



Westario Power Inc.

## **WESTARIO POWER AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TEAM UP TO HELP RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS REDUCE THEIR ELECTRICITY USAGE**

***Residential hydro customers have the opportunity to receive FREE energy saving upgrades valued at up to \$15,000, until the end of this year.***

**March 2nd, 2020 – Walkerton, ON** – Westario Power is proud to continue delivering the Affordability Fund Trust (AFT) Program to residents in their service territory, in an effort to help make electricity bills more affordable for all Ontarians. The program, funded by the Government of Ontario and part of the Fair Hydro Plan, provides households with access to energy saving measures completely free of charge. Customers who have already participated in the program have been receiving products such as LED light bulbs, shower heads, ENERGY STAR® appliances, home insulation, heat pumps and more, and Westario would like to encourage more households to participate before the program ends later this year.

The AFT program is designed to assist households who DO NOT qualify for low income programs, essentially providing an opportunity for every household in Ontario to receive energy saving devices and upgrades free of charge. At the very least, all residents who apply and qualify for AFT will receive a free Energy Saving Kit valued at up to \$250 with items such as LED light bulbs, shower heads, smart power bars and more. Certain households may also qualify to receive a FREE energy assessment of their home and new ENERGY STAR® appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, washers and/or dryers, valued at up to \$5,500.

“The AffordAbility Fund allows us to offer all of our residential hydro account holders with the opportunity to receive FREE energy saving measures,” said Paul McGinn, Conservation Officer at Westario Power. “For years we’ve been offering the Home Assistance Program for low income households, but with this program we’re now able to offer all of our residential customers something to help them reduce their monthly utility bill. If you don’t qualify for one, you qualify for the other. It’s truly a win-win situation, and customers have everything to gain by applying for the program.”

Westario Power customers who have electrically heated homes have even more to gain from this program, with the potential to receive attic or basement insulation, and/or a new heat pump valued at up to \$15,000. Through the AFT program, hydro customers that have already participated have seen reductions of up to 40% on their heating bills, after receiving a heat pump to replace their existing baseboard heating and/or electric furnace, and Westario Power would like to help more of their residential customers attain this level of savings.

“Although we’re doing well for program participation, we hope to do even better, helping a great deal more of our customers before the program ends later this year,” stated McGinn. “Especially those households which are electrically heated, we want to help them make winter heating bills more affordable and the home more comfortable year-round.”

Westario highly encourages all those interested in applying to call the Province of Ontario’s enrollment centre for this program at 1-855-494-FUND (3863), as this is the most efficient method of application. Online registration is also available at [www.affordabilityfund.org](http://www.affordabilityfund.org). For those applying online, please note

that given the amount of support being provided through this program all applicants are still required to complete a phone call questionnaire to answer a few simple questions about your household and your current electricity usage. Please have a recent copy of your hydro bill available to assist with this process.

“An investment of up to eight minutes of your time to speak with a representative can get you up to \$15,000 in FREE energy upgrades and some major savings on your electricity bills, funded by the Province of Ontario,” said McGinn. “There is no reason not to apply, as all residents will have access to one program or another.”

The AFT program is currently slated to end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, or prior to that date if the funds are exhausted. To apply for the program, visit [www.affordabilityfund.org](http://www.affordabilityfund.org) or call 1-855-494-FUND (3863) to speak with a representative directly and expedite your application.

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### **About Westario Power**

Westario Power Inc. is focused on providing superior value to its customers, with the responsibility of ensuring the safe, reliable delivery of electricity to the 23,000+ customers served, as well as the maintenance of the substations and 746km of distribution lines at a high rate of efficiency. Westario Power supplies electricity to the communities of Clifford, Elmwood, Hanover, Harriston, Kincardine, Lucknow, Mildmay, Neustadt, Palmerston, Port Elgin, Ripley, Southampton, Teeswater, Walkerton and Wingham. Visit [www.westario.com](http://www.westario.com) to learn more.

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