

Choose Discover Learn Connect Relax Simplify

2008-08-25

Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best,

London Public Library staff took up the Black Out Challenge Thursday 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 customers 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 most locations and forbidden 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 at the Central Library’s Community Outreach and Program Services area appeared to be working entirely in the dark. “Many passers-by who would not usually stop at our window noticed the lights were off, read the “Green In. Black Out” poster, and approached us to chat...Many were not aware of the Blackout Challenge until they saw us working in the dark, and they went away inspired to participate themselves.”

Staff in the Telefact library information area went a step further: they carpoled, biked, bussed or walked to work.

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

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CEO and Chief Librarian

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Chair
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