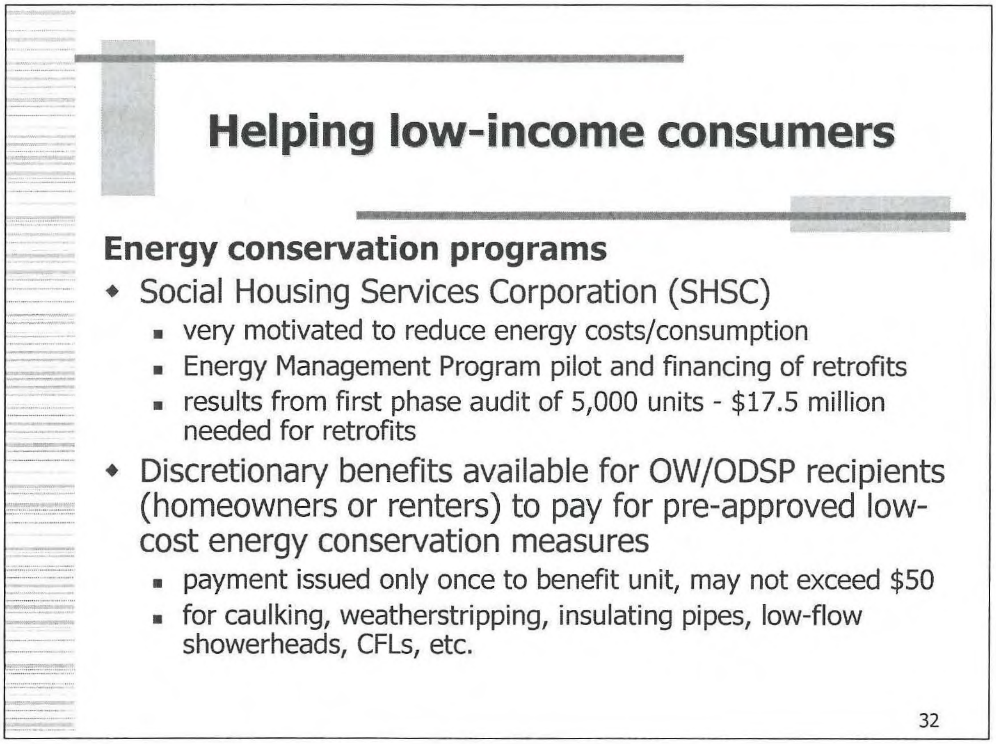

Spiralling utility costs for social housing providers

• over $400 million annually across SHSC housing provider portfolio - or 18% of average budget

•energy represents about half of costs provider can impact (controllable)

• almost 23% of units have electric heat

• providers pay 82% of electricity costs, residents pay 18%

Specific reg for ODSP discretionary benefit for low-cost energy conservation measures (O.Reg. 222/98, section 45.2), but only policy bullet for OW

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Helping low-income consumers

Energy conservation programs

- October 6, 2005 Minister's directive gives OPA/Conservation Bureau responsibility for low-income and social housing CDM - target of 100 MW reduction
- Federal government's 5-year, $500 million EnerGuide for Low-Income Households (EGLIH) program to assist 130,000 low-income households
  - some provinces (Saskatchewan, Newfoundland & Labrador) are topping up EGLIH funding, piggy-backing additional energy conservation measures to achieve further energy reductions

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This initiative will be available to owners of homes, multiple-unit buildings and rooming houses built prior to 1980 and may be used for energy retrofits such as draft-proofing, heating system upgrades and window replacement, for example.

The amount of assistance will vary by the type of structure and location. For single, row and semi-detached housing, financial assistance will be between $3,500 and $5,000. For multiple-unit buildings and rooming houses, financial assistance will be between $1,000 and $1,500 per unit.

Applicants will need to meet existing RRAP income qualifications which take into account household size and variations in local housing market costs. For example, a four-person household with two children residing in Hamilton with a household income of $44,500 or less would be eligible for assistance under the EnerGuide for Low-Income Households program. This same household would have to earn $34,000 or less if they resided in Kamloops because of the lower cost of housing in that market.

The program will be available in early January 2006.

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Helping low-income consumers

Rate assistance/emergency energy assistance

- in development of RPP, LIEN recommended that the OEB establish a low-income assistance rate
- ACTO/LIEN have recommended complete exemption for low-income households from consumer security deposit requirements; OEB has set guidelines for collection of deposits, including payment by installments

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Helping low-income consumers

Rate assistance/emergency energy assistance

- STW/LIEN worked with ComSoc to achieve "one-time" $2 million Emergency Energy Fund on March 29, 2004; renewed the fund in 2005 Ontario Budget, and annualized it
  - fund assists low-income households to pay energy arrears, security deposits and reconnection fees
- Social assistance recipients who pay for heating costs directly can receive assistance for fuel costs as part of shelter allowance, up to a set maximum based on family size

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EEF paid directly to energy provider. Maximum assistance per household is equivalent to two months energy arrears, security deposits and reconnections fees, as required, except under exception circumstances.

Recipients would be entitled to receive assistance only once under EEF, except in exceptional circumstances.

[Cristina Ingravalle of STW has been advised that guidelines have been revised for 2005/06 that the grant maximum has changed from two months worth of energy arrears (including security deposits and reconnections charges) to whatever is required to maintain or reconnect services.]

For social assistance recipients, if heating costs are below the maximum shelter amount, but the combination of other shelter costs and heating costs exceeds the maximum, only the maximum shelter amount is paid.

If a person's heating costs exceed the maximum shelter amount, the shelter amount payable is the actual heating costs. The amount provided to meet the heating costs reflects a reasonable cost taking into account the past energy consumption of the recipient and the cost of heating similar types of accommodation in the same area.

In cases where heating costs have been established and are consistent, or a reasonable increase is reported, actual heating bills do not have to be reviewed. If monthly amount reported is considerably increased over the previous reported amount or appears to be unreasonable, a review of actual heating costs should be conducted.

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Helping low-income consumers

Rate assistance/emergency energy assistance

- Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) pays for utility arrears, reconnections; maximum benefit can be accessed only once in 24-month period
- Discretionary benefits are available to assist OW/ODSP recipients with cost of utility arrears, deposits and reconnection fees
- Share the Warmth, Winter Warmth (Toronto Hydro & Enbridge Gas) and other charitable groups provide financial assistance to pay utility bills - many programs, varying criteria, hard to access

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CSUMB - cumulative total of $799 for a single person; $1500 for a family

More frequent payments can be made only in exceptional circumstances such as moves to address disability-related needs (e.g. move to accessible housing), abuse, flood or fire. Circumstances must be reviewed on a case by case basis.

There has been confusion of when the 24-month period is calculated; 2 recent positive SBT decisions that the counting begins from the effective date of the regulatory change (in December 2004) that made it 24-months rather than 12-months.

CSUMB can be accessed when utilities are threatened to be cut off as well as in actual disconnection situations, i.e. OW O.Reg. 134/98, section 55 (1) paragraph 4

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Helping low-income consumers

Consumer protection

- municipalities can pass Vital Services by-laws under Part VII of the *Tenant Protection Act*, but only a handful have
- these by-laws permit municipalities to step in to restore utility service in cases where tenants pay for the utility in their rent and the landlord has defaulted on payments
- a private member's bill has been introduced that provides for the provincial government to step in when there is no municipal vital services by-law in place

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Bill 6, Fred Gloger Tenant Protection Amendment Act (Vital Services), 2005/Ms. Horwath (Hamilton East). First Reading October 17, 2005. (first introduced in previous session on February 21, 2005.

Utility companies notify the provincial gov't 30 days in advance of a disconnection of utility service. The province would be able to order the supplier to resume the service and place a LIEN on the property for the cost of that service. Another great provision under the PMB is that municipalities would be required to file copies of their Vital Services by-laws with the province.

TM

OPA's role - conservation and low-income consumers

- OPA should aggressively pursue conservation as a form of procurement - need for leadership and quick implementation
- OPA should mandate comprehensive, province-wide low-income energy conservation & assistance programs, use LIEN strategy as model, ensure access to all those in need

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M.J.

OPA's role - conservation and low-income consumers

- Programs should be designed in consultation with stakeholders and delivery/funding partners,
  - to avoid duplication or leverage additional energy efficiency/conservation measures
  - address all energy use ("fuel neutral")
  - with a wide suite of measures (including building envelope retrofits) to reduce energy costs to the greatest extent possible
  - address energy efficiency in new social housing to be built under Ontario/Canada Affordable Housing Program

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T. M.

OPA's role -conservation and low-income consumers

- To achieve "deep" reductions, programs should be adequately funded and tailored to distinct low-income customer groups, including:
  - low-income homeowners
  - low-income tenants in private rental housing
  - low-income tenants in social housing
- Southern California Edison's Low-Income Energy Management Assistance program spent US $69.1 million between 2001 and 2004 to reach 187,685 homes and achieve 32.1 MW in demand reductions.

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Recognized as an exemplary low-income energy efficiency program by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

See Martin Kushler, Dan York and Patti White, *Meeting Essential Needs: The Results of a National Search for Exemplary Utility-Funded Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs*, Report Number U053 of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (September 2005). Pages 16 to 19.

J. M.

Information about LIEN & its work

- We want to develop and implement a comprehensive, workable low-income energy conservation and assistance program in Ontario.
- Our reports and media release packages can be accessed at the LIEN web site - www.lowincomeenergy.ca, and also at:
  - www.acto.ca
  - www.torontoenvironment.org
  - www.cela.ca

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