



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Horizon Utilities Encourages Local Businesses to Save Energy and Money with Electricity Retrofit**

**(ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO) October 28, 2008** - Horizon Utilities Corporation met with representatives of more than 40 local companies today to help them learn what they can do to take control of their energy usage, reduce operating costs and help reduce strain on the provincial power grid by participating in the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program (ERIP).

ERIP is an electricity 'tune-up' program that rewards businesses for upgrading facilities and equipment to use less energy. Through ERIP, Horizon Utilities helps businesses identify opportunities for improvement, guides them through the retrofit process and provides financial incentives to help offset the cost of improvements.

ERIP is a win-win situation for companies and the community. Whether it's retrofitting lighting fixtures, replacing inefficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) components or upgrading to high-efficiency motors, businesses can decrease their load at peak demand times, lower operating costs, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and earn ERIP rebates.

A number of area businesses are already working with Horizon Utilities to save energy and money through the Retrofit program. Two were recognized at today's seminar including Graham Keene of Graham J. Keene Enterprises, who owns and operates the Canadian Tire store on Welland Avenue in St. Catharines, and the Niagara Regional Housing Corporation.

Keene received a Silver Conservation Award in August of this year for capitalizing on changes in lighting technology to realize savings of 92 KW of peak demand. He was on hand to speak to business peers in praise of the ongoing rewards of his lighting retrofit.

The Niagara Regional Housing Corporation (NRHC) received a Platinum Conservation Award for undertaking five electricity retrofit projects at various multi-residential housing projects in the Region in 2008. The five lighting projects

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involved the installation of T8 Lighting and 20,000 CFL Bulbs at various multi-residential housing projects in the Niagara region as part of a larger electricity retrofit initiative across more than 20 properties, are delivering peak demand savings of approximately 64 KW. Ilona Crawford, Capital Works Coordinator for NRHC, said, "We're committed to upgrading and increasing efficiency at properties managed by NRHC while reducing our carbon footprint. ERIP helps us do that."

Horizon Utilities is committed to being an energy partner - not just an electricity provider. "We're pleased to see so many companies within our service territory coming out to hear about the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program," said Eileen Campbell, Vice President, Customer Services, Horizon Utilities, "Meeting community-wide and province-wide conservation targets requires a team effort. We're looking to the business community to be lead contributors through programs like ERIP. Together, we can improve our environment and help safeguard our energy supply."

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 to help meet reduction targets. Businesses interested in learning more about how they can participate in the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program can contact Horizon Utilities at: **1-866-458-1236**, **erip@horizonutilities.com** or by visiting [www.horizonutilities.com](http://www.horizonutilities.com).

**Horizon Utilities Corporation** is one of the largest municipally-owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario, providing electricity and related utility services to 233,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. Horizon Utilities' employees are committed to delivering a safe and reliable supply of electricity, providing unparalleled customer value, and helping to create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario.

**For more information, visit [www.horizonutilities.com](http://www.horizonutilities.com) or contact:**

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