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Message from the Director - Steven Hall

This spring has been an exciting time for Ontario's energy sector, with key announcements helping chart a new and dynamic course for the province's energy future. In late March, the province took another important step in building Ontario's conservation culture as the *Energy Conservation Responsibility Act* received Royal Assent, giving Ontario's municipalities the support to develop key energy conservation plans. In Peel Region, planning efforts are underway. By preparing a multi-faceted energy conservation plan, Peel is investing in a sustainable energy future.

Although energy planning is often difficult for local governments, particularly in the face of limited resources and competing municipal priorities, investments in energy preparedness nonetheless ensures that municipalities take full advantage of the lasting benefits of greater energy efficiency. By making better, more informed decisions on how we purchase, consume and manage our energy use, we are reaffirming our lasting commitment to residents and stakeholders to build stronger and more sustainable communities for generations to come. I encourage all municipalities to take advantage of this unique and timely opportunity.



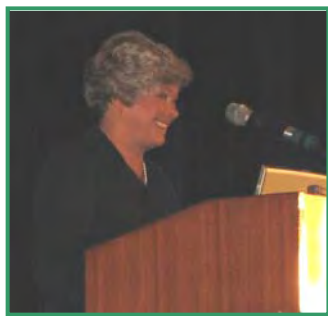
Watt's New: Peel Region Launches "Green Week" for Employees

During the first week of April, Corporate Energy, Peel Health, Water Smart Peel, and Waste Management joined efforts to create "Green Week" a week-long series of workshops that teach Regional staff different ways to save energy and protect the environment. During Green Week, Regional employees were invited to attend sessions on renewable energy, landfill methane gas recovery, water conservation and home energy efficiency. Natural Resources Canada also joined Peel's conservation efforts, leading presentations on their EnerGuide home energy audit program. At the end of Green Week, all participating staff were entered in a draw to win one of three EnerGuide for home evaluations!

In addition to delivering great information on energy and the environment, Peel Region launched its "Conservation Challenge" in support of the Conservation Bureau's efforts to reduce provincial energy use. Peel's Conservation Challenge invites all staff to commit to energy and environmental conservation by pledging to take action on reducing personal energy and water use, minimizing waste and supporting improvements to the environment. To learn how to launch Green Week in your organization or to find out more about Peel's program, contact us at energy@peelregion.ca.

*Feature: Energy Matters 2006
An Energy Conservation Summit for
Ontario's Municipalities*

On March 28-29th, 2006 Peel Region in partnership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Conservation Bureau hosted Energy Matters 2006, the province's most comprehensive conference on municipal energy management. Over the course of two engaging days, local governments and industry leaders from across the province came together to share their knowledge, experiences and best practices on a host of energy matters.



*Minister of Energy
Honourable Donna Cansfield*

Covering topics including the energy marketplace, Ontario's new *Energy Conservation Leadership Act*, funding resources, plus offering several technical workshops, the conference offered insight on key issues

facing municipal energy planning. With over 200 delegates at the event, the conference included keynote addresses from the Honourable Minister of Energy, Donna Cansfield, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Jeff Leal, Ontario's Chief Energy Conservation Officer, Peter Love, Peel Regional Chair, Emil Kolb and Chair of AMO Energy Task Force, Mayor Gary McNamara.

Thank you once again to all who attended the event and to all our speakers who offered excellent learning experiences. Peel Region looks forward to supporting future learning programs that will help put Ontario's municipality on the path toward a sustainable energy and environmental future. For more information on the Energy Matters conference, please visit peleenergy.ca.

*Outdoor Water Use Brought to You by
Water Smart Peel*

Conserving water outdoors is easier than you think. On average, water use increases by 50% throughout the summer months as a result of outdoor water use. These simple guidelines can help you get through the summer months while saving water and energy.

Remember to just add rain to your watering habits. Your lawn only needs half an inch of water, twice a week to stay healthy. A rain gauge is an easy to use tool that can help you measure the amount of water you apply to your lawn. After a rainfall, measure how much rain the gauge has collected. This will determine how much additional water is required to meet a total of one inch a week.

Avoid watering your lawn between **10 am and 4 pm**. By watering early in the morning or later in the day you reduce water loss due to evaporation; this means more water for your lawn and more money in your pocket.

If you live in Peel, participate in **Water Wise Wednesday**. In order to maintain adequate levels of treated water during dry spells, residents and businesses are asked to refrain from using water outdoors on Wednesdays during the months of May to September. In doing so, a virtual rain day is created, allowing reservoirs to recharge during extended periods of hot, dry weather.

When you participate in these water wise habits, you not only conserve water during times of peak demand, you also conserve the energy required in the treatment and distribution process.

To start saving, Water Smart Peel offers **outdoor water savings kits** that include a rain gauge, a mechanical timer and much more. The kits are only \$15 and are available year round!

To learn more about Water Smart Peel, please visit: watersmartpeel.ca.

