



14 May 2010

Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty

Congratulations on the one-year anniversary of the passage of the transformative Green Energy and Economy Act. So many positive things have been accomplished from both an environmental protection and economic growth perspective.

Green Communities Canada specifically applauds you for a particularly important element of the GEEA: universal home energy labelling - which will help reduce energy bills, benefit the environment, build our green economy, and provide valuable information to home buyers.

Home energy labelling provisions were included in the Act, passed exactly one year ago, on 14 May 2009. During a very busy year, however, attention has largely been focussed on implementing the renewable energy features of the Act. Now, with the recently announced phase-out of federal ecoENERGY incentives, it has become urgent that you finish what you have started by adopting a labelling regulation as soon as possible.

We write to urge your government to begin as soon as possible to implement mandatory energy labelling for new and existing homes in Ontario. Mandatory labelling is needed now to harness Ontario's existing infrastructure of professional energy auditors, which will soon begin to disappear as federal incentives end.

Indeed, we believe early adoption of labelling is absolutely essential to avoid serious attrition of auditing and retrofit capacity in this province and maintain progress toward the government's ambitious goals for home energy efficiency. Current auditing capacity is key for successful rollout.

Support for labelling is widespread and growing. (See attached preliminary list of supporters.) Your government will distinguish itself by being the first Canadian jurisdiction to join this growing international trend, which is recommended by the International Energy Agency and is now the law of the land throughout the European Union (population: 500 million). The United Kingdom, for example, has already completed more than 4 million home energy labels since a universal system was introduced in August 2007.

Your Government supports consumer protection initiatives, and home buyers have a right to full disclosure of information about the energy performance of their largest energy-consuming purchase - their homes. Buyers need the same information about the 'second price tag' for their homes that they now rely on for automobile and appliance purchases.


Furthermore, labelling will help ignite a positive transformation in the market for new and resale homes by creating value for energy efficiency. Labelling will be the cornerstone of an enduring commitment by the Ontario government to save energy, reduce bills, benefit the environment, and create green jobs and business opportunities.

Labelling is ready to go.

- Ontario has at its disposal an internationally recognized rating and advice system, EnerGuide, which has already been used for over a million home energy ratings nation-wide. There is a commitment to further upgrades and Ontario-specific customization.
- The existing province-wide complement of skilled energy auditors is available now to service the demand for labels, and capacity can be ramped up quickly as labelling is introduced.
- The cost of the label is moderate, and home buyers and sellers will overwhelmingly benefit - as will the environment and Ontario's green economy. Energy efficiency saves more than it costs - it makes us richer and greener!

The time for mandatory labelling is now. Your government has demonstrated leadership in green energy, for which it has earned a glowing national and international reputation. Let's tidy up the loose ends on the conservation side of the equation so that Ontario homes can be as green as the energy they consume.

Thank you for your attention.



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cc:

Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure
Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment
Hon. James J Bradley, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Sophia Aggelonitis, Minister Consumer Services

Supporters of mandatory labelling

Preliminary alphabetized list of supporters for the fast track implementation of mandatory home energy labelling in Ontario, as of 14 May 2010.

- Building Insight Technologies Inc.
- BuyWise Energy Consultants Inc.
- Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Canadian Renewable Energy Alliance (CanREA)
- Chris Chopik, Evolution Green
- City Green Solutions
- Clean Air Partnership
- Dunsky Energy Consulting
- EcoSuperior (Thunder Bay)
- Elora Environment Centre
- Energest Corporation
- EnviroCentre (Ottawa)
- Environment Network (Collingwood)
- Environmental Defence
- Go Green Together (Cobourg)
- Green Communities Canada
- Green Venture (Hamilton)
- GreenSaver
- Hearthmakers Energy Co-op (Kingston)
- Homesol Building Solutions
- J. André Potworowski PhD, MBA, Project Director, "Making it happen - the transition to a sustainable society"
- Jonathan Ham, Green Home Inspections Ltd.
- Kmer Industries (Sault Lookout)
- Know Your Home Inspections Inc.
- Marion Fraser, Fraser and Company
- NAIMA Canada (National Association of Insulation Manufacturers)
- Ontario Clean Air Alliance
- Pembina Institute
- Peter Love, Love Energy Consultants
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Ralph Torrie
- REEP-Waterloo Region Green Solutions
- Seifudin Rajabali, Greenfields
- Services écoPlus Services
- Sierra Club of Canada
- Sierra Club of Ontario
- Southwest Energy Consulting Inc.
- Summerhill Impact
- The Abor Group Ltd.
- Windfall Ecology Centre
- WWF-Canada