



Media Release

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Light Up Your Home for the Holidays With 20 Cents Worth of Electricity

(GUELPH, ON) November 11, 2011 – Decorating our homes for the holidays with festive lights is a much-loved tradition that is also inexpensive thanks to energy-efficient LED lights and Time-of-Use rates for electricity.

LEDs (light-emitting diodes) are almost 95 per cent more energy efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs – resulting in reduced costs for your holiday lighting. This fact, coupled with off-peak Time-of-Use rates for electricity evenings, weekends and statutory holidays, means that holiday lighting will likely cost you less than a cent a day. (Note: Off-peak rates for electricity start at 7 PM during the week and are in effect all weekend and on statutory holidays.)

For example, decorating your home with six strands of traditional, incandescent lights and running them for six hours a day through the month of December will cost you about \$18. In comparison, lighting your home with six strands of LED lights from 6 PM to midnight for the entire month of December will only cost you about 20 cents.

LEDs offer lots of other benefits:

- LEDs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs – up to 25,000 hours.
- LEDs are safer. Almost all of the energy consumed by an LED is used to create light, not heat, which means they remain cool to the touch and aren't a fire risk if they are in contact with trees or other decorations for extended periods of time.
- Bulbs are plastic, which means they won't break – an advantage for households with small children or pets.
- LEDs are designed so that if one light goes out, the rest of the string stays lit. There will be no need to spend time searching for and replacing burned out and broken bulbs.
- LED holiday lights are available for indoor and outdoor use.
- LEDs come in a variety of colours and styles to meet your decorating needs including string lights, rope lights, icicles, net lighting and novelty shapes such as candles and stars. Some LEDs are dimmable or programmable.

More information about energy efficiency, visit: www.guelphhydro.com

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.