

Conserving Electricity During a Heat Wave **powerWISE® Tips for The Summer Months**

TORONTO, July 11, 2006 – Six of Ontario's largest local electricity distribution companies, cooperatively delivering energy conservation programs under the powerWISE® name, are advising customers on ways to save electricity and money without compromising comfort during the summer months.

In 2005, the province saw record temperatures and people felt the heat. Some areas of the province were hit with successive days of 30-degree weather and air conditioners were humming. Not only did this significantly impact electricity supply, but it also contributed to poor air quality

“Our hot summers result in the demand for electricity being much greater than other times of the year – in fact, heating and cooling account for a large percentage of a customer’s electricity bill,” says Brian Bentz, President and CEO, PowerStream Inc. “We all need to pay attention to how much electricity is used – using more electricity than our province can generate costs us more from a quality of life and financial perspective.”

powerWISE offers the following tips to save electricity and save money this summer:

- Clean or replace your air conditioner filter regularly.
- Turn the air conditioner off when you’re not home.
- If you have central air, raise the thermostat setting on your air conditioner.
- Turn on ceiling fans, rather than air conditioners, to circulate air.
- Close blinds and curtains during the day to keep the heat out.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL).
- Create natural cooling with shade trees on the west and south sides of your house.
- Shower and run your dishwasher, washer and dryer early in the morning or late at night.
- Dry clothes outdoors.
- Don’t use heat-producing small appliances (toasters, hairdryers) at peak times.
- Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator and keep other appliances in good working order.
- Don’t heat your pool at night. Let hot daytime temperatures warm it during the day.
- Use manual skimmers rather than pool vacuums daily. Vacuum once a week.
- Turn off lights, computers, stereos and TVs when you’re not using them.
- Keep those fridge and freezer doors closed as much as possible.

The powerWISE alliance, including Enersource Hydro Mississauga, Horizon Utilities Corporation, Hydro Ottawa Limited, PowerStream Inc., Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited and Veridian Connections serves 1.7 million Ontario customers or 40% of the province. In 2005, the powerWISE members helped customers conserve over 110 million-kilowatt hours or enough to power over 12,250 Ontario homes. The powerWISE members continue to deliver new and innovative programs and are fully committed to the goal of reducing electricity demand and creating a culture of conservation in Ontario.

Visit www.powerwise.ca to learn how to conserve energy and save money.

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