

Ontario Power Authority Retrofit Program

Between 2011 and 2014, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is making available grants of up to 50 percent of a project's value on eligible energy-saving initiatives that may be undertaken by congregations and other ministries. While a provincial program, it is administered by the local distribution companies. For this reason, there may be slight differences in how the process flows. For those who receive their electricity through one of the larger distribution companies, there may be staff who focus on the incentive program.

If you have been considering an energy savings project and have not yet started, the incentives may be well worth the effort.

Note: Although you need to apply, matching funding is almost automatic for

- energy audits
- “prescribed” improvements—basically, most routine upgrades

The minimum grant is \$1,000 (implying a project cost of \$2,000), and the maximum is \$35,000.

Below is a simplified process outline. More information is available from the OPA website, www.saveonenergy.ca, or your local distribution company.

Steps in the Process

1. Register your building online at www.saveonenergy.ca.
2. Apply for incentive program to confirm eligibility.
3. If conducting an energy audit:
 - a. Submit energy audit application.
 - b. Have energy audit completed. Be sure the energy audit meets the minimum requirements.
 - c. Complete and submit post-audit documentation to receive audit funding (up to 50 percent of audit costs).

The energy audit is not mandatory, but completing it may identify initiatives that qualify, which may result in greater energy savings in general.

4. Decide on the projects to be completed.
5. Apply for approval *before* starting the projects in order to be eligible for the funding incentives. Generally, the value of each project needs to be \$2,000 or more to be eligible. The incentive payback is up to 50 percent of the project size.
6. Receive approval for identified projects.
7. Implement and complete projects.
8. Submit required documentation, including invoices.