



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Minister Smith and Centre Wellington Hydro Launch Green Button to Help Local Energy Customers Save Money**

Province gives families and businesses more control over electricity and natural gas bills

**Mount Elgin, ON** – Energy Minister Todd Smith joined Centre Wellington Hydro and several other Ontario utilities this week to launch the new Green Button data that will allow families and businesses in Centre Wellington to track and control their energy use and save money on monthly bills.

Studies have found that access to energy data, which Green Button along with smart home devices enables, can help consumers achieve energy savings of up to 18 percent. Ontario becomes the first province in Canada to mandate the standard.

"Families and businesses want to be in the driver's seat when it comes to their energy bills," said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. "Green Button is part of our commitment to give consumers more choice when it comes to their energy use and will enable easy, quick and safe access to their consumption data through smartphone or computer apps so they can find customized tips to reduce energy use or switch electricity price plans to save money."

"Centre Wellington Hydro is a leader in efficient and effective customer service," said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott. "With the Green Button app, our local residents can keep track of their energy usage, and save money on their bills."

"Convenience, choice, information, are the tools our customers want to be able to manage their energy needs and options," said Wayne Dyce, President of Centre Wellington Hydro. "That's what Green Button will provide. It will be a one-stop shop for customers to be able to access both their electric and gas data on the same easy to read platform, with the added bonus of allowing energy consultants secure access to their data to provide expert advice on energy conservation and money saving potential."



The implementation of the Green Button standard comes as the Ontario government marks two years of providing consumers with Customer Choice rates. As of November 1, 2020, most families, small businesses, and farms can select either a time-of-use (TOU) or tiered billing structure for their electricity usage. More than 355,000 Ontario electricity customers have used this choice to better manage their electricity bills by switching their pricing plan to one that is a better fit. Green Button provides families and businesses the information they need to better understand their energy use so they can make an informed decision on which price plan is right for them, helping them to lower their energy bills.

#### **QUICK FACTS:**

- Green Button first became available in 2012, and prior to the new regulatory requirement, offering it to customers was voluntary in Ontario for electricity and natural gas utilities.
- When choosing an electricity billing structure, if a customer limits their consumption to non-peak hours, during evenings and weekends, TOU pricing may be their preferred rate plan. If customers consume most of their electricity during weekday hours, tiered pricing may be a better option for them.
- Energy customers in Ontario who are served by utilities that have fully implemented Green Button have access to a wide range of applications that are tailored to their individual needs. As more utilities in Ontario implement Green Button, new applications are expected to be developed to serve all types of customers, including residential, commercial, and industrial energy users.
- EARTH Corporation partnered with vendors Savage Data Systems, SilverBlaze and NorthStar Utilities Solutions to facilitate Green Button Data access to customers of Centre Wellington Hydro.

#### **About Centre Wellington Hydro**

Centre Wellington Hydro is a Local Distribution Company proudly serving 7500 residents and businesses in the heart of Centre Wellington. Striving to adapt and build on our strong track record of providing safe, reliable electricity by offering new convenient solutions to our customer's energy needs.