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Region's list of environmental initiatives

• Halton Region will participate in Earth Hour at 8 p.m. on March 29 by turning off lights at Regional facilities, without compromising public safety or interfering with essential services.

• The Landfill Gas Capture project is now utilizing the landfill gas captured to create and deliver 2.1 MW (megawatts) of electricity into the Ontario Power Grid, enough to power 1,500 typical homes per year.

• Halton launched the Take It Back! program for plastic bag recycling at grocery stores and will be implementing the GreenCart organics collection program for all Halton residents.

• The Region is developing an Air Quality Program that is directed at community emissions. This program includes air monitoring, airshed modelling, policy development directed at the planning and development processes, and health promotion directed at air quality and climate change as they relate to the built environment.

• Halton's Naturally Green Program is designed to help residents grow and maintain healthy lawns without the use of pesticides.

• Halton's Land Stewardship Program for Natural Areas helps to protect the Region's natural legacy through private stewardship.

• Halton's Tree By-law is a tool to promote healthy forests, to protect forest ecosystems and to prevent the clear cutting of woodlands.

• Halton Region's Forest Management Plan will guide forest uses for the next 20 years. The plan outlines forest management programs and services, and the protection of the Region's 1,645 acres of forest.

• Halton's Smart Commute Program promotes car-pooling for Regional staff.

• The Smog Advisory Program and Heat Alerts/Cold Alerts raise awareness of smog

and extreme heat or cold days so residents and businesses can respond appropriately.

• Halton Region's Information Technology division has undertaken an Energy Star Office Equipment initiative for all printers, copiers and monitors, which has reduced our annual electricity consumption by over 1.0 million kilowatt hours (kwh) per year. This is enough electricity to power 80 typical homes for one year.

• Halton Region's Transportation Services division is now using LED technology for all Traffic and Pedestrian Signals. To date, 70 per cent all of signals have been converted to LED technology, which reduced our annual consumption by over 1.7 million kwh per year. This is enough electricity to power 140 typical homes per year.

• Halton Region's Fleet Services division has undertaken Green Fleet initiatives that include the use of Bio-Diesel fuel and the purchase of three hybrid vehicles for specific applications. Since 2004, the Region has consumed over 13.0 million litres of Bio-Diesel, resulting in a reduction of over 5,200 tones in equivalent carbon dioxide, the same as taking more than 400 SUVs off the road for one year. The hybrid vehicle savings will be tallied after one full year of operation.

• The Planning and Public Works Department will undertake a feasibility study for the installation of a Cogeneration Plant at the Skyway Wastewater Treatment Plant that will use methane gas from sewage to produce heat and power.

• Halton Region is involved in many organizations and partnerships to protect and enhance the environment, such as the Halton Partners for Clean Air, the GTA Clean Air Council, and Partners for Climate Protection.



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