

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lights out, Guelph! City powers down for Earth Hour.

Community urged to reduce non-essential energy use on March 28

GUELPH, ON, March 23, 2009 – The City of Guelph has joined the growing list of municipalities around the world taking part in the Earth Hour campaign to raise awareness about climate change. Guelph residents and businesses are encouraged to show their support by turning off all non-essential lights between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28.

“Turning out the lights for Earth Hour is a symbolic gesture, but it has a big impact in raising awareness about energy conservation,” said Mayor Karen Farbridge.

Through its Strategic Plan and Community Energy Plan, the City of Guelph is committed to being a leader in conservation. The Earth Hour campaign is a great way for community members to get involved in the City’s energy conservation initiatives by making some simple changes to reduce their energy-use.

Non-essential lighting will be turned off at City facilities where safe to do so, with the exception of the new City Hall where workers may be present. Non-essential electrical loads, such as those used for computers and printers, will also be turned off. Thermostat settings in City facilities will also be reduced and fan speeds will be reduced or completely turned off.

This year the City has partnered with the Guelph Mercury to help promote the Earth Hour initiative and encourage residents to power down on March 28. Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. will monitor Saturday evening’s energy consumption to determine Guelph’s energy savings. In 2008, Guelph residents and businesses achieved a 2.2 per cent energy consumption reduction during the Earth Hour event, and we hope to achieve a greater savings this year.

Earth Hour is a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) event to raise awareness about climate change and symbolize that, working together, the people of the world can make a difference in the fight against climate change. In 2008, almost 10 million Canadians participated in more than 150 cities and municipalities. In 2008, 50 million people across 35 countries turned off their lights in support of Earth Hour. Earth Hour 2009 aims to reach 1 billion people in 1,000 cities globally.

Residents can visit guelph.ca/earthhour to learn more about the Earth Hour campaign, register for the event, find energy conservation tips, and join the Earth Hour Canada Facebook group to pledge their support and share conservation tips.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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