

Key Players in Ontario's Electricity Market

Under the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009*, electricity distributors can now **own and operate renewable projects, co-generation facilities and energy storage projects**. They are also connecting qualified renewable generation projects in their communities through the province's new Feed-in Tariff (FIT) and microFIT programs.

The province's electricity distributors are **committed to electricity conservation**, creating and delivering conservation programs and activities for their customers in order to help consumers conserve, protect our environment, and help mitigate Ontario's energy supply challenge. In 2009, 198,000 kilowatts of peak reduction was achieved, with 516 million kilowatt hours in energy savings. Under legislation distributors will bear new and added responsibilities and leadership to assist and enable consumers to reduce peak demand, as well as overall electricity consumption. Conservation targets will be met as a condition of license over a 4-year period beginning in 2011, entailing a provincial peak demand savings of 1,330 MW and a province-wide energy savings target of 6,000 GWh, divided proportionally amongst individual distributors.

Distributors are **champions in the implementation of the government's smart metering initiative**. Province-wide implementation will see the installation of smart meters for residents and small business customers and the transition to Time-of-Use (TOU) tiered rates by the end of 2011. It is expected that one million customers will have made the transition to TOU pricing by the summer of 2010.

Electricity distributors are taking initial steps to **transform local distribution networks into 'smart grids'** - harnessing advanced technologies to facilitate the connection of small-scale generators and enabling the two-way flow of information.