



Turn Off the Lights for Earth Hour!

Date: Friday, March 27, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Tomorrow evening, Victoria will join cities around the world who have signed up to turn off their lights for one hour on March 28th to raise awareness about climate change. The City of Victoria is participating in Earth Hour, a global initiative organized by the World Wildlife Fund to demonstrate what is possible when individuals take action on global warming.

City Council has proclaimed Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. as Earth Hour in the City of Victoria. Staff will be turning off, or down, as many lights in municipal buildings as safely possible. Crystal Pool will turn off their lights and fans, and all lights except for safety lights at the Beacon Hill Park and Public Works yards will also be turned off for this hour. As usual, staff will turn off any unnecessary lights as well as computers and monitors before leaving work for the weekend.

“For the second year, the City of Victoria is a proud participant in Earth Hour,” said Mayor Dean Fortin. “I encourage the citizens of Victoria to turn off as many lights as safely possible at home and at work during Earth Hour to show the world how much we care about our children’s future.”

Over the last two weeks, displays have been set up at City Hall, Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, and the Victoria Conference Centre to raise public awareness and encourage citizens to participate in Earth Hour. Posters are also displayed in these facilities and “Turn Off the Lights!” stickers are available for free to the public. For information on what residents and businesses can do to take part in Earth Hour and to reduce their daily energy consumption, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What’s New?* or sign up to participate at www.EarthHourCanada.org

The City of Victoria is a leader of energy reduction in the workplace and will save more than \$10,000 a year in electricity costs thanks to recently completed energy-efficiency upgrades to the lighting at City Hall and the Annex. The upgrades, which give City employees the ability to control the lighting at their individual workspaces, will save about 117,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year.

Last week, the City received just over \$63,000 in incentives from BC Hydro for the upgrades, which included \$20,000 for placing first in its category in the 2007 *Turn it Off Challenge!* and \$43,000 through the Power Smart Product Incentive program, which offers financial incentives for the installation of pre-approved energy-efficient technologies. In 2008, the City received a Power Smart Excellence Award for workplace conservation.

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