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## New Green Act unveiled today

By **BRIAN GRAY**

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The province appears ready to get down and dirty with its new clean energy legislation to be unveiled today.

The Green Energy Act is being touted as a first glimpse at Premier Dalton McGuinty's attempt to renovate Ontario's sagging economy by streamlining the establishment of new green industry projects such as wind farms.

But some fear it might be too heavy-handed to do any good.

McGuinty has already denounced people who object to wind turbines being erected near their homes and the new law will likely strip the ability of municipalities to object to new green energy projects.

McGuinty and his energy minister, George Smitherman, have labelled residents like those who live near the Scarborough Bluffs NIMBYists -- not in my backyard -- for opposing Toronto Hydro's proposal to put as many as 60 wind turbines a few kilometres offshore in Lake Ontario.

"I find it kind of odd that Mr. McGuinty and Mr. Smitherman are using those residents as examples of NIMBYism or NIMBYists," said Councillor Paul Ainslie, representative for residents of the Guildwood neighbourhood who would be most affected. "The City of Toronto really doesn't have any jurisdiction over this plan."

### DISTRUST

Ainslie said legislation which takes away transparency from the process of establishing new windmill-based electricity projects is likely to breed more distrust and opposition.

"As it is these residents can't get any answers out of Toronto Hydro," Ainsley said. He added that while a minority of residents either support or oppose the plan, most just want more information.

"There's a general distrust for government agencies so eliminating steps and allowing the province to steamroll over their concerns isn't going to help matters."