



MEDIA RELEASE

St. Catharines Community

St. Catharines joins global movement: “Turn off your lights” during Earth Hour

St. Catharines– (March 17, 2008) – The City of St. Catharines and Horizon Utilities Corporation are asking residents and businesses to participate in Earth Hour to show the world that St. Catharines is committed to addressing climate change.

Earth Hour is a global climate change initiative that calls for individuals and businesses around the world to turn off their lights and non-essential electrical appliances for one hour from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, 2008. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness about climate change and demonstrate how, together, our small, individual actions can make a difference to global warming.

“I am delighted that the City of St. Catharines will be a part of Earth Hour, “ says Mayor Brian McMullan. “By turning off our lights on March 29 we are joining a global effort in the fight against climate change that involves communities in Ontario and cities across the world.”

In addition to encouraging residents and businesses to turn off lights and non-essential electrical appliances, the City is taking steps to reduce energy consumption in municipal buildings during Earth Hour. “We hope Earth Hour will leave a lasting impression in our community, and demonstrate how individual efforts can go a long way toward addressing climate change,” says McMullan.

In addition, lead retailers, Walmart, have committed to this initiative which accounts for over 300 stores nation wide. Walmart will operate with 2/3 lighting in all stores for the duration of the entire day on March 29th, 2008.

When the lights go out on Saturday, March 29, Horizon Utilities will be busy behind the scenes measuring the drop in energy consumption.



**CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES**

"Horizon Utilities has been actively promoting energy conservation over the last few years as part of our commitment to help create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario," says Eileen Campbell, Vice-President of Customer Services for Horizon Utilities. "If everyone just turns off one or two non-essential lights, unplugs their computers, and waits until after 9:00 p.m. to turn on dishwashers or clothes washers or dryers, we should certainly see a noticeable decrease."

Anyone wishing to help promote the event can obtain a supply of Earth Hour postcards for distribution to friends, family or community groups by calling:
Mark Green 905-688-5601 extension 2193

Information about this event is posted at:

www.stcatharines.ca
www.horizonutilities.com

For more information or to arrange an interview:

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