



DEVICE HELPS HASTINGS COUNTY STOP FIRES AND SAVE ENERGY



“ Through Veridian and the **saveONenergy RETROFIT PROGRAM**, the County will be able to pay off the entire program in a mere 18 months and the long-term savings will then really begin to mount. ”

For many years, Hastings County's affordable housing units averaged 11 stovetop cooking kitchen fires a year. Of those kitchen fires, an average of two per year caused more than \$25,000 in damage, and all of them helped push the County's insurance premiums higher and higher.

But all that changed in 2011. That summer and fall, Hastings County Housing Program Branch worked with manufacturer Pioneering Technology Corp. of Mississauga to install the Safe-T-element® in almost 1,000 of their affordable housing units. As a result, in 2012, the County:

- did not experience a single stovetop cooking fire
- saved over \$70,000 by not having to repair damaged units
- saved 115,137.44 kWh of electricity – or about \$11,500 annually – on its energy bills.

In addition, with the help of an incentive that amounted to \$13.82 per eligible unit through Veridian and the **saveONenergy RETROFIT PROGRAM**, the County will be able to pay off the entire program in a mere 18 months and the long-term savings will then really begin to mount.

PROJECT DETAILS

INCENTIVE AMOUNT RECEIVED

\$13,000

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE

2011

MONETARY SAVINGS

\$11,500/year

ENERGY SAVINGS

115,137.44 kWh

HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT

"We were doing some major capital work," says Danny Rose, Maintenance Supervisor for the Hastings County Housing Program Branch, "which included replacing stoves, when we came across this product, which we thought was perfect for us because of its success in reducing stovetop fires and saving energy. At the same time, we were talking with Melanie Walls from our local electric utility, Veridian Connections, about how we could take advantage of energy-saving incentives and discovered that stoves were not on the list."

On Melanie's suggestion, Brad Westcott, Business Development Manager for Pioneering Technology, took on the task of both proving the Safe-T-element®'s energy savings and applying to the **saveONenergy RETROFIT PROGRAM** on the County's behalf.

THE SAFE-T-ELEMENT®

Pioneering's Safe-T-element® cooking system consists of an electronically controlled cast-iron plate that is installed on top of an existing electric coil burner. The plate is connected to a control board that limits the temperature of the plate to a maximum of 662F/350C, which is below the point where cooking oil and other common household materials left on the stovetop automatically ignite. When the plate reaches this maximum temperature, the control board automatically cycles the coil element "OFF" (saving energy) then, when the plate cools to just below that limit, the control board cycles the coil element back "ON."

VALUE TO HASTINGS COUNTY

"The Safe-T-elements truly are amazing," says Hastings County's Danny Rose. "There's a little bit of a learning curve to them and you need to take more time with cooking, but everyone now loves them and we've been able to give our tenants safer housing."

ABOUT THE HASTINGS COUNTY HOUSING PROGRAMS BRANCH

The Hastings County Housing Programs Branch provides safe, modest and affordable housing for low-income households in Hastings County, Ontario.

The County owns and manages 1,408 social housing units and 186 rent supplement units, and administers 855 non-profit units owned by 15 different non-profit housing and cooperative corporations.

At the same time, every penny counts these days and, while safety is paramount of course, receiving a **saveONenergy** incentive of more than \$13,000, was such a bonus combined with ongoing energy savings and lower capital repair costs. It ultimately means we will be able to deliver improved housing in the future."

ABOUT saveONenergy

Businesses across Ontario can benefit from an array of programs offered throughout the province—from the smallest of retail stores to the largest industrial complexes.

Visit **saveonenergy.ca** to find out about the many incentive programs available that will help reduce your electricity costs, while also helping Ontario reduce its environmental footprint.



Safe-T-Element ® installed at Hastings County Social Housing

Are you looking for ways to saveONenergy? For more information on available incentives:

visit www.saveonenergy.ca

email saveonenergy@powerauthority.on.ca

or call (toll free) 1- 877- 797- 9473