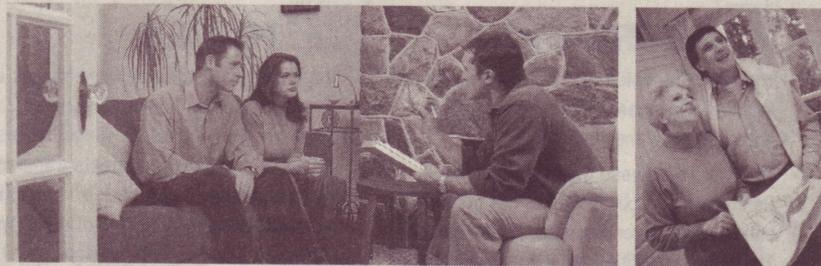


In the News

by Trisha Richards

Net Metering: Generate Your Own Energy and Save

Switching to environmentally sound renewable energy technologies: a noble idea, it seems, but how can it help keep some extra cash in your wallet? It's a fair question and one that Hydro One says it can answer.



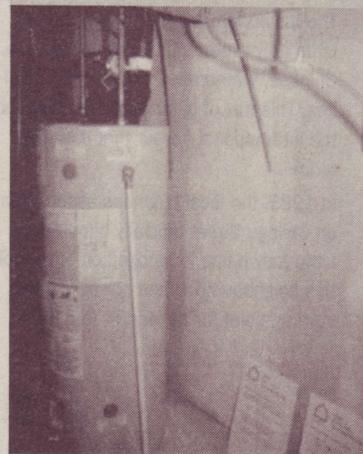
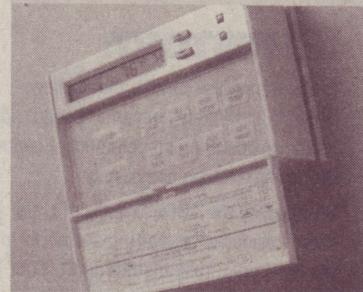
Renewable energy sources capture their energy from existing flows of energy, ongoing natural processes, like sunshine, wind, flowing water, biological processes and geothermal heat flows. Hydro One's Net Metering program is available to most of its customers who want to install a renewable energy technology system at their site, cites information from Hydro One. Net Metering measures the amount by which the electricity delivered to the customer exceeds the electricity the customer generates, resulting in a "net" total from which the customer's bill is calculated. So, the more electricity the customer's system produces, the less the customer pays, as explained on Hydro One's website.

"Net metering basically allows a customer to offset part of their energy through generation of their own, and, therefore save money on electricity bills," says Bob Singh, manager, Generation Connections, Hydro One. "Right now, Hydro One is the only one that offers that."

The program is for customers who want to reduce their bill by generating some of their own power on site, Hydro One states. The customer is billed for the net amount of electricity consumed over the billing period.

"The only condition is that they cannot feed power into the power system. They can offset the load but not feed back power because that can cause other complications that have to be looked at. This is made very simple for them to just reduce their power bills, and that's what the intention is," he says.

Hydro One emphasizes that it will not pay for electricity a customer injects into the system that is more than the amount of electricity the customer takes from Hydro One over a billing period. Simply put, one can reduce his bill, or possibly cut his electricity-use portion to zero, but he will not be paid for any excess electricity he produces.



There is more information on Net Metering on Hydro One's comprehensive website.

In addition to savings from Hydro One, the Ontario government has identified the need to support renewable energy, and provides a number of tax incentives for clean, alternative or renewable electricity generation facilities and residential systems, according to information from the Ministry of Energy. For additional information on the tax initiatives, visit the Ontario Ministry of Finance's website.