

## **Conservation of Power in Ontario**

(Submitted by Windsor & District Chamber of Commerce)

### Issue:

Conservation of electrical power has the potential to be a significant cost saving strategy when it comes to generating and using electricity in Ontario. Conservation initiatives help reduce the need for power generation, which contributes to the health of the natural environment.

### Background:

Canadians are among the highest consumers of energy in the world per capita. Canada ranks 27th out of 29 OECD nations in terms of energy use per capita. Canadians annually consume 6.19 tonnes of oil equivalent per capita. This is almost double the OECD average of 3.18 tonnes of oil equivalent per capita, and more than five times the world average. Only residents of Iceland and Luxembourg use more energy per capita than Canadians.

The Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change took place in Kyoto, Japan in December of 1997. Canada and 160 other countries were in attendance. Canada signed April 29, 1998. By signing and ratifying the Kyoto Agreement Canada is committed to improving the environment by reducing the pollution released into the air.

The Government of Canada has initiated the “One Tonne Challenge” to reduce the annual greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) of each individual Citizen by one tonne. The average Canadian produces five tonnes of GHGs each year so one tonne is a reduction of about 20 per cent. The One Tonne challenge is among the examples of government Conservation efforts that can be easily emulated by the Government of Ontario.

On January 26, 2005 the Ontario Energy Board submitted its final implementation plan on smart meters to the Minister of Energy. The Government of Ontario has established targets for the installation of 800,000 smart electricity meters by December 31, 2007 and installation of smart meters for all Ontario consumers by December 31, 2010.

The introduction of Smart meters in Ontario is another example of providing direct incentives for conservation of power by end consumers.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. Continue to advance Conservation initiatives related to the use of electrical power.
2. Implement the smart meter initiative along with effective time-of-use rates in a responsible and cost effective manner, and ensure that the cost of these measures are not subsidized by the Ontario taxpayer.
3. Adhere to the principles of equality and fairness in all Conservation initiatives.