



Hamilton

Public Works



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton significantly reduced energy consumption yesterday

HAMILTON, ON – August 15, 2007 –As a participant in Voluntary Blackout Day yesterday, Hamilton successfully reduced energy consumption by 2.2 per cent (104,737 kWh) and peak demand by 3.2 per cent between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. According to Horizon Utilities who compiled the results, this 2.2 per cent reduction result is equivalent to:

- 6,000 homeowners turning off their air conditioners for eight hours, or
- Taking 4,000 homes off the grid.

“These impressive results demonstrate our community’s commitment to energy conservation and environmental protection,” said Mayor Fred Eisenberger. “Thank you to all the residents and businesses who actively participated in this initiative. We look forward to participating again in next year’s challenge and enhancing our results.”

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. Results were compiled by comparing yesterday’s numbers to summer Tuesdays over the past five years and normalizing for weather.

“On a hot summer day, Hamilton’s demand for electricity peaks in the late afternoon. This coincides with people arriving home from work and turning on their air conditioners, stoves, lights, washers and dryers, televisions and video games,” said Sandy Manners, Director of Corporate Communications for Horizon Utilities. “Yesterday we saw a 20 MW drop in peak demand over what we would normally experience on a day with similar weather. This 3.2% reduction is an outstanding result that clearly indicates that Hamiltonians accepted the challenge and took steps to reduce their energy consumption when they arrived home.”

Reducing energy consumption does not have to be an onerous task. The following are some simple suggestions for reducing energy usage every day.

- 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

“Our ultimate goal was to heighten awareness in the community about how to reduce energy use in your own home or business,” said Scott Stewart, General Manager of Hamilton’s Public Works Department. “We will continue to demonstrate leadership by reducing energy consumption in our corporate facilities to inspire other organizations and individuals to take action towards healthier, more sustainable communities.”

“Conservation is something we encourage people to do year-round, but the Woodstock Voluntary Blackout Day is instrumental in raising awareness and bringing conservation to the forefront of people’s minds,” said Terry Young, Director of External Relations and Communications for Ontario’s Independent Electricity System Operator. “The actions that Hamilton businesses and residents took yesterday are evident in the 20 MW reduction in demand that Horizon reported.”

For tips and information about saving electricity, saving money and saving the environment, please visit: www.horizonutilities.com

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