



Media Release

Mayor Eisenberger joins *peaksaver*[®] to help manage Ontario's peak electricity demand

Mayor Fred says Count Me In! and takes action to conserve energy

(HAMILTON, ON) May 21, 2009 - With Energy Conservation Week (May 17 - 23) focusing attention on what each of us can do to conserve energy, save money and reduce green house gases, Hamilton Mayor, Fred Eisenberger, is doing his part by joining *peaksaver*[®].

peaksaver is an innovative demand reduction program that enables local electric utilities to remotely cycle central air conditioning units of participating customers off and on during high electricity demand periods to help reduce the strain on the electricity grid.

Today, the Eisenberger family invited Horizon Utilities into their home to install a free *peaksaver* thermostat so their air conditioner can be turned down for short periods when provincial demand is greatest.

"Energy conservation is an important part of our City's vision to build a sustainable community that is the best place to live, work and raise a family," says Mayor Eisenberger. "We all need to take action to conserve electricity. Something as simple as visiting www.energyconservationweek.ca for ideas and pledging to save energy or making a phone call to sign up for *peaksaver* will make a difference if we all do it together."

peaksaver thermostats and installations are cost-free and hassle-free. Once a thermostat (valued at \$350) is installed, *peaksaver* participants stand to save money - first by receiving a \$25 'thank-you' credit on their Horizon Utilities hydro bill just for signing up and, then again, by using their properly set, programmable thermostat to reduce annual heating and cooling costs by up to 10%.

Here's how the **peaksaver** system works. **peaksaver** is activated only between May and September when demand for electricity in the province comes close to supply limits. These events usually take place during the peak hours of 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - never on weekends or holidays and never for more than four hours. During an activation period, **peaksaver®** participants' central air conditioners are cycled on and off for 15 minutes to conserve electricity while furnace fans continue to circulate cool air throughout the home. Most residents do not detect any noticeable difference in home temperatures, but the energy saved in each house combines to make **peaksaver®** a powerful tool in protecting the integrity of the province's electrical grid.

"Last summer, **peaksaver** was activated just five times, but enough electricity was saved in the province during each of those **peaksaver** periods to power a town with a population of 46,000 for four hours," explains Max Cananzi, President and CEO, Horizon Utilities. "If everyone in our community joins with Mayor Eisenberger and signs up for **peaksaver**, together we can help smooth those peaks and create real environmental benefits."

Horizon Utilities is one of 47 local electricity distribution companies (LDCs) in Ontario offering **peaksaver**. Already, 120,000 Ontario businesses and families, like the Eisenbergers, have agreed to reduce their demand on the electricity system with **peaksaver**.

Horizon customers interested in participating in the voluntary **peaksaver** program can call 1-866-323-0206.

To make your **Count Me In!** pledge, visit www.energyconservationweek.ca

Horizon Utilities Corporation is one of the largest municipally owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario, providing electricity and related utility services to more than 230,000 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.

About Energy Conservation Week

Energy Conservation Week 2009 is a province-wide initiative that will feature a variety of conservation events in cities and towns across the province. Energy Conservation Week is the focal point of a four-month campaign that starts with a launch in April and ends with a province-wide community challenge day on August 14. The primary objectives are to raise awareness and encourage broad participation in energy conservation across Ontario.

Energy Conservation Week is coordinated, in partnership, by the Ontario Power Authority, the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the Independent Electricity System Operator, the Electricity Distributors Association, Hydro One, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the City of Toronto and local distribution companies including Horizon Utilities Corporation.

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For more information, visit www.horizonutilities.com or contact:

Sandy Manners, Director, Corporate Communications, Horizon Utilities Corporation

Tel: 905.317.4707 • Cell: 905.308.1473

sandy.manners@horizonutilities.com

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