

Question	Green Andrew West	Liberal Rosalyn Stevens	NDP John Hansen	PC Jack MacLaren
<p>If you were to win the election how would your government's strategy affect the cost of electric power? What steps would your government take to deal with the generation and distribution of energy in the province? What is the plan to bring Ontario One under control?</p>	<p>Whether you are new to the riding or have lived here your whole life, you should be able to afford to live comfortably. The Green Party and I want to save you money by updating your homes. We would put \$4 billion over four years into home energy retrofit credits to cover the costs of upgraded windows and doors, better insulation, and more efficient furnaces and appliances. We'll call for legislation providing grants up to \$4,000 for you and one million other homeowners to invest in energy conservation. Your energy bills will go down because you will be using less energy, and using less energy helps the environment. It's a win-win. Home retrofits should also create over 50,000 new jobs over four years, including jobs in this riding. We can also save around \$1 billion a year importing cleaner, water power from Quebec.</p>	<p>Ontario Liberals modernized an electricity system that needed to be fixed. We did this to ensure Ontarians have the power they need, when they need it. I am proud that our government made Ontario the first jurisdiction in North America to be coal-free. This makes us all breathe a little easier. It also saves us billions in health and environmental costs per year, and 665 fewer premature deaths per year. Our strategy on electricity has ensured we have not gone back into the dark, like under the PCs, when brownouts and blackouts were routine. Tim Hudak wants to build \$15 billion worth of new nuclear we don't need and cancel contracts putting ratepayers on the hook for up to \$20 billion. The PCs would have us return to burning dirty coal. In terms of saving Ontario families money, we're taking off the debt-retirement charge off hydro bills two years ahead of schedule. The NDP's rebate gimmick plan will not benefit Ontario families or businesses. Our record has created 2,700 clean-tech firms and employs 65,000 people in the clean-technology sector, generating annual revenues of more than \$8 billion. Over \$10 billion has been invested since 2003 in improvements in Hydro One's systems, including upgrades to over 7,500 km of power lines – more than twice the distance from Sault Ste. Marie to Vancouver. To mitigate costs associated with rebuilding our electricity system after years of neglect, our government introduced the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit – a 10% reduction amount to \$150 per year for the average family. We need reliable electricity, and we will work to keep costs down for Ontario families.</p>	<p>Hydro rates are sky-high under the Liberals and are set to increase by 42 percent over the next five years. The Ontario NDP will start by taking the HST off hydro bills, which will save families nearly \$200 per year. Under our plan we'll cut down on waste and duplication by merging the IESO, OPG, Hydro One and the Ontario Power Authority and pass the savings on to consumers; we'll crack down on executive compensation by capping CEO salaries at twice the Premier's pay; we'll keep hydro assets public and find efficiencies to drive down costs; get the best deal on our electricity exports by creating a direct trading agency like ones used in Quebec and Manitoba; and look into reducing hydro costs for mineral processing in order to keep those jobs here</p>	<p>We will end the Green Energy Act because we cannot afford the massive subsidies to wind and solar power. We will eliminate the Ontario Power authority because it is an unnecessary, unaffordable bureaucracy. We will consider creating a competitive system of delivering electricity.</p>

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<p>A company called Enerdu proposes to significantly expand a hydro power generating plant on the river in central Almonte. Local citizens oppose this plan as it will change the aesthetics of the Mississippi River and falls, a central element in the beauty of the town and a tourist attraction. There is also concern that the hydro plant as now operated and as proposed is contributing to the death of a wetland forest at Appleton. The project will offer jobs during construction of the power plant, but at most, one permanent job thereafter. Enerdu will sell the power generated to the Ontario grid. No financial benefit will accrue to the town. What is your position on this project? What action will you take as our MPP if you are elected?</p>	<p>I oppose the Enerdu expansion. It will not be a true run-of-river power plant, unlike the Gallagher station just downstream. Instead, it will use the upper reach to Appleton as a giant holding pond in order to exploit the flawed Feed-In-Tariff program. This will come at the expense of Almonte’s cultural landscape and natural heritage. By damaging upstream shores, land and vegetation, it violates upstream landowners’ rights.</p> <p>Jack MacLaren has said he supports the Enerdu expansion. Rosalyn Stevens says she’s personally against it, but the Liberal government is allowing it to happen. So the PC’s are for it and the Liberals won’t stop it. That’s two sides of the same coin. I want to stop the Enerdu project and protect the Appleton Wetland along Reach 18. I need your votes to help make this happen.</p>	<p>I am from Almonte. I have followed this project closely as a journalist and as a resident. In all the meetings, our MPP has not been present. It was his responsibility to bring this file forward, express citizen’s concerns, and be present. My campaign has been centered on representation, conversation, and dedication. These are values I would bring to everything I do as MPP. As the Millstone’s piece by Shaun McLaughlin pointed out – it may be too late to stop the Enerdu expansion, but we must work together to mitigate features identified in the heritage impact study. To ensure the conditions placed in the environmental assessment criteria are met – we need an MPP willing to be present. I have criticized Jack publicly at debates about only meeting with the proponent and privately with a few concerned citizens on this issue. If I am elected MPP, I will take this file right to the Environment Minister to discuss and be your voice at Queen’s Park.</p>	<p>On green energy, the Ontario NDP is supportive of renewable power but believe that the Liberals have made a mess of the process. They’ve signed backroom contracts with private companies and imposed large projects without adequate consultation and without ensuring that local communities benefit.</p> <p>We would honour existing contracts but would make major changes to how the Green energy program works. We should meet regional needs and rationalize transmission capacity. We would give priority to small, community-based energy projects developed by and for local communities and would ensure that larger projects have greater transparency and accountability and more meaningful public input.</p> <p>Our candidate, John Hansen, is against the Enerdu project since it creates only a small amount of electricity at a high cost to the environment and the local community. John firmly believes that views of the local community must be respected. Any project must include proper consultation with the public.</p>	<p>I support Enerdu.</p>