

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

At Horizon, like at many other local utilities, we constantly evaluate our performance against specific regulatory requirements, sector standards, business goals and best practices, and public and shareholder expectations. We also maintain a strong corporate-wide performance focus on safety, reliability, social responsibility, and employee and customer satisfaction.

But it is clear that society is now asking for more — for companies to practice sustainable development.


Through our adoption of a Sustainability Policy, Horizon has established a new and more robust performance requirement. With this sustainability-based annual report, and our first formal annual report, we believe we will be the first local utility company in Ontario to measure and report performance under the Global Reporting Initiative™ (GRI) framework. (See www.globalreporting.org).

The cornerstone of the GRI framework is its Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, which emphasize a triple bottom line approach to performance reporting — meaning an examination of social, environmental and economic factors. Our aim in committing to the GRI standard is to continuously improve our business practices and bring added value to all of Horizon’s stakeholders. This gives us a framework for internalizing core sustainable development values. In our full GRI report — an online companion to this annual report — Horizon has addressed all of the GRI G3 Performance Indicators, the Electric Utility Sector Supplement Indicators, the “management approach” for the GRI Indicator Categories, and has responded to each G3 Indicator individually with due regard to the G3 “Materiality Principle.”

What follows in this corporate sustainability-based annual report is a review of our challenges and achievements in 2008. Our full GRI filing is available at: www.horizonutilities.com. We hope you enjoy the effort and welcome your comments and feedback to: sustainability@horizonutilities.com.

Horizon’s GRI Filing

Following the GRI criteria, and its report application levels (see diagram), Horizon has self-declared our first GRI report filing at the “B” application level.

		2002 In Accordance	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+
Mandatory	Self Declared							
	Third Party Checked			Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured
Optional	GRI Checked			Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured

GRI's Sustainability Metrics

In completing a GRI sustainability report, a company needs to address this group of issues.

GRI Metric	GRI Issues to be Addressed
Economic	Financial performance, market presence, economic impact
Environmental	Materials, energy, water, biodiversity, emissions
Labour Practices and Decent Work	Employment, labour relations, occupational health and safety, training and education, equal opportunity
Human Rights	Investment and procurement practices, non-discrimination, collective bargaining, forced and child labour, indigenous people
Society	Community, corruption, public policy, anti-competitive behaviours
Product Responsibility	Customer health and safety, labeling, communications, privacy

This annual report is structured on the basis of a sustainability-based annual report. Beyond this opening “vision” section, you will find reporting on the three main sustainability emphases — social performance, environmental performance and economic performance, as well as the complete audited financial statements in a pocket inside the back cover. In addition to this published version of the report, the report, the financial statements and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) filing can be accessed online at the Horizon Utilities Corporation website: www.horizonutilities.com.