



Climate Reason #5 to Defeat Ford

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REASON NUMBER 5

5. Ford rewards big electricity users, while families pay the price

In the last election, Ford promised to cut electricity costs to Ontario families by 12%. Instead, he has slashed the electricity bills for the largest industrial users. ([Link to Climate Crime #5](#))

Not only did he cut the electricity bills of the big users, but he also shifted those costs to renters and home owners. Over the course of three years, our taxes will be used to provide \$1,300,000,000 in electricity pricing relief for big business. That provision was announced in the 2020 Ontario budget.

The recent report by the FAO (Financial Accountability Office of Ontario) concluded that residential electricity bills have been going up, not down. The FAO further reported the government does not intend to honour its promise to lower electricity bills from 2018 levels.

While residential customers are facing price increases, large commercial and industrial users are getting a break. Their bills are going down. Families, who are facing price increases, are also seeing a larger share of their tax dollars used to subsidize big electricity users.

Ontario's bad energy choices and the huge burden of past and future nuclear power costs have created an intolerable situation.

The government fears the inevitable push back that would occur if all of those costs showed up on our electricity bills. So, the government's plan is to hide the costs by shifting them to the tax system. Families pay the price three times. First, our electricity bills go up. Second, our taxes are used to subsidize big users and bad energy choices. Third, there is less revenue for needed social programs, health care and climate action.

Over the 20-year period from 2020 to 2040, the FAO estimates subsidized electricity will cost Ontario taxpayers a total of \$118 Billion.

There are more than 1.1 million households in Ontario considered to be in energy poverty. More and more, households are having trouble with energy bills which include both electricity and fossil fuels. More families and seniors are struggling to keep warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Energy efficiency improvements are simply out of their reach. They are falling behind on their energy bills and are being cut off.