



Media Release

Horizon Utilities launches major energy conservation program to help customers reduce electricity usage and earn a credit on their hydro bill

(Hamilton, ON) June 14, 2007 – Horizon Utilities, with support from the Ontario Power Authority, today launched the **SUMMER SAVINGS – 10% Credit** program, an initiative that will encourage residential customers to conserve electricity, save money and help the environment.

Under the Summer Savings – 10% Credit program, eligible home owners who reduce their energy use by 10% during July and August compared to the same months last year and normalized for weather differences, will receive a 10% credit on a future hydro bill. There is no paperwork to fill out. Eligible Horizon residential customers are automatically enrolled in the program.

Details of the program were announced today at the Hamilton Farmer's Market where representatives of Horizon Utilities, accompanied by Peter Love, Ontario's Chief Energy Conservation Officer, and Councillor Bob Bratina, handed out free, energy-efficient, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), a re-usable market tote bag and energy conservation tips to launch the initiative and promote energy conservation.

"By participating in the Summer Savings Program, Horizon customers will play an important role in reducing peak electricity demand over the critical summer months when hot, humid weather puts a severe strain on the province's electricity system," said Eileen Campbell, Vice-President, Customer Services, Horizon Utilities.

"We want as many customers as possible to achieve the 10% reduction goal because the energy savings and environmental benefits are significant. For example, if only 20% of Horizon's eligible customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines achieve the goal, well over six million kilowatt hours (kWh) will be saved, enough to power 675 homes for a year. On the environment side, this represents a monthly reduction in greenhouse gas of over 4.3 million pounds of CO₂," added Campbell. "That is like taking 375 cars off the road for a month."

"We now use more electricity in the summer than during the winter, so Summer Savings really make sense," continued Campbell. "Turning off lights, increasing the temperature in your house by a few degrees, using fewer appliances, it's quite easy to save 10% on your electricity consumption. Not only does it save money, it's also good for the environment."

To help consumers get started on reducing their energy consumption, Horizon Utilities offers the following top ten tips for energy conservation this summer:

TOP TEN TIPS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION THIS SUMMER

1. Central air conditioning can account for up to 50% of your summer electricity bill, so try to use it only when necessary to remain comfortable.
2. If you must use air conditioning, use a programmable thermostat and set it at 25 degrees Celsius or higher.
3. Turn off lights and keep blinds drawn during hot summer days.
4. Turn off air conditioning at night and open the windows.
5. Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs for outdoor or dimmer use are now available.
6. Put outdoor lights on timers or motion sensors.
7. Computer equipment and home entertainment units generate a lot of heat and use electricity even when they are turned off and in standby mode. To avoid this, plug them into a power bar and turn off when not in use.
8. Dry clothes outdoors. They smell wonderful!
9. Avoid heating your pool by using a solar blanket.
10. Install a timer and set it to only run your pool pump on off-peak hours.

To be eligible for the Summer Savings – 10% Credit program, residential customers must have lived in their home for more than twelve months, not have had an estimated account last summer or this summer, and not be moving prior to September 1, 2007. For full terms, conditions and eligibility requirements, visit www.everykilowattcounts.ca or www.horizonutilities.com

The Summer Savings program is one of several province-wide energy conservation initiatives that will be promoted this summer by Horizon Utilities with the support from the Ontario Power Authority. These initiatives include the Great Refrigerator Roundup which encourages customers to take advantage of the opportunity to dispose of their old, energy-guzzling, secondary refrigerators. Last summer Horizon Utilities took part in the pilot for the refrigerator retirement program and recycled more than 1,400 fridges from Hamilton and St. Catharines in an environmentally friendly manner, for a savings of almost 900,000 kilowatts.

“These programs represent the largest coordinated effort Ontario has ever made to encourage consumers to use less electricity,” said Peter Love. “As Ontario moves toward re-building its electricity infrastructure, the conservation initiatives of each resident maintain and enhance the sustainability of our current power generation and distribution system.”

Horizon customers will be receiving information in their bills about the Summer Savings Program, including tips on how to reduce their energy use and qualify for the credit. Customers can access program details and more energy conservation tips at www.horizonutilities.com or www.everykilowattcounts.ca.

About Horizon Utilities Corporation

Horizon Utilities Corporation is the third largest municipally owned electricity distribution company in Ontario and provides electricity and related utility services to over 231,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. Horizon’s 350 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.

Horizon Utilities Corporation is proud to be a founding member of powerWISE®, a brand created to promote energy conservation and reduce the demand for electricity in Ontario. powerWISE® is a joint initiative of the Ontario government and six of Ontario’s largest electricity distribution companies. For more information, visit: www.horizonutilities.com and www.powerwise.ca.

About the Ontario Power Authority

In pursuit of its mandate of ensuring an adequate, long-term supply of electricity for Ontario, the OPA creates and implements conservation and demand management programs, ensure adequate investment in new supply infrastructure, performs long-term electricity supply planning, and facilitates the development of a more sustainable and competitive electricity system.

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