

March 17, 2014

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### **What are you doing for *Earth Hour*?**

This month's Earth Hour presents an opportunity to take small steps to reduce our global environmental impact. This "lights out" event takes place around the world March 29 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

***How will you save energy during Earth Hour this year?*** Remember to register your individual or group effort at [earthhourcanada.org](http://earthhourcanada.org). If you plan to do more than turning off lights and electronics, share your commitment it on the Sustainable Campbell River Facebook page. Like the page to receive updates on sustainability projects and initiatives.

*"For Earth Hour this year, my wife and I will be turning off the lights and enjoying some quiet time together,"* says Councillor Larry Samson, who holds the Council environment portfolio. *"I encourage everyone to get involved and take an hour to consider ways to reduce energy consumption."*

### **Campbell River energy facts**

- 23 per cent of local greenhouse gas emissions are related to energy consumption in buildings.
- The Community Energy and Emissions Plan aims to increase home energy efficiency.
- According to BC Hydro, Campbell River reached 8.1% in energy savings during *Earth Hour* last year—tripling its 2012 energy savings and sharing 7<sup>th</sup> place among power-saving BC communities with Sayward.
- To promote Earth Hour this year, Shaw TV will air a short version of the Power Down Campbell River Energy Challenge video and interview community members to promote local energy-saving efforts.
- BC Hydro is also an active supporter of Earth Hour and helps people track energy consumption using MyHydro. Plus, Power Smart program offers energy-saving tools and rewards. (Since 2007, BC Hydro's Power Smart programs have saved enough to power 390,000 homes.)

### **How the City reduces energy consumption**

- Non-essential lights will continue to be turned off in buildings that are not open for emergency services.
- The Information Technology department will launch a plan to automatically set inactive computers to sleep mode, saving energy and reducing wear and tear on City equipment.
- Only safety lights will be on at the Community Centre during Earth Hour weekend.

### **Earth Hour facts**

- More than 700 communities participate annually.
- The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is the leader of the Earth Hour challenge.
- In recent years the WWF has initiated campaigns and challenges that spur action beyond Earth Hour. The I Will if You Will and Earth Hour City challenges have led to global environmental action.

### **Easy ways to take part in Earth Hour**

- Turn off all non-essential lights in your home.
- Unplug all non-essential electronics and turn down the thermostat.
- Complete a home energy evaluation and identify energy-improvement options.
- Create an I Will If you Will Challenge with a family member or co-worker, and join the hundreds of thousands of commitments to any environmental issue you care about.

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