



Media Release

Contact:

Sandy Manners, Director of Corporate Communications

Guelph Hydro Inc.

Tel: 519.837.4703 Cell: 226.218.0157

Email: smanners@guelphhydro.com

Website: www.guelphhydroinc.com

Guelph Hydro Measuring Interest in Electric Vehicles

Telephone survey to be conducted this month

(GUELPH, ON) February 8, 2011– Guelph Hydro Inc. will be conducting a telephone survey during the month of February to measure the Guelph community's interest in electric vehicles and obtain information that will be useful in planning for the demands electric cars may put on the local electricity grid, once they become available in Canada.

Guelph Hydro is interested in measuring anticipated consumer uptake of plug-in vehicles, driving profiles, vehicle charging patterns and preferences for electric vehicle charging infrastructure for two reasons:

1. Support of Guelph's Community Energy Initiative

- The City's original Community Energy Plan states that transportation activities are the source of one-third of Guelph's energy use and 45 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions. Based on the Canadian average, nearly one-half of these emissions are produced by personal vehicles.
- As the key implementer of projects under the Community Energy Initiative, Guelph Hydro believes it has a role to play acting as a catalyst and encouraging the community to explore electric vehicle technology.

2. Enhancement of Guelph's Smart Grid Infrastructure

- Ontario's Green Energy Act sets the objectives and a framework for a smart grid that provides the modern infrastructure required to accommodate electric vehicle charging. Guelph Hydro must ensure electricity infrastructure development plans for Guelph support electric vehicle charging.

QUOTES

“Guelph has the reputation of being one of Canada’s greenest, “most liveable” communities. For this reason, we suspect Guelph residents may adopt electric car technology at a faster rate than other communities, but we need to do some research to determine what Guelph residents and fleet managers are thinking.”

Barry Chuddy, Chief Executive Officer, Guelph Hydro Inc.

“Since electric vehicles will plug in to the electricity distribution system, we have a responsibility to be proactive and put plans in place to ensure our grid system has the capacity to support electric vehicle charging, where and when our customers need it.”

Kazi Marouf, Chief Operating Officer, Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.

“Transportation poses perhaps the biggest challenge of all the goals in the Community Energy Initiative. I applaud Guelph Hydro’s leadership in embracing the challenge by learning more about cleaner and greener transportation options.”

Karen Farbridge, Mayor, City of Guelph

BACKGROUND

- Plug-in electric vehicles, which will enable drivers to reduce both gasoline expenses and harmful greenhouse gas emissions, are currently on the market in the United States. They will be available to the public in Canada in the fall of 2011.
- The Ontario government has set the goal of one in twenty passenger vehicles on the province’s roads will be electric by 2020.
- The government hopes that their “1 in 20 by 2020” goal will help the province reach its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.

About Guelph Hydro Inc.

Guelph Hydro Inc. is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph's Community Energy Initiative.

Guelph Hydro Inc. is the holding company for Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc, the local electricity distribution company serving 50,000 customers in Guelph and Rockwood, Ontario, and for Ecotricity Guelph Inc, an alternative energy company, also located in Guelph.

For more information, visit: www.guelphhydroinc.com

About the City of Guelph

Located in one of the strongest economic regions in Canada, Guelph is the ideal destination for companies to access major markets and customers. Guelph is a vibrant, growing, historic community of over 118,000 residents offering an educated work force, established economic base and an outstanding quality of life.

Guelph offers competitive land and building development and business operating costs partnered with a variety of employment lands and buildings available to meet most business needs as well as fully interconnected and scalable telecommunication network and services.

For more information visit www.guelph.ca

About the City of Guelph Community Energy Initiative

The Community Energy Initiative (formerly Community Energy Plan) is Guelph's commitment to use and manage energy differently, and better, than it has in the past. The initiative is also intended to attract quality investment to the city. After all, experts agree that a reliable, sustainable energy supply is and will continue to be a key ingredient in the long-term competitiveness and prosperity of cities.

Guelph leaders formed a Consortium to proactively develop a community energy plan in 2004. In 2006 the Consortium formalized a long-term Community Energy Plan (CEP) which would guide the city's energy future for years to come. The CEP team had a mix of local and global expertise ensuring the plan incorporated the best elements of urban energy management from around the world. Today, Guelph's Community Energy Initiative is regarded as a model for cities seeking an integrated, community-based approach to energy use and greenhouse gas reduction.

The goals of the Community Energy Initiative are as follows:

- Use less energy in 25 years than the city does today
- In 15 years, obtain 25 percent of the city's energy from renewable sources
- Consume less energy per capita than comparable Canadian cities
- Produce less greenhouse gas per capita than the current global average

For more information visit www.guelph.ca/cei