



For Immediate Release

On The Radar In a Different Way... Earth Hour Gets the Green Light at City of Cambridge

Cambridge, Ontario. Thursday, March 27, 2008... In keeping with the City's environmental and energy conservation thrust, all major facilities and both historic and new City Hall will make reductions in energy use on Saturday, March 29th from 8:00–9:00 pm. A recent report puts forward a recommendation from the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee to turn off non-essential lighting for Earth Hour which was widely embraced by council and staff.

An examination of energy savings opportunities for the City of Cambridge points to savings of more than 450,000 watts of energy by turning off lights during the Earth Hour event. This energy savings calculation is based on projections by the city's electrician who estimates the power required to operate the lights, compressors, fans and pumps that are slated to be turned off during Earth Hour.

Mayor Craig said that Cambridge Council and staff are happy to be part of the activities in recognizing Earth Hour. "The energy conservation doesn't stop there for the City of Cambridge. We are always looking at efficiencies that will have lasting impact on our community and welcome our business leaders and residents to take part with us."

Earth Hour is a world-wide global warming awareness event that began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia. It has since spread around the world. Help our community and take part yourself! Visit the Earth Hour website at www.earthhour.org for ideas.

According to John Grotheer, President & CEO of Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro Inc., the call to action from Earth Hour "...reminds all of us of the importance of embracing simple energy saving habits. Every action to conserve, no matter how small, is important and moves us closer to a brighter energy future."

"If you consider milestone initiatives in our community, our new City Hall stands out as a leading indicator, embracing the essence of energy conservation and environmental excellence. Residents can be proud of the leadership and vision dedicated to the design of the building and its envelope, capturing energy savings, each and every hour of the day, during its entire lifetime. That is a significant energy saving accomplishment," Grotheer adds.

Terry Allen, Cambridge Fire Chief, also encourages the community to partake in Earth Hour noting that if candles are used as an alternative to hydro lighting please take special care to prevent accidents that lead to fire. These include:

- Use the appropriate candleholders that won't tip or burn with glass shades or chimneys for best results
- Keep lit candles a safe distance away from burnable items
- Protect your children and keep candles, matches and lighters out of reach
- Never leave the room where candles are being used.
- Keep candles out of all bedrooms

Allen reminds residents to check the smoke alarms on every storey of your home to ensure there is an early warning of fires and to practice the home fire escape plan which will help ensure family safety.

The Cambridge philosophy of environmental conservation and the participation in Earth Hour further demonstrates the link between energy use and global warming to put the issue out front for the community.

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What does this energy savings mean in context?

450, 000 watts (450 kw) is like 4,500 100watt light bulbs

- Equal to running the average electrical load of 40 homes for one hour. There are non electric heated homes with an average load of 10 to 15kw.
- Equal to operating 12 of the compressors that freeze the ice at Hespeler Arena for one hour.

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2007, the population reached over 124,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit the press room or other areas of the website: www.cambridge.ca.