

powerWISE® Tips for Conserving Electricity When You Go On Vacation ***Make sure your home is using as little energy as possible while you are away***

TORONTO, August 4, 2006 – Six of Ontario's largest local electricity distribution companies and the Ontario Ministry of Energy, cooperatively delivering energy conservation programs under the powerWISE® name, are advising customers on ways to keep their electricity usage to a minimum and save money while they are away on vacation.

"In addition to turning off lights and air conditioners when they leave on vacation," notes Michael Angemeer, President and CEO, Veridian Corporation, "consumers should also consider unplugging all the devices in their home that may be responsible for 'hidden loads.'"

Hidden loads are generated by devices such as computers, printers, home entertainment equipment, microwave ovens and digital clocks. These devices all consume a small amount of power in standby mode even when they are not being used. Added together over the course of a year, hidden loads in the average household can account for approximately \$50 or 400 kWh of power consumption, the same amount of power used annually by an energy efficient refrigerator.

"It's easier to save a megawatt than to build a megawatt," Ontario Energy Minister Dwight Duncan said. "By reducing energy consumption we can cut down on our need to build new supply, and we can all save money."

powerWISE offers consumers the following tips to save electricity and save money on their electricity bill when they are away from home on vacation:

Before you leave:

- Turn off your air conditioner
- Close blinds and curtains
- If you wish to leave lights on for security reasons, make sure they are compact fluorescent bulbs and put them on a timer.
- Eliminate "hidden loads" - Unplug TV, radio, stereo, DVD, VCR, computers, printers, wine cooler, microwave oven, beer fridge, pool heater, clock radios, etc.
- Turn off ceiling fans.

At the cottage:

- BBQ as much as possible
- Keep screens in good repair and open windows
- Use table fans
- Dry clothes outdoors
- Install compact fluorescent light bulbs
- When you leave the cottage, unplug the refrigerator. An old refrigerator can cost you up to \$250 a year to run.

The powerWISE alliance, including Enersource Hydro Mississauga, Horizon Utilities Corporation, Hydro Ottawa Limited, PowerStream Inc., Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited and Veridian Connections serves 1.7 million Ontario customers or 40% of the Province. In 2005, the powerWISE members helped customers conserve over 110 million-kilowatt hours or enough to power over 12,250 Ontario homes. The powerWISE members continue to deliver new and innovative programs and are fully committed to the goal of reducing electricity demand and creating a culture of conservation in Ontario.

Visit www.powerwise.ca to learn how to conserve energy and save money.



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