

## **OTTAWA RIVER 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.***

**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Pembroke, ON** – Ottawa River Power Corporation (ORPC) is proud to continue delivering the Affordability Fund Trust (AFT) Program to residents in their service territory, in an effort to reduce at home electricity bills. 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 ORPC 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.

“Now more than ever, with everything happening with COVID-19 and its resulting economic downturn, we need to find ways to lower our cost of living. The AffordAbility Fund allows us to do just that, offering FREE energy saving upgrades that help make electricity bills more affordable,” said Mary Hellingman, CDM Manager at Ottawa River Power. “For years we’ve been offering the Home Assistance Program for low income households, but with the AFT program we’re now able to offer all of our residential customers incentives to help reduce their monthly utility bill.”

ORPC 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.

ORPC highly encourages all those interested in applying to call the Province of Ontario’s enrollment centre 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 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 a few minutes of your time to speak with a representative can get you up to \$15,000 in FREE upgrades for your home and some major savings on your electricity bills,” said Hellingman.

The AFT program is currently slated to end later this year, or sooner if the funds are exhausted first. 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.

## **About Ottawa River Power Corporation**

Ottawa River Power is proud to be your locally owned and operated electrical distributor. Providing you with a reliable source of electricity and a dependable presence in the communities in which we operate. Our staff is dedicated to providing great service with our customers' best interest in mind. Visit [www.orpowercorp.com](http://www.orpowercorp.com) to learn more.

### **COMPANY CONTACT:**

**Mary Hellingman**

Ottawa River Power Corporation

613.732.3687 x 228

[mhellingman@orpowercorp.com](mailto:mhellingman@orpowercorp.com)

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Melinda DeNicola**

Greenbrain Inc.

905.884.7489 x 102

[Melinda@greenbraininc.com](mailto:Melinda@greenbraininc.com)