

# Tell us the real cost, please.

**Dalton McGuinty says** our electricity bills will rise only “minimally” with new green technologies. George Smitherman says it’s “about 1%” annually. Put this promise in perspective. Regular hydro billings just increased by another 4% over last November’s hike. The facts belie the obvious political sell job.

**Everywhere in the world** where wind power is utilized, the costs to users have risen dramatically. In Germany, through a scheme called “feed-in tariff” (sound familiar?) electricity bills went up 38% in one year (2007). Spain pays renewable energy suppliers up to 11 times more than those who produce conventional power. Denmark’s reliance on wind power translates into the highest electricity rates in Europe. The U.S. government subsidizes wind power at \$23.34/kWh compared to natural gas generation (25 cents), coal (44 cents), hydro (67 cents) and nuclear (\$1.59).

**An independent study** advises that Ontario families will see their electricity bills go up by hundreds of dollars a year once the Green Energy Act takes effect. A mandatory energy audit will cost another \$300 if you want to sell your home, with a penalty of up to \$10,000 if you don’t comply. Plus, there will be additional costs for new transmission lines and back-up, fossil-fuel plants to compensate for wind’s failings.

**It doesn’t really matter** that wind energy is inefficient, unreliable, disfigures the landscape and doesn’t reduce greenhouse gasses. In the first three months of 2009, Ontario wind farm developers received \$38 million over and above the spot market price for electricity because of guaranteed payments.

**What counts to wind developers** are the huge subsidies at the expense of taxpayers that provide them their profits. Which may be why the CEO of AIM Powergen, the major player in Ontario’s wind industry, is also a senior executive and confidante of the Liberal Party.

**We are not anti-green.** We believe good government should be prudent with public resources and answerable to the taxpayer. The Liberals are neither. And they’re putting our health, the environment and the quality of our lives at risk.

**Why?** Because they believe if you slap a green label on it, the public will buy a flawed solution without scrutiny. Just like their grandiose jobs claim, the figures don’t add up. When will we get the truth?

**A public service message paid for by citizens who seek to preserve the quality of living in Grey Highlands.**