



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: APRIL 23, 2009

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Earth Hour 2009
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Presented By:	Terry Wilkes
Purpose of Report:	For Receipt and Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received.

Issue / Opportunity

On March 28, 2009 London Public Library (LPL) participated in Earth Hour II along with the City of London and numerous businesses and agencies in London.

The Earth Hour website states: "Vote Earth: Your Light Switch is Your Vote ... Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia, in 2007, when 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights for one hour. In 2008 the message had grown into a global sustainability movement, with 50 million people switching off their lights. Global landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Rome's Colosseum, the Sydney Opera House and the Coca Cola billboard in Times Square all stood in darkness. London Public Library joined in as part of a London, Ontario city-wide initiative, participating in 2008 and now again in 2009. In 2009, Earth Hour was taken to the next level, with the goal of 1 billion people casting their vote for Earth. Unlike any election in history, it is not about what country you're from, but instead, what planet you're from."

<http://www.earthhour.org/about/>

What did LPL Do? Branches had only security lighting on. There was a rental event in the Wolf Performance Hall, Central Library so the hall and Hudson Bay Passageway lights were on only during that time. In the rest of the building, only security lights were on. The cleaners were delayed to later in the evening to ensure that lights were off during Earth Hour. Staff managed energy consumption in other ways: at Central we only operated only air handling equipment related to the rental event of the evening. Per usual practice all branch library programmable thermostats were on night set back.

How did Londoners do? We managed to reduce electricity by 10.6% or 39.2 megawatts at the peak of Earth Hour, according to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and London Hydro. This surpassed the Ontario average of 6%. See attached media release from the City of London website. http://www.london.ca/d.aspx?s=/Newsroom/news_earthhour_mar09.htm

www.london.ca

[Home](#) > [City Hall](#) > [Newsroom](#)

The Corporation of The City of London March 29, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Even Greater Success for Earth Hour II in London

Londoners and businesses did their part to help make the March 28, 2009 Earth Hour a major success, as homes and businesses turned off non-essential lights and appliances. Londoners managed to reduce electricity demand by up to 10.6 percent or 39.2 megawatts (MW) at the peak of Earth Hour, according to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and London Hydro. This is higher than the province as a whole, where Ontario's demand was reduced by more than six per cent, or 920 megawatts (MW).

"Overall, the reduction in demand in London was equivalent to over 2.6 million compact fluorescent light bulbs being turned off, or about 38,000 homes being completely powered down at the height of Earth Hour", according to Jay Stanford, Director of Environmental Programs & Solid Waste. "That clearly shows the influence one hour can have."

Around London, some restaurants offered candle-lit dinners, others turned off unnecessary lighting, City Hall was 100 per cent dark and other City facilities had reduced lighting. "Right after 8:30 you could see lights being turned off in apartment buildings downtown while reports of neighbourhoods being between 40 and 50 per cent without lights were evident," notes Stanford.

As part of Earth Hour activities, the City of London sponsored and participated in "Climate Change Innovations by Way of Collaboration & Creativity - Future forward collective ideas for the world we inhabit". The day-long event was held at the Aeolian Hall by the Council of Canadian (London Chapter) and attracted over 150 people including guest speakers and exhibitors.

In 2008, Londoners and businesses reduced electricity demand by up to six per cent during this symbolic hour. Earth Hour continues to grow as a global event. Its success depends on individuals, businesses, community and government organizations taking up the challenge and integrating Earth Hour into their day-to-day activities. Earth Hour is coordinated by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and went global in 2008 after making its debut in Sydney, Australia in 2007.