

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Guelph reduces electricity use by three per cent during Earth Hour**

GUELPH, ON, March 31, 2009 – Guelph residents and businesses powered down for Earth Hour on March 28, reducing electricity use by approximately three per cent, an increase from the 2.2 per cent reduction achieved during Earth Hour 2008.

"Through our collective efforts we reduced our consumption, and perhaps more importantly raised awareness about how simple energy conservation can be," said Mayor Karen Farbridge.

Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. monitored energy use in Guelph during Earth Hour. Guelph Hydro generated a typical electricity load curve for the city by looking at the previous three Saturdays in March to have a comparable baseline load curve to compare the Earth Hour timeframe against.

"We are grateful to all residents and businesses of Guelph that contributed to this year's event, and hope the actions from Saturday evening will inspire everyone's conservation efforts," said Art Stokman, President of Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.

The typical electricity load curve indicated a natural load reduction of about three percent between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Guelph's total load was reduced by approximately six per cent during the Earth Hour event, of which three per cent is attributable to Earth Hour activities. This impact is equivalent to removing 10 homes from the electricity grid for a month.

Provincially, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) reported that Ontario electricity demand was reduced by more than six per cent, or 920 megawatts, as a result of Earth Hour initiatives.

- 30 -

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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