



## Media Release

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### **Get involved: Turn off lights and participate in this year's Earth Hour!**

*Community asked to reduce non-essential energy use to raise awareness for global campaign*

GUELPH, ON, March 24, 2011 – Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. is reminding Guelph and Rockwood residents and local businesses to show their support for Earth Hour this weekend by turning off all non-essential lights between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm on Saturday, March 26.

As a leader in energy conservation, Guelph Hydro has again registered to participate in Earth Hour.

"Guelph Hydro will be turning off all its non-essential interior and exterior building lights during Earth Hour," says Sandy Manners, Director of Corporate Communications for Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. "We will also be reminding all our employees to turn off their computer equipment and printers before leaving the building on Friday afternoon. We are hoping other businesses follow our example."

The company has also sponsored the Guelph Lights Out Relay, coordinated by the Guelph Environmental Leadership (GEL). On Saturday, between noon and 7:00 pm, conservation advocates will be walking or running along a 60-kilometre route leaving solar lights on lawns and reminding people to turn off their lights for Earth Hour. Volunteers are still needed. To register your support of Earth Hour or to participate in the Lights Out Relay, visit [www.guelphgig.ca](http://www.guelphgig.ca).

Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. will monitor the drop in electricity usage during this year's Earth Hour and will report the results on Monday, March 28. Last year, Guelph and Rockwood saw a total load reduction of 1.3% during Earth Hour. The goal for 2011 is to exceed this amount.

“Earth Hour provides a great opportunity to teach children how much we value electricity and how important it is to not waste it by leaving unnecessary lights on, for example,” says Manners. “What better time to talk to children about the importance of energy conservation and have them come up with ideas of ways to conserve.”

Looking for fun activities to do in the dark? Try taking the family for a walk and exploring the neighbourhood by flashlight to see how many homes have turned off their lights. Or have dinner by candlelight.

### **About Earth Hour**

Earth Hour is a global climate change initiative run by the World Wildlife Fund, which calls on individuals and businesses to turn off non-essential lighting for one hour. WWF is calling on Canadians to think about how we use and produce energy. To create the best possible future for Canadians and for the planet, we need to stop wasting energy, and generate what we need from clean, renewable sources like wind and solar.

### **About Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.**

Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. delivers a safe and reliable supply of electricity to approximately 50,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Guelph and Rockwood. The company is owned by Guelph Hydro Inc. which is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph’s Community Energy Initiative.

For more information, visit: [www.guelphhydro.com](http://www.guelphhydro.com) or [www.guelphhydroinc.com](http://www.guelphhydroinc.com).