

Horizon Utilities Reports Earth Hour Results

Hamilton/St. Catharines (March 31, 2008) --- Horizon Utilities reports that energy consumption was down by 12% during Earth Hour as compared against historical usage patterns for that hour on Saturday nights in March. Consumption dropped by 2% as compared to the hour just prior to Earth Hour and jumped back up to normal levels when Earth Hour ended.

"The 2% drop in consumption indicates that many residents took the Earth Hour message to heart and turned off their lights at 8:00 p.m.," says Sandy Manners, Director of Corporate Communications for Horizon Utilities Corporation. "What is more encouraging, however, is the 12% decrease we witnessed as compared to what we would normally expect to see on a Saturday night in March. This may indicate that people made changes to reduce their day-to-day energy consumption which is a much more desirable result than just turning off a light for an hour. It may also indicate that businesses got on board by turning off all their lights and unplugging equipment on Friday when they left work, which contributed to the 12% drop."

"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. As part of our Earth Hour awareness campaign, we distributed Earth Hour materials to our employees, to customers at community events and on our website, and to students through schools as an add-on to *Generation Conservation*, a 10-lesson energy conservation course Horizon Utilities has sponsored for Grade 5 students," notes Manners. A breakdown of the results is reported below:

Hamilton Consumption

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
363,990 kWh	357,526 kWh	361,519 kWh
Consumption during Earth Hour dropped 6,464 kWh over the hour before. This is a 1.7% reduction. Note: Numbers do not include energy consumed by large users or streetlights.		

St. Catharines Consumption

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
108,453 kWh	105,828 kWh	107,311 kWh
Consumption during Earth Hour dropped 2,625 kWh over the hour before. This is a 2.42% reduction. Note: Numbers do not include energy consumed by large users or streetlights.		

Horizon Utilities Corporation Service Territory – Hamilton & St. Catharines

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
472,444 kWh	463,354 kWh	468,831 kWh
Consumption during Earth Hour dropped 9,090 kWh over the hour before. This is a 1.92% reduction. Note: Numbers do not include energy consumed by large users or streetlights.		

Horizon Utilities Corporation is one of the largest municipally owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario, delivering electricity and related utility services to over 232,000 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 and energy-saving tips, visit: www.horizonutilities.com.