

Half a Million Lights Turned Out for Earth Hour **Horizon Utilities Reports Earth Hour Results**

Hamilton/St. Catharines (March 30, 2009) --- Horizon Utilities reports that electricity demand decreased 86 megawatts or **15.74%** in its service territory during Earth Hour as compared against historical usage patterns for that hour on Saturday nights in March. Reductions by municipality were:

- **Hamilton** = Reduced 74 megawatts = a 17.1% reduction
- **St. Catharines** = Reduced 12 megawatts = 10.6% reduction

"This is a great improvement over last year's results of a 12% drop," reports Max Cananzi, President & CEO of Horizon Utilities Corporation, "On the assumption that everyone has installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in their homes, it is as though each of our customers turned off two or three lights for a total of 557,000 lights!"

Consumption dropped by about 1.6% as compared to the hour just prior to Earth Hour and continued to drop for the rest of the evening.

Horizon Utilities partnered with the cities of Hamilton and St. Catharines to promote Earth Hour in both communities.

"Horizon Utilities actively promotes energy conservation as part of our commitment to help create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario," says Cananzi. As part of the Earth Hour awareness campaign, the company distributed Earth Hour materials to employees, to customers at community events and on the website, and to students through schools as an add-on to *Generation Conservation*, a 10-lesson energy conservation course Horizon Utilities sponsors for Grade 5 students.

"Earth Hour really seems to appeal to children because simply turning off lights is something everyone can do," says Cananzi. "We should all take pride in the fact that we all contributed to raising awareness about the need for energy conservation and demonstrated how easy that can be if we all work together."

About Horizon Utilities Corporation

Horizon Utilities Corporation is one of the largest municipally owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario, delivering electricity 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.

For more information and energy-saving tips, visit: www.horizonutilities.com.

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