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For Immediate Release

The Regional Municipality of York joins municipalities worldwide in turning off lights as part of Earth Hour Challenge

Regional employees to participate in energy-saving efforts at home

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council today unanimously endorsed the Region’s participation in turning off the lights for one hour as part of the World Wildlife Fund’s (WWF) 2009 Earth Hour Challenge, which takes place this Saturday, March 28th from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

York Region will join hundreds of other cities and towns from across Canada and around the world to show support for taking action on climate change.

“The Regional Municipality of York is committed to ensuring that our policies and actions as a municipal government are beneficial to the environment, not only during Earth Hour but year round,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “York Region’s participation in this event is a simple way to show how we can all take steps together to reduce climate change.”

York Region will be turning off all non-essential lighting at two main locations:

- The Administrative Centre, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket
- The South Services Centre, located at 50 High Tech Road in the Town of Richmond Hill

Approximately 2,800 York Region employees and their families are also being encouraged to turn off the lights at home.

“We want to ensure that our participation extends beyond our Regional facilities and into the homes of our employees,” said York Region Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Macgregor. “Our hope is that York Region employees will serve as ambassadors for this challenge throughout our communities.”

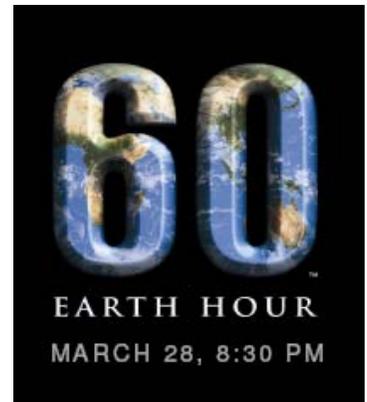
As part of the commitment towards reducing our ecological footprint and CO₂ emissions, York Region continues to make a significant investment towards energy conservation. York Region has conducted energy audits and retrofits of a majority of existing Regional facilities and adopted LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards for all of our new buildings.

Energy retrofits of the York Region Administrative Centre have produced annual savings of approximately \$200,000. Retrofits have included the installation of more energy efficient florescent lighting and motion sensors to turn off lights when occupants leave their work space.

York Region also works with Rodan Power (part of the Ontario Power Authority’s demand reduction program) to reduce energy consumption at the Administrative Centre during peak demand times, especially during the hot summer months.

For more information on Earth Hour, please visit <http://wwf.ca/earthhour>

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca



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