

Media Release

Niagara Region receives rebate and a gold award for installing energy-efficient lighting that will reduce operating costs

ST. CATHARINES, ON – February 2, 2010 – The Niagara Region recently received rebate cheques from Horizon Utilities Corporation totaling over \$26,000 for installing energy-efficient lighting at three facilities - Linhaven Long-Term Care Facility and the Port Weller and Port Dalhousie Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Today, Horizon Utilities Corporation presented Niagara Region with an Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program (ERIP) Gold Award for achieving peak demand electricity savings of 108 kilowatts as a result of the lighting retrofits.

The Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program, offered by Horizon Utilities and the Ontario Power Authority, provides financial incentives for commercial, industrial, agricultural and institutional customers who complete electrical retrofits that result in demand savings and/or annual energy savings.

By installing energy-efficient lighting at three St. Catharines locations the Niagara Region was able to reduce their peak demand for electricity by 108 kilowatts, which will result in long-term energy savings and sets an example for other regions to follow.

"Horizon Utilities is committed to helping to build economically viable and sustainable communities," said Max Cananzi, President and CEO of Horizon Utilities Corporation. "By promoting the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program and assisting customers with their applications, we are helping institutions and companies in St. Catharines reap the benefits of reduced operating costs and an improved environmental footprint."

"In an economy where every dollar counts," continued Cananzi, "we commend the Niagara Region for taking the sustainable approach of investing today in energy-efficient retrofits that will result in long-term energy savings for the Region."

Peter Inman, Niagara Region's associate director of Energy Management agrees. "The award recognizes Niagara Region's commitment to energy conservation and continuous improvement. These three projects are just a sample of the initiatives underway across Regional facilities and operations."

The Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program is one of a number of Conservation and Demand Management programs launched by the Ontario Power Authority and administered by local utilities, like Horizon Utilities Corporation, to help the province meet its energy reduction targets of reducing electricity consumption by 50 GWh and achieve demand savings of 100 MW by the end of 2010

The Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program covers two types of projects: prescriptive and custom. Prescriptive projects provide a specific incentive payout for upgrades such as installing more energy-efficient lighting. The custom program is designed for larger projects and provides payouts based on the resulting reduction in peak demand of electricity.

For more details about the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program, please visit: www.horizonutilities.com or call 1-866-458-1236.

About Horizon Utilities

Horizon Utilities Corporation, named Company of the Year by the Ontario Energy Association, is one of the largest municipally owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario, delivering electricity and related utility services to more than 230,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. The company is committed to providing best value to its customers through the delivery of a safe, and reliable supply of electricity cost effectively. Horizon Utilities Corporation is owned by Horizon Holdings Inc. and operates out of facilities in Hamilton, Stoney Creek and St. Catharines. For more information, visit: www.horizonutilities.com.

About the Niagara Region

Niagara Region serves over 427,000 people living in 12 area municipalities. Programs and services are fundamental, in one way or another, to the quality of life of residents, and impact millions of people who visit yearly. The Region is responsible for such diverse areas as growth management and land use planning; a transportation network, including roads, bridges and traffic signals; water and wastewater treatment; waste collection and management; emergency medical services; public health; children's services, seniors' programs, including long-term care homes; and Ontario Works. Visit www.niagararegion.ca for more information.

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