

**OEB.CA**A USER'S GUIDE

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### Welcome to OEB.ca

Welcome to oeb.ca!

A big part of our job as Ontario's independent energy regulator is providing information and tools to consumers. We want to help you better understand the system that you rely on, and pay for, and help you make informed decisions about energy.

Our goal was to build a modern, consumer-friendly website that offers a richer experience for users and more engaging content and tools to help advance our goal of increasing energy literacy.

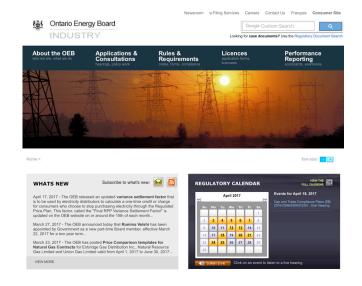
Our new website has lots of information, written in clear, consumer-friendly language, about who we are, what we do to protect consumers and ensure the long-term integrity of the energy system, and how to get involved in our processes before decisions are made. In fact, we have a new section, Participate, dedicated for customers who want to get involved – even just have your voice heard – when your utility applies to change rates or other activities. And, we have a new features section in the newsroom with more in-depth and consumer-friendly articles about key issues and topics that may affect you.

The OEB website is also an important channel for industry users and stakeholders. Rest assured, we have maintained a separate Industry section located on the global navigation menu at the top of every page. While a few sections have moved to new locations on the main site, the majority of industry-related content hasn't changed. It's had a makeover to align with the design and functionality of the new main website.

This user guide is available to showcase our new features and, for industry users, to help you understand what's changed from the former website.

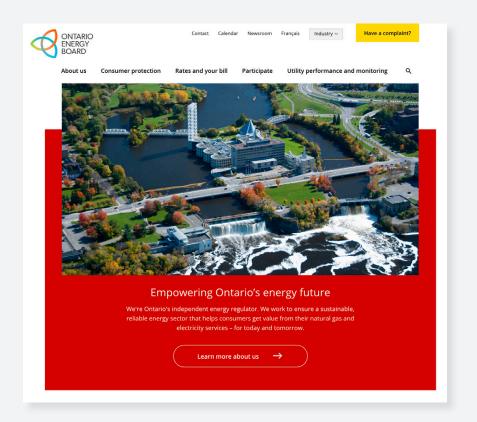
We welcome feedback. Email us at: webmaster@oeb.ca.

# **OEB ONLINE BEFORE & AFTER**



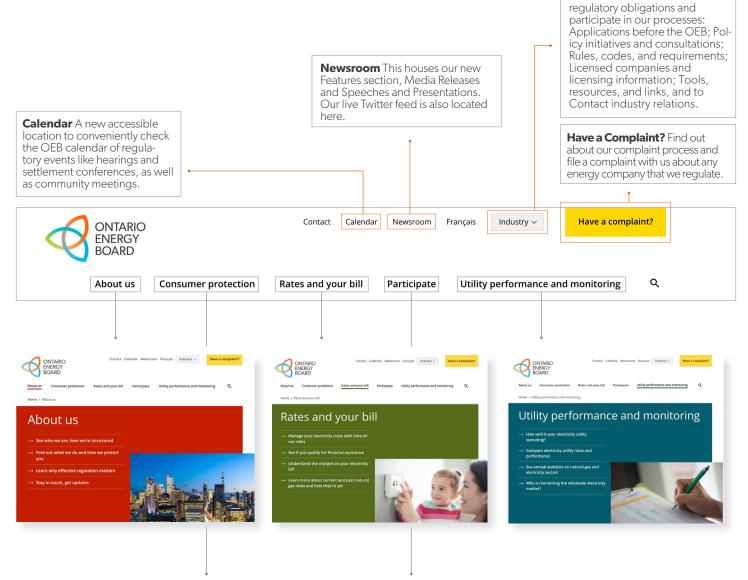


BEFORE: ontarioenergyboard.ca



AFTER: oeb.ca

### **NAVIGATION**







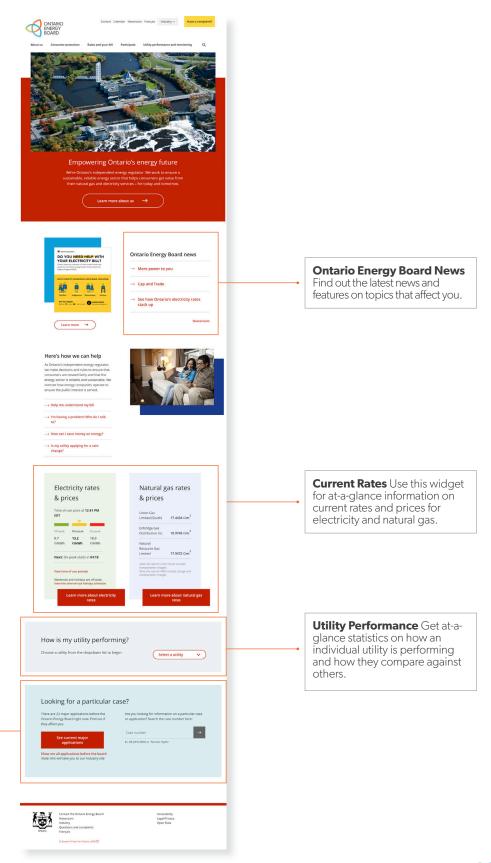
**Industry** Our Industry section

houses all the information and tools our regulated entities and stakeholders need to fulfill

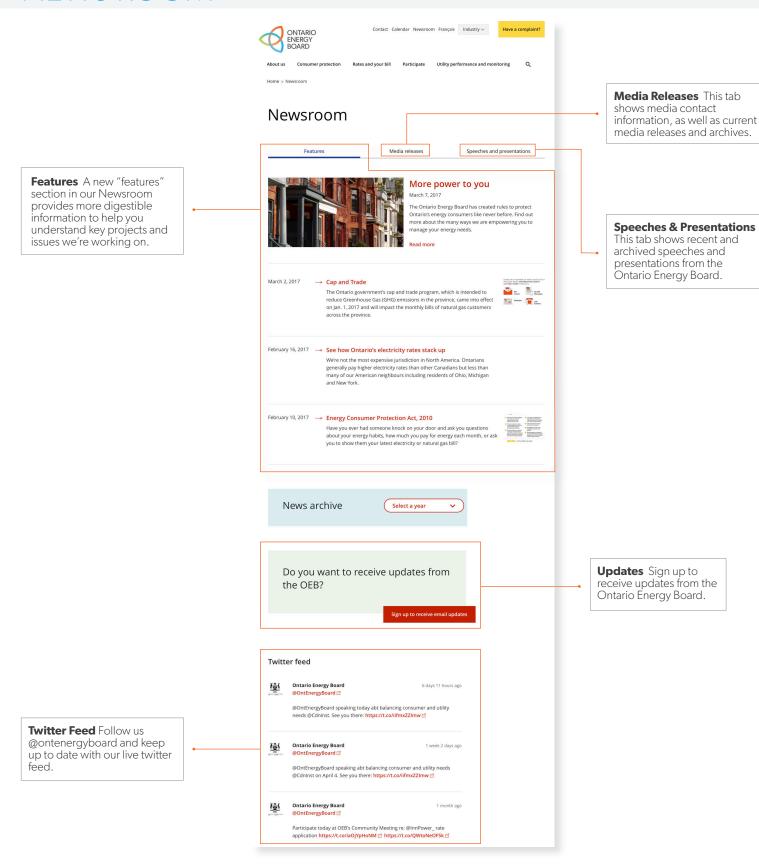
# HOMEPAGE

**Search for** major applications before the Ontario Energy

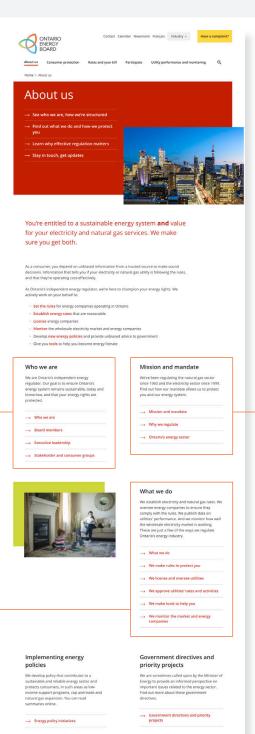
Board right now.



# **NEWS ROOM**



# **ABOUT US**



**Mission and mandate** Learn about our mission/man-

date, why effective regulation

matters and how the overall

energy system works.

What we do Learn all the ways we protect your interests and ensure a reliable and sustainable energy system - from making and enforcing industry rules to reviewing rates.

Who we are Learn about

leadership team, and how

our Board members and

we're structured.

Careers

Job seekers, find out about current opportunities at the Ontario Edings Board.

Public tenders

For qualified vendors, get information to help you respond to requests for goods and

# CONSUMER PROTECTION



#### How we protect

**consumers** Learn all the ways we protect consumers, from licensing to helping resolve issues you're experiencing with an energy company. Read our Consumer Charter which explains your rights and responsibilities about energy services.

Service policies for natural gas utilities Learn about the

customer service policies that natural gas utilities apply, including special rules for low-income customers.

#### We protect Ontario's energy consumers in many ways.

Ever felt pressured by an electricity retailer or natural gas marketer trying to sell you an energy contract on your doorstep? Got an issue with your local utility or metering company that you haven't been able to resolve? We make rules to protect you that all licensed energy retailers in Ontario must Gollow.

- The training procession. See what natural gas and electricity utilities can and can't do when it comes to security deposits and disconnections.

  If you have an issue that you can't resolve with your energy retailer, submit a complaint.
- See the top consumer complaints when it comes to Ontario's energy retailers

#### How we protect consumers

We protect Ontario's energy consumers by establishing rules that energy retailers must follow and monitoring them to ensure they do. This includes new laws for companies selling energy contracts.

- → How we protect consumers
- → Consumer Charter

#### Energy contracts

You have a choice. With or without an energy contract, natural gas or electricity will be delivered to your home. If you're considering an energy contract, there's a lot learn. Get the facts and know your rights and obligations.

- → Energy contracts
- → Before you sign a contract
- → After you sign a contract
- → Renewing a contract
- → Licensed energy retailers

#### **Energy Contracts**

If you're considering an energy contract, there's a lot to learn. Get the facts here, and know your rights and obligations.



#### Rules for electricity utilities

Did you know that your electricity utility can't disconnect you without giving you 10 days notice? Rules like these apply to all residential customers. And there are special rules for low-income consumers.

→ Rules for electricity utilities

#### Rules for electricity utilities See the customer services rules for electricity utilities, including special rules for low-income customers.

#### Service policies for natural gas utilities

All residential natural gas customers in Ontario are allowed access to equal billing and payment plans year-round. This is a customer service policy in place to protect you. There are also special policies for lower income consumers.

→ Service policies for natural gas utilities



#### Make a complaint

We're here to help. You're entitled to file a complaint with us if you feel you've been treated unfairly by your energy retailer. If you've tried to settle the matter with your energy retailer but have been unsuccessful, file a complaint now, online!

→ Top complaints about energy companies

#### How we enforce the rules

We not only make the rules that Ontario's energy

# RATES AND YOUR BILL

**Electricity** This section explains

what's involved in setting electricity rates, how they work and how often they change.

**Electricity bill calculator**Use our handy tool to compare

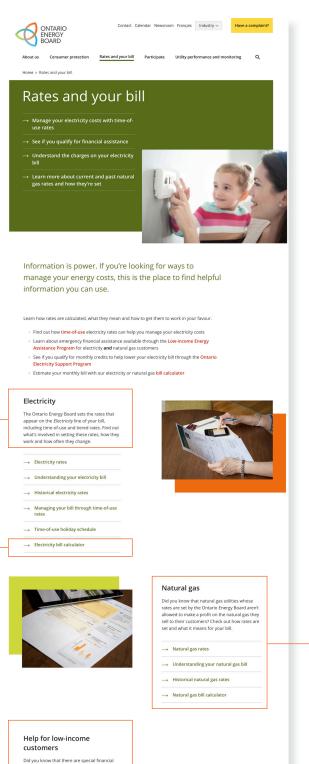
energy retailer.

**Help for low-income customers** This section explains the programs we offer to help low-income customers

with their energy bills -- like the

your current bill from your local

utility with what to expect if you sign an energy contract with an



**Natural Gas** This section explains what's involved in setting natural gas rates. Check out how rates are set and what it

means for your bill.

Ontario Electricity Support
Program (OESP). We also
offer emergency financial
help through the Low-income
Energy.

Did you know that there are special financial
assistance programs to help low-income
customers with their energy bills?

Ontario Electricity Support Program

Low-income Energy Assistance Program

# **PARTICIPATE**

**Community meetings** 

Learn what happens at OEB

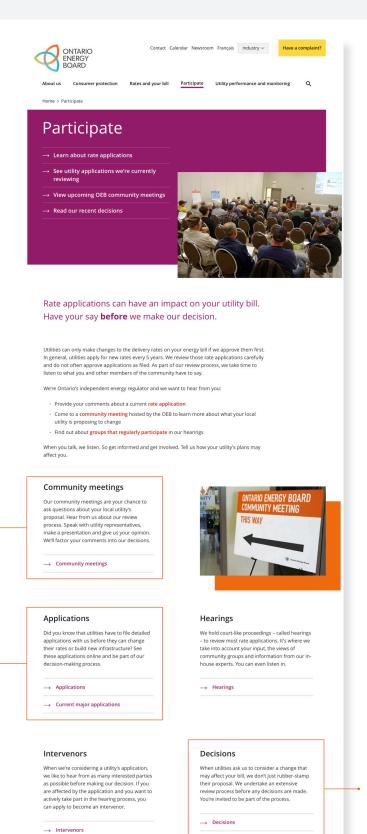
community meetings. Find a schedule of upcoming meetings here.

**Applications** Learn how

change their rates by filing an application. Review current major applications here and

provide your comments on a current application, too.

utilities seek approval to



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**Decisions** Learn what

factors we take into

consideration when making decisions about utilities' applications.

# UTILITY PERFORMANCE & MONITORING



Electricity utility scorecards

Get annual data on 20 performance measures for all electricity utilities in Ontario.

**Electricity and natural gas utility yearbooks** Find our annual yearbooks here, which detail financial, operations, reliability data and more.

**Electricity utility performance** 

dashboard See how your utility

is performing and compare it against others in this new, consumer accessible location. (See the next page for an in-depth look at Utility Performance

Dashboards).

#### **Electricity market surveillance**

Learn who monitors Ontario's wholesale electricity market and read latest Market Surveillance Panel reports.

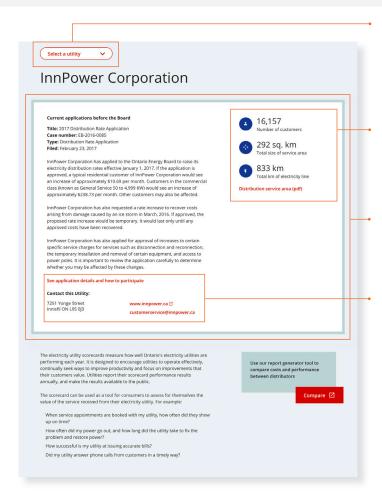
Electricity market surveillance Panel monitors the efficiency, fairness, transparency and competitivenes of the wholesale electricity market in Ordanin, and reports to the Minister of finergo on any allowants. See how it works.

Market Surveillance Panel

Panel reports

Monitoring documents

### PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD



**Select a utility** From the drop down menu to see their unique performance dashboard

**At-A-Glance** Distribution service information is clear and concise. Find out a distributors number of customers, service area size, and total length of electricity line.

#### **Current Applications**

If the utility currently has a major application with us, that information will show up here. You can read the details and find out how to participate.

**Contact** Easy access to the utility's contact information.

How well is your utility operating? Check our dashboard to find out! You'll find at-a-glance stats about your utility in several key areas, including:

- How often your utility arrived on time for service appointment
- How often your power service was disrupted, and how long it took your utility to restore power
- How accurate are your utility's bills
- If your utility answered phone calls in a timely way

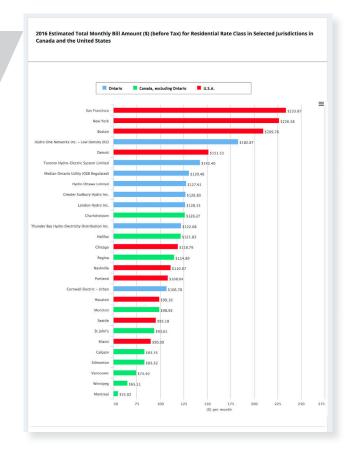


### **COMPARE**



**Compare** Once you've selected a utility, use the 'Compare' button to compare costs and performance between distributors. Compare distributors & scorecard performance measures

- Compare year-over-year scorecard performance for a specific distributor
- Compare estimated total bills for Ontario distributors
- Compare estimated total bills for selected jurisdictions in Canada/U.S.A.
- Compare average price of electricity for selected jurisdictions in Canada/U.S.A.

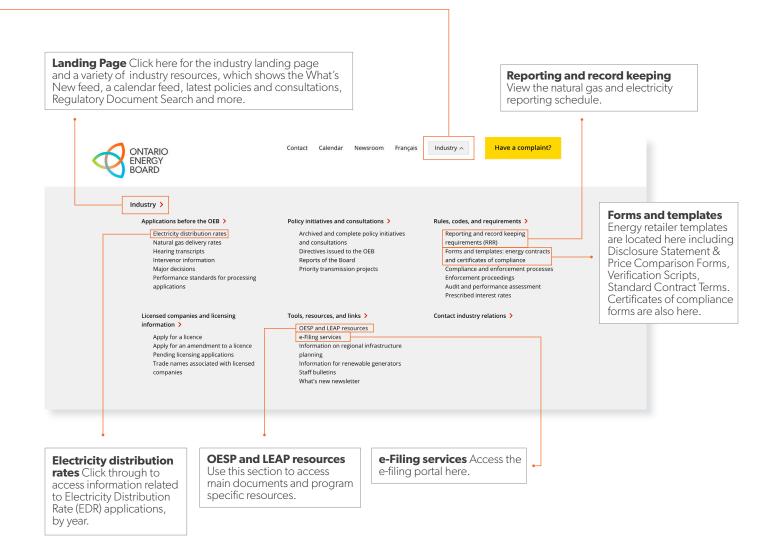


# INDUSTRY NAVIGATION

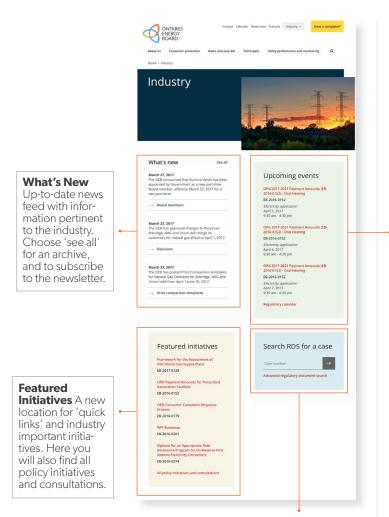
**What's Changed** The Industry section houses all the information and tools our regulated entities and stakeholders need to fulfill regulatory obligations and participate in our processes.

The new Industry dropdown menu is easy to access and navigate, and is located at the top of the website.

NOTE: Most of the industry-related content is the same as before, but it's been redesigned to align with the design and functionality of the main website. Some industry content is now part of the main site including the utility performance and scorecard data, the Market Surveillance Panel section and corporate information (bylaws, annual reports, business plans, etc.).



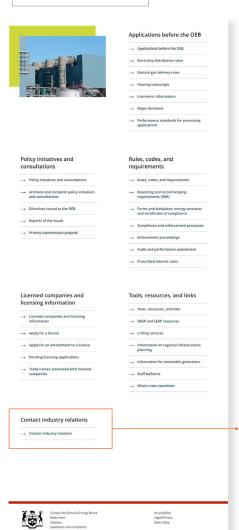
# **INDUSTRY LANDING PAGE**



**Regulatory Document Search**Use RDS to search for caserelated documents or to do more advanced searches.

#### **Regulatory Calendar**

A feed showing current hearings and settlement conferences. Listen to a live hearing from here and access the full calendar.



Contact industry relations If you are an energy market participant or other interested party and would like to raise an issue, seek guidance regarding policy or regulatory obligations, or forward an allegation of non-compliance activity, use this section to find the proper contact resource.

