



YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce
Housing Services
Covering Grey & Bruce Counties
519.371.9230 or 519.364.3163

ELECTRICITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Ontario Electricity Support Program

If you are a lower-income household and an electricity customer you can apply for the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP).

Beginning in 2016, you may receive a reduction of \$30 – 50 off your electricity bill every month. The amount you receive is based on the number of people living in your home and your total household income.

What you need to apply?

If you have filed your income tax, you will need:

- Your notice of assessment for 2014 income tax
- Your current electricity bill
- Social Insurance numbers for all tax-filers who live with you

If you have not filed your income tax you will need:

- Your current electricity bill
- Proof of income from everyone who lives with you & their birth dates

This might include:

- Pay cheque stubs
- Letter from employer
- Ontario Works and/or ODSP statement
- Employment Insurance statement
- CPP statement
- WSIB statement
- OAS statement
- Rental income
- RRSPs
- Support Payments (received or made)
- Self-employment earnings (2 months of bank statement and invoices, receipts income, and previous year's tax assessment)
- Current Bank Statement

How to apply? There are 3 ways:

1. If you, and everyone living in your house over 16 has completed your income tax in the past two years and you have the internet and a printer, you can apply on line. Go to www.ontarioelectricitysupport.ca to apply.

If you start your application, but cannot finish it, you are able to save it and finish it later. If you need help to finish it please contact one of the numbers below to book an appointment.

You must print the consent form and have everyone in your home over 16 sign it. Once it is signed you can mail it to the address on the form.



2. **If you would prefer to have assistance to complete the application**, you can call the closest office of the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce – Housing Services
 - Housing Services- Owen Sound 519-371-9230
 - Housing Services – Hanover 519-364-3163

YMCA Housing Services cover Grey and Bruce counties.

3. **If you have not completed your income tax, you will need to have your income verified by an intake agency.** Please set up an appointment by contacting the one of the offices listed below that is closest to you.
 - a) The Ontario Works Resource Centre at 910 Queen St. in Kincardine, 519-396-2116
 - b) The Ontario Works Resource Centre at 605 Mill St. in Port Elgin, 519-389-5566
 - c) The YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce – Owen Sound office 519-371-9230
 - d) The YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce – Hanover office 519-364-3163
 - e) Ontario Works- Meaford – book through YMCA 519-371-9230
 - f) Ontario Works – Markdale – book through YMCA 519-371-9230

(appointments for intake with the YMCA can be made in communities across Grey and Bruce Counties – you do not have to drive to Owen Sound or Hanover)

Please contact one of the above locations to arrange an appointment and confirm the documents you need to bring.

LEAP- Low-income Energy Assistance Program

LEAP is a GRANT available once a year to people with low income.

To qualify for LEAP, you must be in arrears with your electricity bill.

The first step is to call 211 and ask for assistance with hydro arrears. You will be given the number to call the United Way of Simcoe County who will complete the first part of your application over the phone.

Simcoe then immediately sends a copy of the intake to a local intake agency and provides you with the number to call to make an appointment.

YMCA Housing Program - United Way of Bruce Grey or Warton Salvation Army

The intake agency's role is to verify information given to Simcoe UW and to help troubleshoot issues around their arrears and other housing related issues.

***This process takes 30 minutes (depending on complexity)**

Assistance MAY be available for other utilities in your community – if in need, call 211.