

Tips on how everyone can celebrate Earth Hour

Earth Hour is fast approaching.

On Saturday, March 23, between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Earth Hour will be celebrated around the world.

The objective of Earth Hour is to increase public awareness of the need to decrease energy use and to take action against climate change. Earth Hour is no longer just about turning the lights off for an hour. Instead, it is an opportunity to promote year-round conservation and long-lasting actions that benefit the health of our planet. Earth Hour participation is voluntary, fun and informative.

Reflecting on the importance of Earth Hour, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said, "Everyone, including our residents, schools and businesses, can take simple steps to reduce their energy use and help address climate change.

"I encourage everyone to celebrate Earth Hour on March 23 and throughout the year. Everyone's participation is important to once again making Earth Hour a success.

Last year, more than 7,000 municipalities in 152 countries and territories worldwide switched off their lights to participate in the largest

climate campaign ever! Halton Hills was one of these communities.

I am very proud of the fact that, since first participating in Earth Hour, together, our community has saved enough electricity to power a about 17,200 homes for one hour!"



Participation tips

For Residents

- Visit the Halton Hills Library in Georgetown or Acton and share how you will celebrate Earth Hour. Write your ideas down on a star and glue it onto the large poster.

- Bring the family to an exciting, fun and free star gazing event hosted by the Town of Halton Hills and Gardiner Public School. The event is sponsored by Halton Hills Hydro. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of Saputo. The event is open to the public. Due to limited space pre-registration is required. Please contact 905-873-2601 ext. 2290 or jennifers@haltonhills.ca

- Turn off any unnecessary lights and electronics without compromising safety.

- Change your traditional light bulbs to much more efficient compact fluorescent lights or LED bulbs.

- Turn down the thermostat.

- Avoid operating major appliances during Earth Hour.

- Enjoy a candlelit dinner with family and friends.

- Read bedtime stories by flashlight.

- Organize community discussions on environmental issues.

- Commit to energy conservation throughout the year.

For Schools

- Organize symbolic Earth Hour events on Friday, March 22 since schools are closed Saturday, March 23.

- Turn off or dim any unnecessary lights, without compromising safety and security.

- Organize environmentally-themed contests and activities for

students and teachers.

For Businesses

- Browse the Earth Hour website for ideas as to how your business can participate: www.EarthHourCanada.org

- Post information on Earth Hour on your website. Electronic banners can be downloaded from www.EarthHourCanada.org

- Turn off or dim any unnecessary lights (including outdoor signs) and major appliances, without compromising safety and security.

- Promote Earth Hour to your employees and customers by displaying Earth Hour posters in store windows and on restaurant tables (e.g. menu inserts, table cards). Contact the Office of Sustainability at 905-873-2601 ext. 2290 for a copy of a free poster(s).

- Inform your staff and customers about Earth Hour. Encourage them to participate.

- Reduce energy use. Turn down your thermostat.

- Replace inefficient light bulbs with much more efficient compact fluorescent (CFL) lights or LED bulbs.

- Ahead of Earth Hour, advertise **See TOWN, pg. 3**

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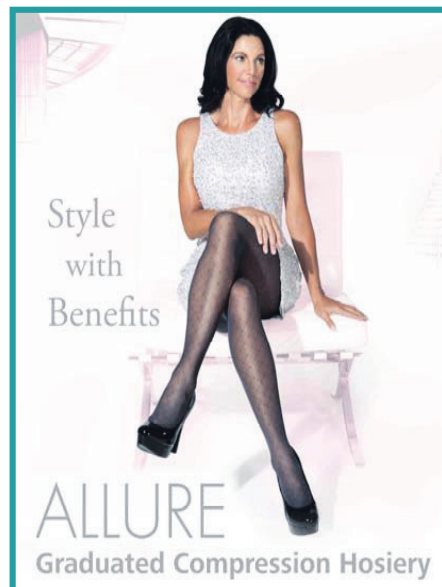
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