



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.guelphhydro.com

Conserving Electricity During a Heat Wave *Cool energy conservation tips from Guelph Hydro*

(Guelph, ON) July 18, 2011 – With the temperatures expected to hit 36 degrees Celsius by Thursday and 20,000 Guelph residents having been notified by letter that they are now on Time-of-Use rates for electricity, Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. is encouraging customers to be mindful of how and when they use their air conditioners this summer to help avoid high electricity bills.

Guelph Hydro reminds customers that in addition to putting a strain on the Ontario power grid, air conditioning usage can more than triple average daily residential energy consumption. Running a central air conditioning unit non-stop to keep your home at 21 degrees Celsius will cost about \$7.39 per day under Time-of-Use rates. By comparison, setting your thermostat at 25 or 28 degrees Celsius will cost you about \$6.59 or \$4.84 respectively for a 24-hour period. (Source: Time-of-Use calculator – www.ieso.ca/house)

“During extreme hot weather, we don’t want people to be afraid of using their air conditioners to keep cool,” says Sandy Manners, Director of Communications for Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. “Under Time-of-Use rates, there are some simple strategies customers can use to keep their homes or businesses cool while best managing their energy costs.”

“For example, for those who work outside the home, don’t forget to close drapes and blinds and turn off lights and computer equipment before leaving. Turning your air conditioner up or off and using a programmable thermostat set to turn the air conditioner on about an hour before you get home will lower your consumption during peak times, thereby saving you money and reducing demand on the Ontario grid.”

“For those at home during a heat wave, set your air conditioner no lower than 25 degrees Celsius,” says Manners. “Try using a table fan or ceiling fan, which only costs 2-5 cents an hour to operate, in conjunction with your air conditioner. That way you can set the thermostat higher than 25 degrees Celsius and still be comfortable.”

Guelph Hydro offers the following tips to conserve electricity and save money during summer heat waves:

- Set your air conditioner to the highest possible comfortable temperature, ideally no lower than 25 degrees Celsius
- Use a programmable thermostat to raise the temperature when you are away and lower it before you come home. Sign up for **peaksaver™** and receive a FREE programmable thermostat. Call 519.822.3010 or register online at www.guelphhydro.com
- Ceiling fans or table fans only cost 2-5 cents per hour to operate. Use a fan in conjunction with your air conditioner and the “wind chill” effect will enable you to set your air conditioner higher, saving you money.
- Consider pre-cooling your home by closing your drapes and blinds and running your air conditioner before 11:00 a.m. during off-peak or mid-peak hours. Turn up the air conditioner during on-peak hours – from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Keep curtains, drapes and blinds drawn during the day to keep out the hot sun
- Keep doors and windows closed when your air conditioner is running
- Turn off unnecessary lights and computer equipment since these generate heat inside your home
- Use a microwave or BBQ to cook meals or plan cold meals that don’t require cooking
- Hang clothes out to dry
- Turn on your dishwasher and do laundry after 7:00 p.m.

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 or www.guelphhydroinc.com

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