



2009-09-11

Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best:

London Public Library staff took up the Count Me In! Community Challenge Friday, August 14 with enthusiasm and originality!

All locations and departments made an effort to power down in both public and staff areas. Room lights were turned off when possible. When overhead lights could not be turned off, they were the only ones used. In many cases, Library patrons read by natural light pouring through the windows, and staff worked using only task lights.

Computers, monitors, printers and photocopiers were shut down when not in use during the day and at night. Air conditioning temperatures were set to 25C. The use of kettles, microwaves and other appliances was reduced in all locations and stopped totally in some! Staff at Byron took the stairs between levels, rather than using the elevator. In addition to actually reducing the use of electricity, staff undertook to raise awareness of the need to "black out" by posting signs over light switches reminding people to "turn off" as they left.

Staff also worked hard to raise awareness in the community. For example, staff at the Landon Branch Library raised awareness by:

- Displaying black and white signs around the library which highlighted our participation in the Black Out Day Challenge.
- Creating a book display of both children's and adult non-fiction books regarding the topics of environmental issues, including an introduction to the environment, caring for our local and global environment, sustainable energy, solar power, "mindfully green" thinking, future energy, saving water, renewal energy sources, taking action, respecting our world, etc.
- For the Summer Reading Club game, children landing on the "science" square were encouraged to read about energy and the environment and had the option of choosing books from the environment/energy consumption display.

So all in all, we at London Public Library are proud of how the public and our staff responded to the Count Me In! Community Challenge by saving energy and raising awareness!

Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
CEO and Chief Librarian

cc: David Winninger, Chair
Sean Russell, City of London