



Hamilton

Public Works

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton takes second place in Blackout Challenge!

HAMILTON, ON – September 22, 2008 –As a participant in the Blackout Challenge on August 14th, Hamilton placed second out of 38 participating Ontario municipalities by successfully reducing energy consumption by 2.9 per cent and trimming peak demand by 5.2 per cent between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The 5.2 per cent drop in peak demand is equivalent to taking between 5,000 and 6,000 homes completely off the electricity grid.

Hamilton placed first in last year's challenge; however this year's results demonstrate an improvement since then. Last year, Hamilton reduced consumption by 1.9 per cent and peak demand by five per cent.

"Once again, Hamilton has stepped up to the plate. Hamilton was responsible for almost 50 per cent of the province-wide decrease in electricity consumption and over 70 per cent of the province-wide decrease in peak demand!" said Mayor Fred Eisenberger. "These impressive results certainly demonstrate our community's commitment to energy conservation and environmental protection. Next year we will challenge the GTA cities to participate as well."

This challenge was initiated in response to the City of Woodstock's Voluntary Blackout Day Challenge - a friendly invitation urging Ontario municipalities to reduce consumption by four per cent on the anniversary of the 2003 blackout. It has taken weeks to compare results and a number of factors have been considered that level the field. In order to estimate electricity savings, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) compared the results from August 14th to other weekdays with similar weather.

"Corporately, we continued to lead by example by turning off all non-essential lights and reducing energy consumption in our corporate facilities," said Scott Stewart, General Manager of Public Works.

In the City of Hamilton's corporate facilities, energy consumption dropped 25.1 per cent and peak demand was reduced by 19.2 per cent during the eight-hour period.

Reducing energy consumption does not have to be an onerous task. The following are some simple suggestions for reducing energy usage every day. Please visit www.horizonutilities.com for more energy saving tips.

- Turn off air conditioning units whenever possible and open the windows
- Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep out the sun's heat
- Set air conditioning thermostats at 26 degrees Celsius
- Use a programmable thermostat for your heating and air conditioning system.
- Turn off lights and replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent bulbs
- Hang clothes out to dry instead of using a dryer

- Plug computers, home entertainment units and battery chargers into power bars and turn them off when not in use

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Media Contacts:

Office of Mayor Fred Eisenberger
905-546-4106

Geoff Lupton
Manager of Energy Initiatives
Public Works Department
City of Hamilton
905-546-2424, ext. 7372