



City Will Turn Off Lights for Earth Hour

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — This Saturday evening, Victoria will join cities around the world 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.

“For the third year in a row, the City of Victoria is a proud participant in Earth Hour,” notes 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.”

On Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. 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.

Over the last three 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. Earth Hour magnets are available for free to the public at all of these locations. 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 is committed to a triple bottom line approach in all of its programs and buildings, integrating social and environmental values with prudent fiscal management. Recently, two City facilities, the Victoria Conference Centre and the Burnside Gorge Community Centre, have been recognized for environmental achievement adding two more examples to a list of sustainable accomplishments.

Some energy efficiency initiatives the City has pursued include the recently installed lanterns in Chinatown. The lanterns use cold cathode light bulbs that have a long life and are extremely energy efficient. The heritage street lights on Government also use the latest technology to minimize light pollution by not shining any light upwards and rather concentrating it where it is needed. The City is also installing solar powered lights from the local “cleantech” company Carmanah Technologies at the Railyard Dock.

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For More Information:

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