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Media Release

Guelph Hydro Publishes its First Sustainability Report

Environmental, social and economic performance delivers benefits to customers and the community

(GUELPH, ON) July 22, 2011 – Guelph Hydro Inc. is proud to announce the release of its first annual sustainability report which summarizes the company’s performance in 2010 and outlines the organization’s efforts to balance environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic success to benefit all stakeholders.

Publishing this annual sustainability report showcases Guelph Hydro Inc.’s evolving strategy to integrate sustainable business practices into its day-to-day operations as well as its development plans for community-based sustainable energy projects that support Ontario’s Green Energy and Economy Act and Guelph’s Community Energy Initiative.

With the publication of the ***Guelph Hydro Inc. 2010 Sustainability Report***, Guelph Hydro Inc. not only becomes one of the first electrical utilities in Ontario to publish a sustainability report, but also one of only a few utilities around the world to measure its performance against the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the most widely used standardized framework in the world for reporting an organization’s environmental, social and economic performance.

The ***Guelph Hydro Inc. 2010 Sustainability Report***, now available online at www.guelphhydroinc.com, describes how the company is:

- Developing sustainable energy solutions, championing energy conservation and protecting the environment
- Creating value and facilitating economic growth in Guelph and Rockwood, Ontario
- Ensuring safety, valuing employees and customers, and giving back to the community

For more information and to read the report in its entirety, please visit Guelph Hydro’s newly designed website at: www.guelphhydroinc.com

QUOTES

“Our intention in publishing our first Sustainability Report is to be transparent about who we are, what we believe, how we conduct our business and where we are headed. Through our sustainability efforts, promoting energy conservation to customers and developing more efficient sources of power within our

community, we are helping to move the communities we serve towards a sustainable energy future and a cleaner environment.”

“Our approach to sustainability is about making decisions and operating our businesses in a sustainable manner – in a way that delivers balanced financial, social and environmental returns to ensure the success and future viability of our company for the benefit of our customers, our employees, our suppliers, our shareholder—the City of Guelph, our community and the environment.”

Barry Chuddy, Chief Executive Officer, Guelph Hydro Inc.

“We congratulate Guelph Hydro for taking the initiative to produce a sustainability report that will serve as a model for other businesses in our community interested in pursuing sustainable business practices. We are proud to see Guelph Hydro consistently demonstrating leadership in sustainability within our community and within the energy industry in Ontario.”

“The publication of this report speaks volumes about the company’s commitment to sustainability and clearly outlines the significant contribution they are making to our community while we work towards achieving targets set out in Guelph’s Community Energy Initiative.”

Karen Farbridge, Mayor of Guelph

PHOTOS / IMAGES / LOGOS

- Image of cover of report available

LINKS

- Link to report - <http://www.guelphhydroinc.com/en/ourSustainabilityCommitment/2010SustainabilityReport.asp>
- Link to website: www.guelphhydroinc.com
- Link to CEI - <http://guelph.ca/living.cfm?smocid=2127>
- Link to Global Reporting Initiative - www.globalreporting.org

Background Information

GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE (GRI) – Source: www.globalreporting.org

What is GRI?

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is a network-based organization that pioneered the world's most widely used sustainability reporting framework. GRI is committed to the GRI Reporting Framework's continuous improvement and application worldwide. GRI's core goals include the mainstreaming of disclosure on environmental, social and governance performance.

GRI's Reporting Framework is developed through a consensus-seeking, multi-stakeholder process. Participants are drawn from global business, civil society, labor, academic and professional institutions.

GRI Reporting Framework

The Reporting Framework sets out the principles and performance indicators that organizations can use to measure and report their economic, environmental, and social performance.

The cornerstone of the GRI Framework is the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. The third version of the Guidelines – known as the G3 Guidelines - was published in 2006, and is a free public good.

Other components of the Framework include Sector Supplements (unique Indicators for industry sectors) and National Annexes (unique country-level information). [Click here for an overview of the Reporting Framework.](#)

Benefits of GRI Reporting

Sustainability reports based on the GRI Framework can be used to demonstrate organizational commitment to sustainable development, to compare organizational performance over time, and to measure organizational performance with respect to laws, norms, standards and voluntary initiatives.

GRI promotes a standardized approach to reporting to stimulate demand for sustainability information – benefitting both reporting organizations and report users.

Background Information

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Sustainable energy refers to renewable energy, energy conservation and advanced transportation technologies that enable us to create electricity, heat and movement while minimizing the impact to the environment and providing good economic value.

Benefits of Sustainable Energy

Sustainable energy projects located within a community provide the following benefits:

- Help to improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gases
- Reduce the amount of energy lost when it is transmitted or transported over long distances
- Increase the security of the energy supply
- Create economic development and jobs

Criteria for Sustainable Energy

To be considered “sustainable,” an energy source must:

- Have minimal or no negative environmental or social impact
- Not deplete natural resources
- Protect air, land and water
- Have little or no net carbon or other greenhouse gas emissions
- Meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
- Be safe today and not burden future generations with unnecessary risk
- Be economically viable

Types of Sustainable Energy

Sustainable energy encompasses:

- Renewable energy from natural resources
 - Solar
 - Wind
 - Hydro
 - Tidal and Wave
 - Bioenergy (biomass and biogas)
 - Geothermal
- Energy conservation technologies that improve energy efficiency
 - Cogeneration - Combined heat and power
 - District energy
 - Geothermal heating and cooling
 - Green buildings
- Low-carbon modes of transportation
 - Plug-in hybrids
 - Plug-in electric vehicles

Background Information

LIST OF CONTENTS - GUELPH HYDRO INC. 2010 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Message to Stakeholders

Our Approach to Sustainability

- Our Sustainability Commitment

About Us

- Vision, Mission and Values
- Corporate Profile
- Our Prime Objectives
- Corporate Governance

Environmental Stewardship

- Building a Clean Energy Future in Ontario
- Developing Sustainable Energy Solutions
- Championing Energy Conservation
- Protecting the Environment – Air, Water, Waste Management

Economic Success

- Solid Financial Performance
- Reliability of the Distribution Network
- Connecting Renewable Generation
- Committed to Helping Build a Sustainable Energy Future

Social Responsibility

- Valuing Employees
- Ensuring Safety, Health and Wellness
- Giving Back to the Community

Global Reporting Initiative Summary

Background Information

About Guelph Hydro Inc.

Owned by the City of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, Guelph Hydro Inc. is the holding company for Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc., the local electricity distribution company serving Guelph and Rockwood, Ontario, Canada, and for Ecotricity Guelph Inc., an alternative energy company, also located in Guelph.

Guelph Hydro Inc. is helping to create a reliable, diversified and sustainable energy supply to ensure the long-term competitiveness and prosperity of the communities it serves. The company is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph's internationally renowned Community Energy Initiative.

For more information, visit www.guelphhydroinc.com

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, 25 percent of our energy will come 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 <http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?subCatID=1548&smocid=2127>