

March 1, 2017

Ideas for celebrating Earth Hour

HALTON HILLS, ON – On Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., Halton Hills will recognize the global event of Earth Hour.

The objective of Earth Hour is to increase public awareness of the need to reduce energy use and to take actions to reduce climate change. Earth Hour is more than turning the lights off for an hour. This global event is an opportunity to reduce energy all year and to take actions that will benefit the health of our planet. Earth Hour participation is voluntary, fun and informative.

“Earth Hour reminds us to take positive actions that benefit the health of our community and create a better world. Our actions will have major effects if everyone takes simple steps such as turning off non-essential lights and appliances.” said Mayor Rick Bonnette. “Together we can reduce energy use and help address climate change.”



On March 25, Halton Hills Hydro will once again measure our community energy usage. Since first participating in Earth Hour, together, our community has saved enough electricity to power an estimated 26,650 homes for one hour.

Below are suggestions for how residents, teachers and business owners can participate in Earth Hour:

For Residents:

- Share with your friends and neighbours how you are going to participate in Earth Hour.
- Turn off non-essential lighting and electronics.
- Ensure you have efficient compact fluorescent or LED lighting.
- Turn down the thermostat.
- Avoid operating electronics during Earth Hour.
- Enjoy a candlelit dinner with family and friends.
- Read bedtime stories, play cards or games.
- Organize an Earth Hour party with neighbours.
- Pledge to conserve energy throughout the year.

For Teachers:

- Organize a mini Earth Hour on Friday March 24, the day before Earth Hour.

- Turn off or dim any unnecessary lights, without compromising safety.
- Talk to the students about the importance of reducing energy and taking care of our planet earth.
- Discuss how the weather affects our lives and how we can prepare for changes in the weather.
- Show the Earth Hour video: <https://www.earthhour.org/celebrating-earth-hour>
- Have a discussion about the importance of reducing energy and taking care of our planet earth.
- Draw pictures of actions students can take to reduce energy and their impact on the environment.
- Create a display with the drawings the week before and after Earth Hour.

For Business Owners:

- Browse for promotional tools on the Earth Hour website: <https://www.earthhour.org/earth-hour-starter-kit>
- Download the promotional tools and post it in your business to show your support for Earth Hour.
- Turn off or dim non-essential lighting and electronics, without compromising safety and security.
- Encourage your staff and customers to participate in Earth Hour.
- Turn down your thermostat and review ways to reduce energy use year-round.
- Ensure you have efficient compact fluorescent or LED lighting.
- Offer special pricing on energy conservation products.
- Unplug electrical equipment (e.g. computers) before leaving at the end of the work day on Saturday, March 25 and everyday thereafter.
- Consider purchasing green electricity to power your business.
- If you operate a restaurant:
 - Offer a special meal to recognize Earth Hour by using locally grown produce or offering a meal that does not require a lot of energy to prepare.
 - Offer candlelit dinner service.
- If your business cannot participate on Saturday, March 25 consider taking action on Friday, March 24.

Electronic Round-up at Wastewise

The Town of Halton Hills, Halton Hills Hydro and Wastewise are partnering this year to promote an electronic round-up the week before Earth Hour. Bring your unwanted electronics from March 18 - 25 between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (closed Sunday).

Wastewise will weigh and record all of the electronics that are dropped off. For more information please visit: www.wastewise.ca

Remember to turn off your lights and reduce energy use during Earth Hour on Saturday, March 25, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Be creative, have fun and stay safe!

About the Town of Halton Hills

The Town of Halton Hills, with a population of approximately 60,000, consists of two

urban centres, Georgetown and Acton, the Halton Hills Premier Gateway employment area, three hamlets – Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Norval – and several smaller settlements. Halton Hills has long been recognized for its natural beauty, active agricultural community, high quality of life and proximity to major centres, including Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. The Town is ranked as one of the top small communities in Canada by a national magazine.

For further information contact:

Jennifer Spence
Sustainability Outreach Officer
Office of Sustainability
Planning and Infrastructure
905.873.2601 ext. 2290
jennifers@haltonhills.ca