



Green Light on a Better Environment (GLOBE) Inc.

390 Bay Street, Suite 710
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2Y2
Tel: 416-594-9325
Fax: 416-594-9422
Toll Free: 1-866-268-4451
www.shscorp.ca

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

**RE: Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers
Board File No.: EB-2008-0150**

Dear Ms. Walli:

I am writing on behalf of Green Light On a Better Environment Inc. (GLOBE) to express our interest in participating in the Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers.

GLOBE is a subsidiary of the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC). It provides an integrated energy management program including energy audits, support services and education to help social housing providers and low income residents navigate the world of energy and build a culture of conservation in their communities.

SHSC is a non-profit corporation that provides mandated programs and innovative services designed to empower social housing providers to develop safe, affordable homes and vibrant sustainable communities. SHSC offers such business-oriented solutions such as insurance, investment, bulk purchasing, energy management and research, to address the needs of the affordable low income housing community.

SHSC, as part of its research mandate, commissioned a white paper on Energy Poverty in Social Housing in Ontario. We learned that a disproportionately high percentage of low-income households are renters (two thirds of low-income individuals are residents); a disproportionately high percentage of low-income households use electricity for space and water heating; they tend to live in inefficient buildings as policies and programs governing the construction of social housing in Ontario have led to "lowest first cost" decisions resulting in electric heating, poor insulation and inefficient windows leaving those least able to pay higher operating costs; and that 75% of all residents in Ontario pay rents that include utilities thereby limiting their ability to benefit from their individual conservation behaviours.

SHSC also commissioned a white paper on Smart Meters and Social Housing which resulted in some of the following consolidated recommendations:
That SHSC intervene at an appropriate time in the proceeding of the Ontario Energy Board concerning sub-metering, with the objective of ensuring that the social housing sector does not become liable for unreasonable installation and other costs and, if necessary, that there not be mandatory introduction of individual metering or sub-metering in multi-unit buildings.

That SHSC recommend to the Minister of Energy that the implementation of smart metering in social housing should be coordinated with the overall energy management program, to ensure that housing providers and residents get the best value from both conservation and load management.

And that SHSC urge the federal and/or provincial government to follow the example of the U.K by building on SHSC's comprehensive energy management program, to assist low income households to adjust to rising energy costs through both income adjustments and incentives for landlords and owners of low income housing to become more energy efficient.

GLOBE has direct access to over 1,900 social housing providers representing more than 250,000 social housing units of low income residents in the Province of Ontario.

GLOBE developed and is currently delivering its Community Champion program. The objectives of the Community Champion Program are to educate a low-income resident (Community Champion) and key staff (member of the Conservation Committee) to be able to communicate effectively about the needs for and benefits of energy conservation in their communities and propose strategies that will change the values, attitudes and behaviours of residents in regard to energy use.

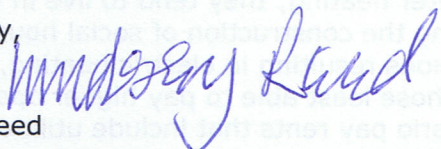
GLOBE is well positioned to provide valuable input in the Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers by offering solutions on the issues relating to customer service, educational programs for low-income residents on energy awareness and conservation, and best practices related to targeted conservation and demand management programs.

Cost Awards

GLOBE, as a participant in the Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers, also requests eligibility to apply for a cost award relating to preparing for, attending at, reporting on the stakeholder conference and other latter activities forming part of this consultation process. The basis for the cost eligibility request is that GLOBE primarily represents the direct interests of consumers (e.g. ratepayers) in relation to regulated services and represents a public interest relevant to the Board's mandate. Therefore, we are requesting consideration for the maximum hourly rate for 40 hours to cover costs and reasonable disbursements for a yet to be confirmed, consultant(s) to provide expert professional evidence and advice to the Board and act as an expert witness in the consultation process.

We look forward to the opportunity of working with the OEB and other interested parties to develop realistic solutions to matters as they relate to low income energy consumers.

Yours truly,


Lindsey Reed
CEO

SHSC also commissioned a white paper on Smart Meters and Social Housing which resulted in some of the following consolidated recommendations:

SHSC's objective of ensuring that the social housing sector does not become liable for unreasonable installation and other costs and that it is necessary that there not be mandatory introduction of individual metering in multi-unit buildings.