



For immediate release

Hamilton and St. Catharines residents Keep Cool

Window air conditioner retirement target already exceeded with one weekend to go

Hamilton, ON, June 21...Over the last two weekends, Hamilton, Ancaster and St. Catharines residents helped Horizon Utilities, The Home Depot Canada and the Clean Air Foundation more than double their goal for *Keep Cool*, by bringing over 1,500 old energy-guzzling room air conditioners to three local Home Depot stores for retirement and recycling. If room air conditioners like these are left running all the time, they have the potential to double the energy consumption in your home, resulting in large energy bills.

The mayors of Hamilton and St. Catharines helped launch the Clean Air Foundation's *Keep Cool* program with partners Horizon Utilities and The Home Depot Canada by challenging their citizens to retire their old room air conditioners in exchange for a \$25 Home Depot gift card on weekends from June 10 to 25. The community that retires the greatest number of air conditioners will be given a shade tree to plant in a local schoolyard.

"By participating in the *Keep Cool* program, citizens of Hamilton and St. Catharines have proven that there is a culture of conservation in our community," said Brian Smith Manager of Conservation and Demand Management, Horizon Utilities Corporation. "Air conditioners are a major contributor to record electricity peaks during the summer months. This program helps reduce the overall strain on the province's electrical system and saves our customers money in the long-term."

The customers of Horizon Utilities are leading the race to retire old, inefficient room air conditioners in the province, having retired over 1,500 air conditioners thus far – that is almost 20 percent of the units collected for the entire program. The *Keep Cool* program has collected and retired 9,128 air conditioners over the last two weeks, representing a reduction of about 10 megawatts of peak demand energy.

"Hamilton and St. Catharines residents are doing their share to reduce energy demand by participating so actively in the *Keep Cool* program," said Ersilia Serafini, Executive Director, Clean Air Foundation. "This is the first time we have brought the program to the area and we are thrilled with people's interest in exploring cleaner cooling alternatives."

This is the final weekend that area residents can retire and recycle their old air conditioners at any of the three participating Home Depot locations in Ancaster, Hamilton and St. Catharines (for location details, please visit www.keepcool.ca). *Keep Cool* representatives will be at the participating locations to provide participants with a \$25 Home Depot gift card when they drop off an old room air conditioner.

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About the Clean Air Foundation

The Clean Air Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing, implementing and managing public engagement programs and strategic approaches that lead to measurable emissions reductions, to improve air quality and protect the climate. The Foundation manages six public engagement programs - *Car Heaven, Mow Down Pollution, Keep Cool, Energy Smarts, Switch Out* and *Cool Shops*.

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 230,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. Horizon's 340 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 Home Depot Canada

Founded in 1978, in Atlanta, Georgia, The Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer currently operating 2,064 stores, including 142 The Home Depot stores across Canada. The Company reported fiscal 2005 sales of US\$81.5 billion and employs approximately 355,000 associates, including more than 26,000 Canadians.

For further information or to arrange an interview with any of the program partners, please contact:

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