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DATE: April 20, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **RESULTS OF EARTH HOUR 2010**

FROM: R. Kent Gillespie, Commissioner of Employee and Business Services

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## **OBJECTIVE**

To report on the findings of the Region of Peel's participation in Earth Hour 2010.

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Region of Peel facilities participated in Earth Hour, a World Wildlife Fund initiative in which participants switch their lights off and unplug other electronic appliances between the hour of 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Regional Facilities reduced consumption by 7.3 per cent

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

Earth Hour is an international event organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) wherein participants, including individuals, businesses, and governments, are asked to turn off their non-essential lights and other electronic appliances for one hour to raise awareness regarding the need to take action on climate change. Earth Hour 2010 took place on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, between 8:30-9:30 p.m. Earth Hour was conceived by WWF Australia in 2007 and has since become a global movement. Almost a billion people in more than 4,000 towns and cities across 120 countries participated in Earth Hour 2010. Turning off the lights for one hour is a highly visible action reflective of the commitment of Canadians toward climate change.

#### **a) Peel's Participation in Earth Hour 2010**

Across Canada, more than 300 cities and towns committed to participating in Earth Hour, including Toronto, Mississauga, and Brampton. Overall savings for the province of Ontario, according to the Independent Electricity System Operator, were approximately 4 per cent. Participation in Earth Hour 2010 provided the opportunity for the Region to demonstrate leadership and commitment to protect, enhance, and restore the environment, as outlined in Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan V (2007-2010).

The Region of Peel's participation in Earth Hour 2010 focused on facilities capable of reducing non-essential lighting while posing no risk to the safety and security of building patrons and staff. Facilities that function on a 24/7 basis or perform critical operations

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continued to operate under normal parameters. Facilities that participated in, or promoted Earth Hour were:

- Peel Living
- Children's Services
- Long Term Care
- Public Health
- Police

**2. Findings**

The Energy Management team in Real Property Asset Management measured the impact on electricity consumption during Earth Hour using data received from interval metered accounts, which encompasses 90 per cent of the Region of Peel's energy use. The hourly data was compared to previous trends; the collective efforts of Regional facilities resulted in a 7.3 per cent reduction in electricity consumption from 8:30-9:30 p.m. The greenhouse gas reductions associated with this decrease in electricity, 0.36 tons, would equate to taking 30 cars off the road in Peel for one hour.

Residents of Peel were also encouraged to participate in Earth Hour through posters and media releases sent out by the Region of Peel. The resulting reductions in electricity consumption for the geographic regions of Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga are as follows:

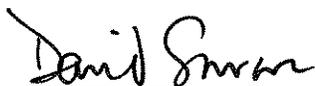
- Caledon realized a 10.5 MW or 4.6 per cent reduction
- Brampton realized a 21.7 MW or 5.0 per cent reduction
- Mississauga realized a 58.9 MW or 6.9 per cent reduction

**CONCLUSION**

Earth Hour 2010 was a successful event for the Region of Peel as many facilities participated and through collaborative effort, were able to reduce electricity consumption. The Region also assisted in raising awareness on climate change. We hope that Earth Hour 2011 will be as successful an event for the Region as was this year's event.



R. Kent Gillespie  
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**Approved for Submission:**

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