



**CITY OF KINGSTON**  
**INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Report No.: 10-106**

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**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth  
**RESOURCE STAFF:** Paul MacLatchy, Director, Strategy, Environment & Communications  
**DATE OF MEETING:** 2010-03-23  
**SUBJECT:** Earth Hour 2010 – Description of City Activities

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Earth Hour 2010 is scheduled for Saturday March 27 between 8:30 and 9:30pm. This is the third year of this event and once again the City of Kingston is registered as a participating municipality. As part of our participation the City of Kingston, in partnership with Kingston Hydro, will endeavor to reduce electrical use within buildings and street lighting during the Earth Hour time.

The City, in collaboration with others will also provide promotion of the event locally to encourage residents, institutions, businesses and industry to join in this important symbolic event and demonstrate how reducing energy use and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions can be on everyone's to-do list.

Measures that will be taken have been selected based on their relative ease of implementation so as not to require significant expense due to staff overtime costs and with due regard for public safety and continuation of municipal services.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is for information only.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:**

<p><b>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER</b></p> <p>Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability &amp; Growth</p>
<p><b>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b></p> <p>Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer</p>

**CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:**

Terry Willing, <i>Community Development Services</i>	√
Denis Leger, <i>Corporate Services</i>	√
Jim Keech, President & CEO, <i>Utilities Kingston</i>	√

*(N/R indicates consultation not required)*

**OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

Community organizers are planning to host "Kingston Unplugged", an acoustic music event during Earth Hour 2010 at the Springer Market Square. The event will be "off-grid" and will feature local musicians as well as the finalists of a high school speech writing competition on the topic of community sustainability.

The Kingston Unplugged event runs from 7pm to 10pm. Earth Hour takes place between 8:30 and 9:30pm on Saturday March 27.

The following measures will be undertaken by City of Kingston and Utilities Kingston as this municipality's contribution to the Earth Hour 2010 event:

**Electricity Reduction****1. Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants**

Utilities Kingston's water and wastewater treatment and distribution operations will reduce electricity demand and consumption during Earth Hour through:

- Ensuring filter backwash cycles do not activate during Earth Hour
- Reducing remote pumping in the water distribution system by increasing reliance on gravity pressurization.
- Instructing system and treatment facility operators to turn off lighting not absolutely necessary for the safe operation of the system.
- Modifying other operations to minimize power consumption and demand, so long as such measures do not affect the safe operation of water and wastewater treatment and distribution systems.

**2. Street Lighting**

- Street lighting along Princess Street (and some adjacent side streets) from approximately Division Street to Ontario Street will be extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm. The vast majority of streetlights within the City of Kingston have been equipped with photo-sensitive switches as an energy saving measure; it is not feasible to switch these units off during darkness.

**3. City Hall and Area**

- There is a fund raising event for Child Haven International scheduled within City Hall from 6:30 to 10pm. Lights will need to be left on to safely accommodate this event within Memorial Hall, the Councilors Lounge, the Ontario Street entrance, lobby and stairways. Otherwise, normal weekend setbacks will apply so that all non-safety and security related interior lighting will be off.
- All non-safety and security related external lighting (with the exception of the Ontario Street entrance) will be extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm.
- Outdoor lighting within Confederation Park will be reduced as much as practical.

**4. Springer Market Square**

- Exterior lighting will be extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm.

**5. British Whig Building**

- Normal weekend setbacks will apply so that all non-safety and security related interior lighting will be off.
- All non-safety and security related external lighting will be extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm.

**6. John Counter Blvd. Building & Yard**

- Normal weekend setbacks will apply so that all non-safety and security related interior lighting will be off with the exception of dispatch areas that are normally operated 24/7.
- All non-safety related exterior lighting will be extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm.

**7. Portsmouth Olympic Harbour**

- Areas of the facility not required for booked events will have non-safety and security related interior and exterior lighting extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm.

**8. K-Rock Centre**

- If the venue is not required for a Kingston Frontenacs playoff game all efforts will be made to reduce interior and exterior lighting. Should an event be scheduled for this time, lighting setbacks will be managed accordingly to maintain safety and quality of show.

**9. Ice Arenas including Memorial Centre and INVISTA Centre**

- Ice surfaces that are booked and in use cannot have their lighting turned off.
- Ice surfaces not in use will have non-safety and security related lighting extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm.
- Ice refrigeration equipment will be switched off between 8:30 and 9:30pm at all facilities

**10. Depot Offices**

- Normal weekend setbacks will apply so that all non-safety and security related interior and exterior lighting will be off.

**11. City Yard**

- Normal weekend setbacks will apply so that all non-safety and security related interior lighting will be off with the exception of dispatch areas that are normally operated 24/7.
- All non-safety related exterior lighting will be extinguished or delayed until 9:30pm.

**12. Pump House Steam and MacLachlan Woodworking Museums**

- Normal weekend setbacks will apply so that all non-safety and security related interior and exterior lighting will be off.

**13. Artillery Park**

- While the facility will close at 8pm on Saturday, custodial activities will continue. The custodian will make all efforts to reduce interior lighting during Earth Hour.

**Advertising and Promotion**

The City will advertise its intention to participate in Earth Hour 2010 and will encourage people and businesses to join in the initiative. Citizens will also be reminded to keep safety in mind when turning off electrical appliances. Advertising will be provided in print and radio media.

Additional promotion of the Earth Hour event will be accomplished by:

- Posting of Earth Hour posters at City buildings
- Placement of Earth Hour information on the City's website ([www.cityofkingston.ca](http://www.cityofkingston.ca)).
- Issuance of press releases

City and Utilities Kingston staff will be encouraged to participate in the Earth Hour event by posting of information on the internal intranet (KingNet) and through email.

Earth Hour information is available from the City of Kingston's web site at:

<http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/environment/earth-hour.asp>

and from the WWF Earth Hour site at:

<http://earthhour.org>

### **Earth Hour Event Follow-Up**

Following the Earth Hour event, staff will compile statistics from the Earth Hour organization to determine participation by Kingston residents and businesses.

Electrical consumption data will also be compiled from Kingston Hydro (and possibly Hydro One) to determine actual reduction in energy use in Kingston during Earth Hour.

### **Other Resources**

On March 27<sup>th</sup> the IESO (Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator) will provide real time tracking and reporting of electrical demand within the province so that anyone with an internet connection can see the reduction in electricity use during Earth Hour 2010.

Visit the IESO site at <http://www.ieso.ca/earthhour-2010/>.

### **EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:**

On June 18, 2004, Kingston City Council endorsed a motion setting targets for greenhouse gas reduction of 10% below year 2000 levels for the community and 25% for the corporation by the year 2014. Participation in the Earth hour event is consistent with these goals.

### **NOTICE PROVISIONS:**

No notice provisions are applicable.

### **ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

No accessibility implications have been identified.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The City and Utilities Kingston will take all measures reasonable to reduce electrical consumption during the designated Earth Hour time. Minor expenditures will be incurred to cover overtime costs for two staff and for disbursements associated with the advertising and promotion of Earth Hour 2010. These expenses can be accommodated within existing operational budgets.

**CONTACTS:**

Paul MacLatchy, Director Strategy, Environment & Communications  
Steven Sottile, Utilities Kingston

**OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:**

John Johnson, Manager, Facilities Maintenance  
Luke Follwell, Facilities Manager, Recreation and Leisure  
Steven Sottile, Utilities Kingston  
Tim Laprade, Communications Officer, Communications Division  
Chris Empey, Arcturus-SMG (K-Rock Centre)

**EXHIBITS ATTACHED:**

Exhibit A – Kingston Unplugged & Earth Hour 2010 Information sheet



# Kingston Unplugged

**An evening off the grid, in support of WWF's Earth Hour**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2010

**Line up and details released on off grid concert for Earth Hour**

**For Immediate Release:**

Earth Hour 2010 happens globally from 8:30-9:30pm (local time) on Saturday, March 27th. During Earth Hour, Kingston residents and businesses are encouraged to minimize electricity consumption as a call to action on climate change and as a means of building awareness of energy and environmental issues.

Kingstonians can celebrate Earth Hour together by turning off their lights and heading to Springer Market Square between 7:00 and 10:00pm for the third annual "Kingston Unplugged" concert. Starting at 7pm, educational and vendor displays will be open to the public, along with acoustic performances from local musicians. Starting at 8pm, a candlelit, solar and wind-powered, off-grid concert will begin featuring music from local artists Miss Emily (Fennell), Mojo Shooter and Reuben de Groot; guest speakers include the Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment and the winner of a local high school sustainability speech competition; and other special guests. The City of Kingston will darken downtown at 8:30pm in recognition of the WWF's Earth Hour.

During Earth Hour 2009, Kingston proudly decreased their energy consumption by 14% or 13,462 kWh while over 600 people enjoyed "Kingston Unplugged" in Market Square. This year's the goal is to reach a 20% reduction in electricity consumption, while gathering over 1000 Kingstonians to celebrate our community's commitment and success in improving the environmental and economic sustainability of our energy supply.

In 2007, the first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million homes and businesses in turned off their lights. Three years later, the World Wildlife Fund has recruited 4100 cities in 87 countries to participate in what has become a powerful global sustainability and energy awareness movement.

It is thanks to the time of our volunteers and the generosity of our community "Kingston Unplugged" has become an annual event for three years running. Thanks go out to our Primary supporters: The City of Kingston, Corus Entertainment, Outpost Alternatives Inc. Kingston Soundworks and our secondary supporters: The Kingston Sustainability Centre, Utilities Kingston, Direct Signs 20/20 and On Larock's Bar and Grill.

Media inquiries or inquiries from sustainable businesses and organizations that wish to reserve display space should be directed to:

Tricia Knowles  
Volunteer Chairperson  
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613.484.5014

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**Earth Hour is a global sustainability and energy awareness movement, with 4100 cities in 87 countries turning off their lights for one hour at 8:30pm on March 27, 2010**