



**NO NEED TO WAIT FOR NEXT SUMMER TO START SAVING ON ENERGY COSTS**  
***Two Out of Three Energy Conservation Programs Announced by McGuinty Government Already Available to Horizon Utilities Customers***

**St. Catharines/Hamilton, ON (November 3, 2006)** --- Customers of Horizon Utilities Corporation are already taking advantage of two of the three energy conservation programs that will be offered province-wide next summer by the Ontario Power Authority as announced by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty today.

**peaksaver™ - Peak Reduction Program Offers Customers a Free Programmable Thermostat**

Horizon Utilities is pleased to announce they will professionally install a free programmable thermostat, at no charge, in the homes of the first 2,000 eligible residential and commercial customers who agree to participate the **peaksaver** peak reduction program before December 31, 2006.

The **peaksaver** peak reduction program will allow Horizon Utilities to reduce the strain on the Province of Ontario's electricity supply during hot summer days next summer when use of air conditioning is at its peak and there are calls for cutbacks because provincial demand is exceeding generation capacity.

"This is a win-win situation," said Max Cananzi, President and CEO of Horizon Utilities Corporation. "If you use a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature in your home during times when you're not there or sleeping, you can save up to 20% on your energy bills in the coming year, which is a significant saving. But there is no need to wait for next year's air conditioning season. By having the programmable thermostat installed now, you can start benefiting from reduced heating costs."

Although consumers are sure to appreciate the cost savings, it is important to look at **peaksaver** from the broader energy perspective. "By enrolling in **peaksaver**, you are playing a direct role in ensuring that during periods of high demand for electricity, such as a sustained summer heat wave, there will be available power for everyone, no blackouts, a reduced need to import expensive electricity to meet demand, and, ultimately an improvement in air quality," pointed out Cananzi. Horizon Utilities hopes to sign up 2,000 homes and businesses and thereby be in a position to reduce demand by two megawatts from their service territories.

In order to participate in Horizon's **peaksaver** program, you must be a Horizon Utilities customer in St. Catharines or Hamilton, own the home where the unit will be installed, and have a central air conditioner in good working order in the residence. If you are a small commercial customer, you are also eligible to participate if your air conditioning unit is approximately the same size as those used by residential customers.

Eligible customers will have a programmable thermostat, a \$250 value, professionally installed at no cost. This is a good opportunity for seniors or those on a fixed income, curious about the benefits of a programmable thermostat or unsure about how to install one, to get a unit professionally installed and set up to suit their living habits. Technically savvy individuals may be interested to learn that the thermostat can also be adjusted over the Internet from a remote location. This will be an advantage for cottagers or returning snowbirds who can use the web access to raise the temperature in their residence before they arrive home.

Once your **peaksaver** unit is installed, during times of peak electricity demand in the province during the hottest days of summer, Horizon Utilities will cycle your air conditioner off and on to take some of the load off the provincial system. The furnace fan will continue to circulate air so the change in temperature will hardly be noticeable.



"It's important to note that a **peaksaver** event will only be activated if there is an electricity supply issue and there is a call for cutbacks from the Independent Electricity System Operator," stressed Cananzi. "During these critical times, **peaksaver** can make quite a difference in reducing load on the provincial system."

"We are encouraging homeowners who have central air conditioning, electric hot water tanks, or pool pumps to enrol in **peaksaver**. You can save on your heating costs right now and your air conditioning costs next summer," added Cananzi.

To enroll or find out more about **peaksaver**, call the **peaksaver** hotline 1-866-323-0206 or visit [www.horizonutilities.com](http://www.horizonutilities.com) and click on **peaksaver**.

### **Beer Fridge Bounty Program**

Horizon Utilities Corporation just completed an astonishingly successful Beer Fridge Bounty program in Hamilton and St. Catharines that saw more than 1,650 old refrigerators taken out of service and that will result in energy savings of 2 million kilowatt hours per year – enough to power more than 200 homes.

"Old secondary fridges consume a surprising amount of electricity every year," asserted Max Cananzi, President and CEO of Horizon Utilities Corporation. "Beer fridges that are sitting half-empty in the basement or garage, running full blast, can use two to three times more electricity than the new refrigerator in the kitchen. Customers who waved good-bye to their beer fridge this fall can look forward to savings of up to \$180 on their electricity costs over the next year."

This program complements Horizon Utilities' Watt Meter Lending Program whereby residents of Hamilton and St. Catharines can sign out a Kill-A-Watt meter from their local public library and use it to measure the energy consumed by their refrigerator or other appliances in their home. "Borrowing a Kill-a-Watt meter from the library is a terrific way to get children involved in energy conservation," noted Cananzi. "They love running around the house testing appliances to find out how much energy each one uses. The results of their experiments make for a fascinating science project that everyone in the family can learn something from."

### **Summer Savings 10/10 Program**

Horizon Utilities Corporation will be working with the Ontario Power Authority to determine how best to offer the Summer Savings 10/10 program to residential and small business consumers next summer.

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**peaksaver** is part of **powerWISE**<sup>®</sup>, Horizon Utilities' multi-year, energy conservation and demand management initiative. Horizon Utilities Corporation is proud to be a founding member of **powerWISE**<sup>®</sup>, the brand created to promote energy conservation and reduce the demand for electricity in Ontario. **PowerWISE**<sup>®</sup> is a joint initiative of the Ontario government and six of Ontario's largest electricity distribution companies.

**Horizon Utilities Corporation** is the third largest municipally owned electricity distribution company in Ontario and provides electricity and related utility services to over 230,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. The company is owned by Hamilton Utilities Corporation and St. Catharines Hydro Inc. and operates out of facilities in Hamilton, St. Catharines, and Stoney Creek.

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